



Havets djup

Annika Thor

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I snart fyra år har Wienflickorna Steffi och hennes lillasyster Nelli varit i Sverige. Steffi går i läroverket i Göteborg, Nelli är kvar hos sin fosterfamilj. Steffi är snart sexton, på väg att bli vuxen. Hela livet ligger framför henne. Om bara kriget tog slut. "Havets djup" är den tredje delen av fyra i Annika Thors rosade serie om sysstrarna Steffi och Nelli, som visas som teveserie i SVT hösten 2003.

Havets djup Details

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Author : Annika Thor

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Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Young Adult, War, Fiction, European Literature, Swedish Literature, World War II, Holocaust

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From Reader Review Havets djup for online ebook

Lisa Vegan says

I slipped right back into the story. I really enjoy spending time with Stephie & with all the people and storylines.

This third book definitely moved to of a more young adult than children's book, though the main character and her storyline could still be considered a children's book too and she remains naïve in a way that fits a middle grade book, but for at least one of the characters it's not children's but young adult, and a rather heavy duty ya in some ways. There is more loss in this book, in a couple types of ways.

It's a great sister tale but I would have liked more interaction between the sisters here. It does make perfect sense though why there is less of that in this book than the first two books.

I was completely engrossed and loved everything about this story. I now consider the 4 book series one story. I'm hoping that I'll be able to read the fourth book.

The only English language edition of book 4 I see as of now is a Kindle edition. I might have to break my "buy no books" policy if I can find it for extremely cheap, and get it, but I hope I'll find a paper copy to read. It's so popular in Sweden and it seems as though a tv mini-series was made based on it, so I'm surprised that the fourth book seems to hard to get in English and most other languages.

It's often really arbitrary which books I give 4 vs. 5 stars. I'm surprised I continue to like this story in book 3 just as much as I did in books 1 and 2.

QNPoohBear says

It's been three years since Stephie and Nellie Steiner were sent from Vienna to Sweden to keep them safe from the Nazis. Nellie has adjusted so well she wants to be adopted by Auntie Alma and Uncle Steiner. She barely remembers Vienna and doesn't understand why their parents sent them away. Stephie bears the burden of knowing why but not really understanding what and is happening. She knows her parents are in a camp called Theresienstadt. She can send packages and letters but her parents can only send one postcard of thirty carefully chosen words. Are they really all right or are they only focusing on the positive the way Stephie does? The positive for Stephie is that her grammar school education has come to an end and she is looking forward to moving on with her studies. Aunt Marta doesn't understand Stephie's dream of becoming a doctor and isn't bothered when Stephie's dream may come crashing down. Meanwhile, Vera has moved to Göteborg to work as a maid. Vera enjoys the nightlife and dreams of becoming a movie star. Stephie worries about her too. What will the next year bring?

This was the best book of the three that I've read so far. It deals openly with adult issues : The Holocaust, teen sexuality/sex, a Harvey Weinstein type situation, a near rape, religion and education. There's also a hint of a possible lesbian relationship though it's never outed. This book is better suited for older teens.

Stephie is far more likable in this novel. She's happier and more free living with May and her family though she feels a lot of guilt over leaving Nellie and worries about her parents. I hear survivor's guilt is very common among the children of Holocaust survivors and their children. Stephie is full of this. Nellie is too young to understand. She's now an angsty, angry pre-teen and I couldn't stand her. Stephie has a quick

temper but she lacks the patience to explain things to Nellie. At 11 Nellie shouldn't have to know and understand the horrors of the Holocaust but as her parents are trapped in it, sadly, she would have to grow up far too fast. Her character growth is too fast. There's no growth just -wham- an explanation and resignation. It's heartbreaking. Be prepared to have your hankies nearby!

I was ABSOLUTELY APPALLED at the way the church chose to/not to do something about Stephie and Nellie's parents. People who use their religion as an excuse to discriminate or dig their heads in the sand and not do anything make me sick. This situation is sooooo relevant to today! I even bookmarked a quote to add to GoodReads because it applies to the victims of mass violence even today. It's a spoiler so I'm not putting it here. I was just so angry! If you follow the news, you'll know what the church's response was anyway. It's a popular hashtag these days. (view spoiler) Your God gave you a brain and free will. That's what makes us different from animals. Your God teaches you to love not hate. Stephie's response is exactly the one I would have made. Even Aunt Marta agrees with Stephie on some level but even her response was unsatisfactory. Of course today we know what is going to happen to Stephie's parents. Stephie's new acquaintance Judith also seems to know.

Judith kind of annoyed me with her black and white way of thinking. I do understand where she's coming from but she sounds rather cold and militant. She's a Zionist and keeps up to date with Jewish news. She serves to push Stephie to think more about herself and her religion and what may be going on with her family.

