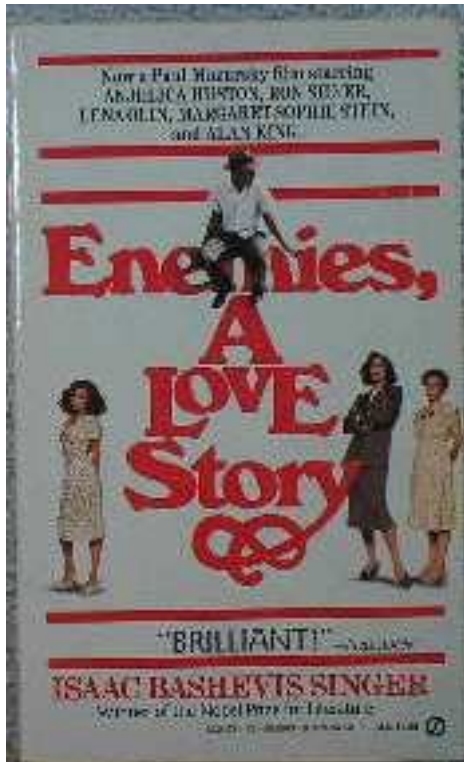

Isaac Bashevis Singer

Enemies: A Love Story



Title: Enemies: A Love Story

Author: Isaac Bashevis Singer

Format: Paperback

Language: English

Pages: 345

Publisher: , 0

ISBN: 0451166639

Format: PDF / Kindle / ePub

Size: 6.6 MB

Download: allowed

Description

Almost before he knows it, Herman Broder, refugee and survivor of World War II, has three wives; Yadwiga, the Polish peasant who hid him from the Nazis; Masha, his beautiful and neurotic true love; and Tamara, his first wife, miraculously returned from the dead. Astonished by each new complication, and yet resigned to a life of evasion, Herman navigates a crowded, Yiddish New York with a sense of perpetually impending doom.

Insightful reviews

Laura: This is a story about Herman Broder and the 3 women in his life.

Herman was hidden by a Polish peasant during the Holocaust and he later marries her. He has an affair with a Jewish refugee. Meanwhile his first wife, believed to be dead, is found alive.

I found this to be a very engrossing tale of people who are all flawed in some way and haunted by their holocaust experience.

This book was made into a movie.

Agnes Mack: The story was that of a man who'd survived the holocaust in Poland. Believing that his wife had been killed, he eventually emigrated to New York and married a Polish woman, who'd been his mother's servant and was eventually responsible for hiding him during the Nazi occupation.

The story begins several years after he'd moved to New York and in those ensuing years, he'd taken a mistress. His life is complicated, as he's in love with his mistress but feels beholden to his wife. To add further confusion for him, his first wife turns up alive and living in Brooklyn. Only when he is reunited with her does he realize that the idealized version of her he remembered was very much fiction. In fact, he openly despised her and left her and his two children well before the holocaust would have separated them.

The writing is tight, and funny. There are a ton of secondary characters that add humor and complications to the tale. I felt both pity and disgust with the main character, and these feelings only increased as he refused to make a choice between the women, even as they gradually learned more about his situation.

In summation : I found this book to be complex, at both times funny and incredibly moving. I would recommend it to anyone who likes challenging writing coupled with a complex storyline.

rmn: Singer should be read by more people than he seems to be. He writes about post-holocaust families in the US in the 1940s trying to assimilate to a new country while dealing with the past.

A few bizarre twists to this novel, and not the most cheery, but Singer is a fantastic writer.

Houdini: "???????? ???? ???? ???? ?????? ???? ?????? ???? ?????? ??????????, ?????? ??? ???
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