2008

Tamar

Larysa Bordner

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Reviewer: Larysa Bordner  
Reading Level: Young adult  
Rating: Dependable  
Genre: Historical fiction;  
Subject: World War, 1939-1945 --Underground movements --Netherlands --Juvenile fiction; Netherlands --History --German occupation, 1940-1945 --Juvenile fiction; Grandfathers --Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

During World War II, secret agents from many countries tried to find ways to help their mother country. Tamar is one such spy. He works with his close associate and friend, Dart, to unite the rebel groups in Holland by presenting a collected front against the Germans. Their story is told from the past as well as the present by three narrators—Tamar, Dart, and Tamar’s granddaughter, Tamar. The 1945 story is told mostly by Dart and Tamar. The present story is taken up by Tamar's granddaughter, who is named after Tamar. She tells what she knows and learns of the time during the War. The two stories both abruptly come to an end with Tamar's death in the past, and the granddaughter's uncovering of the truth in the present.

*Tamar* is a realistic, horrifying, complex story, in which the characters are created with great depth. Listening to the audio version of the book brings the convincing story to life even more. There are different voices for the past and future stories to help the listener differentiate one part from the other. The one disadvantage to listening to the story is that is seems to make the crude language more apparent, which means that this story would not be appropriate for younger audiences. However, this story does provide a remarkable point of view of what the militia and the general population experienced during the harsh times of World War II.

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