Vera's story is all too common and in the news a lot these days. I knew exactly what was going to happen. Even Stephie knows instinctively that something is fishy. Yet, Vera isn't wise like Stephie and not from a wealthy or even a well off fishing family. Vera has only her mother who was a teenage unwed mother. Her mother's story was vastly different from her own but Vera is smart in other ways and knows what her future holds. If she were alive today and an old lady I hope someone would help her feel like she wasn't alone. However she does bear some of the blame for what happens to Stephie. Again this is all too common even today when kids should know better. What happens is in no way Stephie's fault or even Vera's but Vera is the one who put Stephie in a situation she wasn't comfortable in in the first place. When I was Stephie's age I knew a Vera. I was smarter than Stephie and provided a stable environment for my friend. Oh teenagers!

I just love May. She's so confident about who she is and what she wants. She's a devoted friend no matter what and is wise but not too wise. I also love Miss Björk and her friend (girlfriend?) Janice. Miss Björk is always Stephie's cheerleader. I fully agree with her views on education for girls and love that she's happily unwed and happy teaching. Her friend (I'm pretty sure girlfriend) Janice is lovely. They're both so free spirited and joyful. They bring a new energy to Aunt Marta's house! I DO get a hint of more than friendship from them but there's nothing explicitly stated. They could be best platonic friends if you want them to be.

On another light note: Anne of Green Gables is finally mentioned by name confirming my feeling that the author knew and was inspired by one of my favorite novels.

For older teens and adults

Meaghan says

I can't say I liked this book as much as the previous two featuring the Steiner sisters. There's a lot less about Nellie and about Stephie's parents, who are now living in Theresienstadt, than there was in the previous two books. And a word to the wise: while *A Faraway Island* and *The Lily Pond* are suitable for middle grades, this one definitely is not. This is mainly because Stephie's friend Vera becomes a bit of a train wreck as the

story progresses: she has nude photographs taken for a magazine, and ultimately gets pregnant without knowing who the father is. See what I mean? Stephie's teacher and her "friend" who both come to live with Stephie for the summer so they can tutor her to pass the high school exam are obviously lesbians, and there is talk about them sunbathing in the nude and so on, but that potential plot line never went anywhere. It's not like Stephie ever realized what was going on or that the couple got in trouble because of their sexual orientation. Stephie also experiences difficulties with school -- she's not sure if she'll be able to continue with her education, due to lack of funds -- and with the Pentecostal church she attends, who refuse to assist her parents because they're not Christians. It seemed like every chapter of the book introduced a new problem in the story, and it got a bit crowded.

Unlike the other two books (there's a fourth as well, which hasn't been translated yet), this one doesn't seem capable of standing on its own. The ending kind of left me hanging. I will, however, finish the series once Book #4 gets translated into English.

Megan says

Deep Sea is the third book in a series by Annika Thor (Faraway Island and The Lily Pond being the first two installments). The Steiner sisters, Stephie and Nellie, were sent from their home in Vienna to live with foster families in Sweden in 1939 at the outset of WWII. Over the past three years (and first two books) WWII takes off and things quickly go from bad to worse. Their Jewish parents are sent to camps and the sisters have little to no information about their well being. Nellie takes to Sweden right away, easily learning and preferring Swedish to their native German. Stephie does not adapt so well. Her foster mother is cold and staunch and she feels cut off from the world living on the small island. Stephie is able to go to school on the mainland where she makes friends. At the end of this third book we learn that Stephie and Nellie's mother has died and their father has been shipped off to another camp -- probably one in Poland -- where Stephie is told letters do not go in or out. Things are looking pretty grim as we leave the Steiner sisters and await the fourth and final book.

I enjoyed *Deep Sea*, but not quite as much as some other WWII choices like *The Book Thief*, *Marika*, *Number the Stars*, *Shades of Grey*, or *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*. (I'm sure I'm forgetting a few). I did enjoy the different setting, but I felt there should have been a bit more history for a historical fiction novel. It reads like a coming of age story with a dash of history thrown in. This could be good for those not too interested in history. The pacing was good and the characters well developed and likable. I also felt like I did not need to read the first two in the series to know what was going on. All in all *Deep Sea* is a solid choice for tween readers.

Grade Range: 7-9

Genre: Historical

Literary Merit: Good

Characterization: Good

Recommendation: Recommended

Ivana says

Den tredje boken av serien *En ö i havet* handlar om Steffi och Nellis fjärde sommar i Sverige. Steffi hittar en vän från Wien i Göteborg, en judinna som gick på skolan med Steffi. Hennes föräldrar skickar kort mer och

mer sällan än förut. Kriget går djupare och människor säger att det kanske är början till slut.

Slutet av boken är väldigt sorglig, det är nog omöjligt att lilla systrarnas liv kan bli värre...

Merewen says

I would probably have given the whole serie five stars when I read it in middle school (over 10 years ago). I read it in a collection book containing all four books. It's a lovely serie about two girls coming to Sweden during WWII. I remember carrying around the book, reading in odd places because I liked it so much.

Erin says

There's a major jump in the content of this book. The first two books were fine for middle grade and up, but this one is probably better suited for older teens and up.

I think the author closely followed a "how to write historical fiction for the modern reader" style guide.

