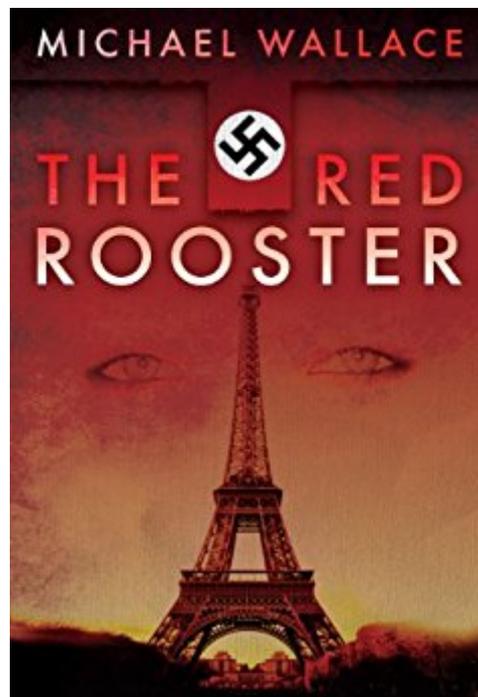


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The Red Rooster



Synopsis

Of all the desperate women in German-occupied Paris, Gabriela Reyes is the least likely to scratch out her survival as a whore for a Gestapo agent. After fascists murdered her mother and brother and tortured her father in an insane asylum, she hates the Germans as much as she fears them. But when she discovers the man responsible for destroying her family, she decides to become his mistress to try to free her father and avenge her family. Helmut von Cratz is a war profiteer using his wealth to undermine the Third Reich and is one meeting with an American agent away from ending the German occupation of France. But Gabriela's sudden appearance as Colonel Hoekman's mistress jeopardizes Helmut's careful plans. Now he must decide: will he abandon his plans, or will he sacrifice yet another woman to the German war machine. The Red Rooster is a complete novel of about 380 book pages.

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Customer Reviews

Michael Wallace has done it again! The Red Rooster is a gripping historical fiction about a young woman from Spain, a refugee in Nazi-occupied Paris, simply struggling to stay alive until she

unwittingly finds herself entangled in a daring French resistance plot that reaches to the upper levels of the German SS and beyond. This book kept me on the edge of my seat throughout. It was one of those books I could hardly put down once I had begun. The characters are well-developed, the plot believable, and the historical research meticulous. Wallace's writing paints a vivid picture of life in occupied France, but it is the action in the book that really keeps you turning the pages. This may be his best book to date.

The characters in this book were so believable. The action was so well described that I could picture it as if I was watching a movie. I must say that I think this would make a terrific movie. The only disappointment was that the story ended. I have always enjoyed reading about the WWII era, whether fiction or nonfiction. There was plenty of action, suspense, and a love story, though not a romance novel. Michael Wallace describes people and places as if he was actually there at the time. Michael Wallace is a gifted story teller. I look forward to reading more of his works.

This is the second Wallace novel that I've read. I have enjoyed both of them and will purchase more of his titles in the future. I currently have a third title on my Kindle and am looking forward to it as well. I found the characters to be very human, as in prone to mistakes and not so perfect or beautiful that I can't believe in them or sympathize with them. The backdrop of the Red Rooster provides a setting for the characters to either fight to exist or meekly take what is handed to them and dwindle away. For the heroin, the lines between right and wrong become hazy as she struggles to provide even the most basic necessities for herself. The mystery element is engrossing, but the added history of a darker time in our world's past adds to its poignancy. Good job, Mr. Wallace.

I thoroughly enjoyed Michael Wallace's "Righteous" series ("The Righteous" and "Mighty and Strong"), but found "The Red Rooster" entertaining, if somewhat disappointing. It was suspenseful and held my interest, but somehow, neither the characters nor the plot rang true. I can't really put my finger on it - I've read plenty of WW II novels, but the situation and characters in this book just didn't seem plausible, and the description of life during wartime France didn't really convey the sense of desperation that I've read about elsewhere. The words were there, but the descriptions were somehow detached and dispassionate. Also, there was one egregious editing oversight ("Helmut grinded the gears of the Opel..." - "grinded"????) Again, I'd highly recommend the author's "Righteous" series, as he had far more feeling for his characters, plot and the general subject matter of polygamous communities.

I could not put this novel down. The 3-dimensional characters were compelling and believable, the plot rang true throughout, the dialogue was neither stilted nor overwritten, and the pacing was perfect. If you enjoy reading WW2 fiction, this tale of occupied France will satisfy. If you're like me, you'll not want to say goodbye to the characters at the end of the book. I would love to see this book made into an action-packed, thrilling movie.

Sorry but I just lost faith in this book although I did finish it which is why it gets 3 stars and not less. Like another reviewer, I struggled with the plot which became increasingly like a Mills and Boon romance (with a small side order of violence chucked in) than the more serious historical adventure story it set out to be. On the positive side, I loved the detail and thought it went a long way towards bringing occupied Paris to life but that's about where it stopped for me. Michael Wallace is obviously a talented writer and that kept me going long after I'd given up on the storyline. I'd also say that the story rattles along, there are very few editorial errors, the dialogue's not particularly stilted and the sentence structure makes for an easy read. All reasons why this book is worth more than one or two stars. However ... This is the early 40's. France is under the kosh and we're expected to believe that Wehrmacht officers can happily drive from one end of the country to the other without consideration for what they're really supposed to be doing, that a senior Gestapo official can spend time pursuing minor individuals, and that a Jewish (perceived) homosexual would be putting themselves on prominent display in an area frequented by fanatical Nazis. There's also the issue of how one of our heroes just 'makes money' without really seeming to try. I struggled with the ending (will try not to spoil it here) and how someone gets from Paris to Marseille seemingly in the blink of an eye. OK, you can do it in 3-and-a-half hours nowadays but that wasn't so 70 years ago. With the restaurant setting, the (understandably) garbled 'foreign' languages and the slightly ridiculous plot, it all seemed a bit like an extended episode of the BBC comedy series, 'Allo, 'Allo.

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