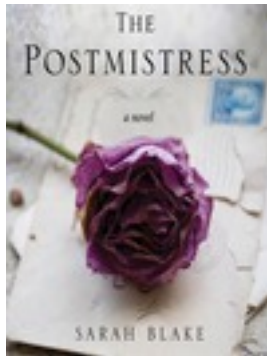

Sarah Blake

The Postmistress



Title: The Postmistress

Author: Sarah Blake

Format: Audio CD

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Description

American radio gal Frankie Bard is reporting on World War II from London when she meets a doctor from Cape Cod and promises to deliver a letter for him, in this unforgettable tale of love during war-time.

Insightful reviews

JG (The Introverted Reader): *The Postmistress* is a novel of *if*. "If I tell this story in exactly the right way, people will hear it and act on it," thinks the reporter. "If I don't make mistakes, the system will be perfect and chaos and random chance will be kept at bay," thinks the postmistress. "If I think hard enough about my husband being safe, he will be," thinks the woman left at home as her husband goes off to London during the Blitz. But *if* is a double-edged word and sometimes it falls the other way, and we're left thinking, "If only I had done this or hadn't done that, then this other thing would never have happened."

Beautiful. I opened this novel, already in love with the cover, and fell in love with the writing contained within. It's not a beauty that keeps you at arm's distance. It's a beauty that seductively whispers, "Come closer. Read what I have to say. See what I'm showing you." And then it shows you the chaos of war, and how helpless we are before it. It shows you how it's human nature to avoid seeing what we don't want to see, or to avoid acting when it's easier to stay safely at home with our heads in the sand.

Haunting. I am going to be haunted by Frankie's story for a long time. I should perhaps relate more to the wife than the reporter, but Frankie's stories have left a mark on my soul. She's in London, and then she's in Europe in the refugee trains, and all the time she is beating against the world's indifference, shouting, "This is happening, and it's happening in numbers you can't imagine. And it's getting worse every day. Pay attention! Please, just pay attention." And the world doesn't pay attention, and the horror worsens.

Read it. It's not always easy; war stories never are. But we still have a duty to pay attention, even--or perhaps *especially*--to the past.

Heather: I had a really hard time getting into this book, and in the beginning I almost gave it up. But I told myself to give it 100 pages. If I didn't "feel it" by then, I would abandon it. The writing style in beginning of the book was so manic and clipped that I had a hard time following it. It didn't "flow" for me. I have to assume that this was intentional, displaying the mania of the war and the brevity of life. I felt no connection to the characters. I couldn't even keep the characters straight, and didn't know who was who.

But around chapter four things shifted, and became more enjoyable for me. I got a handle on who I was dealing with in the story, and the dialogue flowed.

The time is 1940, and on the other side of the world a war is engaged. When the book starts out, America is relatively unaffected by the war. We see the idyllic life of a young girl Emma,

freshly married and moving to be with her new husband Will in a quiet northeastern coastal town. Will is the town doctor, and he and Emma are young, naive and in love, but Will has his own ghosts to deal with.

At the same time we are introduced to the Postmistress Iris. Actually we are introduced to Iris in the opening chapters of the book before anyone else in a very odd way, but I don't want to ruin it for anyone by disclosing how we are introduced to her.

But I will say that Iris seemed symbolic to me of the US at this time-- intact and untouched. Likewise Will and Emma sort of start out this way, young and in love and warm and cozy in their little cocoon. But then the cruelties of life begin to creep in and the cocoon begins to unravel.

We are also introduced to Frankie Bard- a reporter covering the story in Europe. Tough and somewhat "untouchable" in the beginning, she softens as the story goes on, becoming much more vulnerable.

It's funny. The first 50 pages were my least favorite of the book, and the last 50 were my most enjoyable.

This book was "okay". It just wasn't consistent for me. I'd like it, then it would drag, then I'd like it, and then it'd drag. I'd connect with moments, but for the most part I felt somewhat detached from the story. It just never really did "grab" me.

Maggie: This book has the potential to be great, but it's not. I had to force myself to finish it. This book read like a rough draft. With some major editing and workshopping it COULD have been good. Unfortunately, it was almost unreadable for me.

I was interested in all of the main characters, but because the author jumped from different points of view so often, I felt like none of the characters were actually very developed. We only got a glimpse of each one. Also, there were many scenes that felt the same way. Maybe the author tried to rush this book to the press or something, but I think it would have been much better with some rewriting.

Also, the dialogue all sounded fake to me. Not realistic at all. One of the male characters, upon feeling vulnerable says he feels "naked as a girl." What does that even mean? I get that it's the 40s, but you can't just make up phrases.

This book should have been longer. The characters should have been better developed. The dialogue should have been more realistic. Then it could've been great, because the actual story and plot has a lot of potential!

