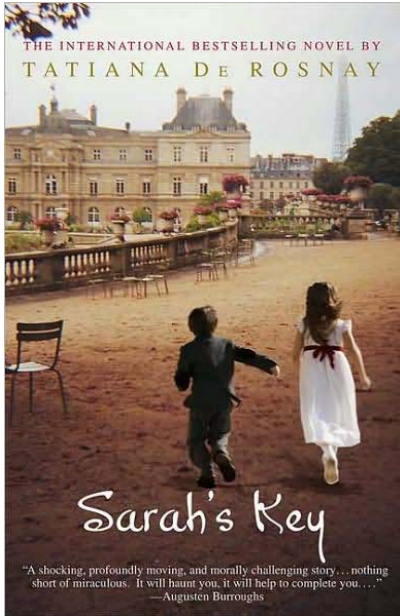


Sarah's Key by Tatiana de Rosnay

Reviewed by Jules McLeland – 3/3/2010



A story within a story that captivates the reader by its interwoven writing style of a story within a story. The story begins in Paris, France, 1942, where a young 10 year old Jewish girl, Sarah, along with her mother and father (minus her brother) are taken in a big round up by French police. Sarah sends her 4 year old brother to a cupboard, their secret hiding place, and locks him inside. When she is taken she takes the key with her. When she is released, she plans to return to unlock the cupboard.

The next chapter story's begins with a woman Julia, an American journalist, Bernard her husband, and daughter Zoe are making plans to re-do their great grandmother's place. Julie married a Frenchman and has lived in France for over 20 years. Julia begins to research the big roundup & finds no one is interested in talking to her about it and information is hard to find. Meanwhile Sarah finds herself is in a large stadium with many other Jewish families, mostly women and children! She has no food, water or any facilities. Her mother begins to deteriorate, Sarah asks to leave to get her brother but is told no. Julia becomes very drawn into the story of the big roundup and stumbles onto a trail of secrets that leads her to Sarah. Her husband asks her to stop but she can't stop. Sarah has to find a way to get out of her situation to return to free her brother. She is asked to escape but doesn't think she can do it being such a young child. Julia learns of someone who saw the big round up and visits to learn more about what happened. Sarah is asked by a girl to escape with her and she gets up the courage to try.

I highly recommend this story as it provides a different view into the life of a young Holocaust survivor and how the life course of Julia in France is changed by her unlocking this mystery of what happened to Sara. I found it to be a page turner I couldn't put down and it will make you wonder.

~Jules McLeland

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