Sex - check

Sexual assault - check

Atheism - check

A female protagonist who pushes back against expected roles - check

Homosexuality - check

Family trauma and upheaval - check

A negative view of religion (especially Christianity) - check

Death - check

I'm not trying to say that dealing those issues is wrong; I just think having them all in one book was a little much and distracted from the main plot and the development of the characters and their relationships.

Karla Aquino says

Feliz em ter concluído meu terceiro livro em sueco. Mas tive o coração quebrado em milhões de pedaços com esse final. Mas livro bom é assim, com finais que a gente menos espera. Já estou com o quarto e último livro em mãos, Öppet Havet, talvez em português Mar Aberto.

Se você procura um livro leve de ler, mas ao mesmo tempo que te faça pensar em como a sua vida é boa, e ter sua amada família ao alcance é a melhor riqueza de ser humano, então esse livro é pra você.

Ao contar a história de duas irmãs que foram forçadas a deixar Viena quando o holocausto tomava forma, uma com 10 a outra com 12, a gente começa a ter empatia com o próximo, a pensar no refugiado que foge da guerra e perseguição política e nos migram para a nossa terra quando em seus países de origem acontecem desastres naturais ou falta de comida e remédio.

No terceiro livro da série as irmãs já estão mais adaptadas e conseguem dar seguimento a suas vidas, sempre a espera das cartas dos pais, que demoram meses a chegar. (Por isso eu amo o Whatsapp e a internet). Fiquei angustiada (ainda estou), deveria estar disponível nas prateleiras das escolas brasileiras, para o entendimento da segunda-guerra, aliados, quem estava do lado de quem, o que é tortura e etc. Aqui este livro é direcionado para o público infanto-juvenil.

Moa says

Åååh vad jag älskar dessa böcker! De är både sorgliga men det går också att se en ljusstrimma av hopp. Jag tycker även att det är så fint att se värmen och de fina människorna som finns runt omkring både Steffi och Nelli.

Evelina says

Lika bra som de tidigare böckerna! Älskar att läsa om Steffi och Nelli! Läs hela recensionen här:
<https://ewelinasboklogg.blogspot.se/...>

Becky says

I didn't realize this was in a series, so I'll have to go back and read the others.

Elin says

4.5 stars

Jinnie Stork says

Havets djup är den tredje boken i kvartetten om Steffi och Nelli (se gärna mina recensioner av den första boken, En ö i havet, och den andra boken, Näckrosdammen).

Denna bok är en ganska typis mitten bok i en serie, där självaste bokens dramaturgi inte är lika viktig som bokens del i serien. Nu trappas förtvivlan upp, samtidigt som spänningen mellan den Steffi var i Wien och den Steffi är i Sverige ökar. Slutet är inte ett avslut, så som de två tidigare böckerna haft, utan ett dramatiskt skifte i hela berättelsen om Steffi och Nelli.

Det som ändå kan sägas vara bokens egen handling är den komplicerade relationen mellan Steffi och Nelli, där Steffi nu börjar bli vuxen men fortfarande ser sig som Wienare, medan Nelli är tonåring och mer och mer kommer att se sig som svensk. Nelli tyr sig till sin fosterfamiljs traditioner och ser sig som kristen, samtidigt som Steffi tvingas möta sin egen religiösa ambivalens när hon börjar umgås med en annan judisk flyktning från Wien, som anklagar Steffi för att svika sitt folk genom att vara sin kristna fosterfamilj till belåtenhet. Steffi känner sig inte kristen, och kanske heller inte som jude, och är mer koncentrerad på att skaffa sig en utbildning än att tro på något.

En parantes i berättelsen är Steffis lärarinna Hedvig Björk och dennes väninna Janice, som mellan raderna ingår i ett förhållande. Jag hoppas att detta kommer bli en viktig del i kommande bok, men det kan alltid hamna i skuggan av Steffis mycket mer råa verklighet, och tomheten av hennes föräldrar.

Klasskillnader blir nu desto synligare i Steffis liv, och något hon ständigt behöver fundera över. Hon kommer från ett helt annat samhällskikt än det hon nu lever och umgås i. Vid ett tillfälle kommenterar hon klassföraktet hon kan känna från de övre klasserna gentemot henne, hennes familj och väninnan Majs familj med att de är inte som "vi", där hon också själv reflekterar över att hon nu känner en tillhörighet med sin fosterfamilj och majs familj. Detta börjar den fortfarande unga Steffi fundera över, och jag hoppas detta blir viktigt i nästa bok. Väninnan Vera har hamnat i en olycklig situation, där hon har blivit gravid utanför äktenskapet. Giftermål är planerat, och här hoppas jag man får följa henne i nästa bok, så man får veta vad som händer även med henne.

På det hela tagna är det hittills den bästa boken i serien, trots att den saknar sin egen dramaturgi.

Johanna says

Det blir bara sorgligare och sorgligare men är fortfarande lika bra. Bara en bok kvar nu. ?

Melanie - iHeartFantasy says

Actual rating: 3,5/5. I actually cried at the end, and I rarely cry because of books.