Sarah: Okay. i did not hate this book. i admire WWII historic fiction approximately women, and the belief in the back of this novel is admittedly beautiful fascinating and compelling. yet - i'm SO ill of those characters in sleek novels approximately WWII which are so "compassionate" and that act like they comprehend the warfare and the horrors that got here with it rather a lot higher than all people else round them. It simply feels so contrived to me. It comes off as preachy and

just a little traditionally unrealistic - it usually makes it appear very transparent to me that the ebook used to be written approximately WWII from a latest viewpoint. It makes me dislike the characters that i'm presupposed to be rooting for (which during this e-book was once Frankie's character, notwithstanding different examples of this are Trudy from those that retailer Us and Julia from Sarah's Key). those characters regularly attempt to beat me over the pinnacle with the message "THIS IS A TRAGEDY! you want to care approximately it and be devastated like I am!" For me, it is even more potent if an writer writes approximately characters which are well-rounded and relateable adequate that I certainly suppose grief and compassion for them. I felt like Iris' personality was once undeveloped - what used to be the purpose of the certificate? i do not understand - probably it was once simply me, yet i stopped the ebook pondering that i did not relatively recognize even more approximately her as a girl than I did initially of the book. A couple extra very petty court cases - the writer has like ten scenes the place one personality lighting one other character's cigarette and it used to be regularly defined with a few moderate edition at the comparable sentence: "He/She bent into the flame and drew on it, exhaling." i do not understand why, yet this simply relatively received on my nerves. Also, in the beginning there has been a few fairly seen ancient context thrown in - this sentence particularly felt clumsy to me: "There have been such a lot of sensational and pretend atrocity tales written approximately Germany throughout the First War, a lot of the clicking used to be chary of a narrative approximately deliberate, ominous motion opposed to the Jews now." it truly is completely true, of course, and suitable to the story, however it appeared like a sentence directly out of my highschool global heritage textbook. I imagine i am being too harsh in this book, yet all these petty issues simply additional up and stopped me from quite having fun with the book. the tale itself felt a bit unfocused and unfinished. yet i did not hate it, and that i imagine it truly is definitely worthy a read.

Agatha: Juxtaposes the tales of three girls in 1940-41: an American radio correspondent reporting from Europe to aim to get the USA to go into the war; a tender American spouse whose husband has long gone off to volunteer his clinical providers over in England; the postal employee within the NE/Cape Cod-ish city of above younger spouse and husband. Blegh. it is a bait-and-switch book. Pretends to be a substantial, historic fiction *; relatively is an ephemeral novel. Bait-and-switches are the worst of all undesirable books in my opinion, b/c they only force me loopy whilst i am going in looking forward to something and turn out getting one other (although i'll let that this can be the fault of the selling team, and never the author's). Still. This publication drove me loopy and that i want I hadn't wasted my time on it, yet I simply saved considering i might get better. the single sizeable a part of the entire complete ebook is the "afterwards" or no matter what it's called. I additionally even felt like her "Sources" part used to be overblown and overinflated b/c i've got no suggestion why this ebook could have required the quantity of study she "claims" to have performed for this. In fact, this booklet is so insipid, i would say it is high-quality for adolescent readers, however the basically challenge is there are 1-2 intercourse scenes, so there is going even that one try out at my looking for whatever redeeming in it... * correct on down** to the gleaming strategies from different fellow authors (whom, i feel now, could have simply been "scratching her back" so she might in flip "scratch theirs" by way of giving their books a very good rec whilst the time came?), yet I must have spotted that each one of them are from NOVELISTS and never old writers. this could were a blaring pink clue to me! once more -- if you'd like a flim-flam novel, right here ya go. lovely solid in that genre, no longer bad, the author's even a midway first rate writer.*** if you would like

ancient fiction, throw this one again and maintain looking. ** additionally correct on all the way down to the pseudo-"intellectual" (?) (for loss of a greater word?) sounding title. UGH. Pretentious.*** this can be social gathering why I blame her so much: she *is* it seems that a good author so i believe like, for example, if I have been her teacher, I'd be announcing to her, "You can do larger than this. do not believe you are fooling me or yourself. return and provides this a decent A attempt and do not waste your or my time on this!"

Chanda: Aaawww... dang it! i have been sitting right here for 3 complete mins vacillating among stars and one. It was once o.k or i admire it... o.k..... like it- no it was once simply o.k..... yet I did like it... style of.... The limitation stems from the writing. Wow. This was once extra superbly written than The Help- and that is difficult for me to assert simply because i am keen on the assistance however the language Blake used, the description, the rhetoric and irony- it is caliber stuff and actually took my breath away- for the 1st 75%. The characters are effortless to determine and more straightforward to love. right now you develop into invested in them and of their lives. i admire a ebook that makes me a champion for the characters in it and this one does it correct from the beginning. the matter is that she forgot the story. Blake did this type of nice activity constructing brilliant characters and developing appealing sentences that she forgot to shape up a plot. there is not any story. It simply retains going on- beautifully, of course, yet ultimately attractive turns into redundant and then... (I hate to assert it) boring. So it is going on and at approximately 80% my enthusiasm for it got here to a screeching halt. i used to be a ways sufficient to determine tale wasn't going to boost and paintings itself out in any passable method within the final 20% so it took two times as lengthy for me to paintings during the final 20% than it did to fly in the course of the first 80%. I beloved that there have been loads of characters, every one along with his or her personal story, every one along with his or her personal ending. What i did not like used to be that out of all of these characters now not one among them received a contented ending. i am getting it that the years prime as much as U.S involvement in WWII were not chuffed ones yet COME ON and throw a lady a bone! One satisfied finishing out of all of these people- definitely nobody might have taken Blake's birthday away for sticking in a single puny little optimistic future? yet in the end that, if you are searching for whatever that proves that the English language, while formed through the correct hands, will be beautiful, and flowing and entirely encompassing- this can be the one- learn this book, since it is an grand exhibit of be aware smithing. it's good notion out, middle wrenching, inspiration provoking, stunning, good researched, actually breathtaking... and totally, completely, unreservedly- with no plot.<http://bibliofilesbookrating.blogspot...>

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