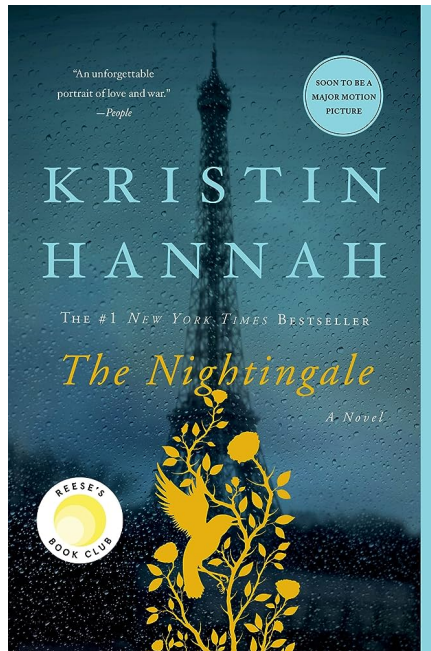


## BOOK REVIEW

**Name of the Book:-** The Nightingale

**Name of the Author:-** Kristin Hannah

**Book Review by:-** Rishika Trivedi , XII C (Batch: 2024-25)



In love we find out who we want to be.

In war we find out who we are.

In wartime France in the 1940s, food is scarce and air raids are common. A generation of men have once again gone to the front, while women and children find themselves thrust into a war of survival, a war of men's making.

Sisters Vianne and Isabelle Rossignol are as different as chalk and cheese. Younger, bolder Isabelle lives in Paris and is determined to fight for France while Vianne, a mother, wife and schoolteacher labours to fend for her daughter and survive the war after her husband Antoine is conscripted to fight. As the war develops, the sisters are faced with difficult choices and unimaginable horrors. With daring acts of resistance, the Rossignol sisters become the protectors of the flame of humanity that refuses to fade in the face of monstrosity and – most importantly – forge an unbreakable bond of love, empathy and suffering.

Hannah's novel is a story of Europe, of the Nazis and the concentration camps, of bravery and courage, of the *Résistance* and the French spirit of revolution and – most important – of women. All too often, war devastates women who have thus long lived in the shadows of their husbands and fathers, and who suddenly find themselves at the helm. Yet they fight and theirs is a fight of saving lives, not taking them. Isabelle walked across the Pyrenees to help downed airmen escape. Vianne saved nineteen Jewish children. Micheline and Anouk saved Isabelle's soul. In *The Nightingale*, Frenchwomen unite to save France and to save each other. Then when the war is over, they quietly return to their past lives, desperate to forget it all while men tell stories.

*The Nightingale* is not as much a story of war and its clash and clatter as it is a silent rendition of the aftermath. Countries win and lose but for families that live through its monstrosity, war never ends. In this lyrically written account of WW2, Hannah says that life is fragile and love...well love endures it all. It is a tale of love, love between sisters; love shared by partners which emboldens them to weather every storm just to reunite with their beloved, love for the nation and love that inspires parents to sacrifice themselves for their children.

Kristin Hannah's *The Nightingale* is a quiet book, thoughts of which rumble in the mind long after the last page is turned.