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A suspense novel about a British prisoner of war who breaks free and joins anti-Nazi guerrillas in the South Tyrol after the Italian capitulation to the Nazis in 1943.

Horizon Details

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Author : Helen MacInnes

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Genre : Fiction, Mystery, Suspense, Historical, Historical Fiction, Spy Thriller, Espionage, Thriller

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From Reader Review Horizon for online ebook

Polly says

A fine end-of-WWII-thriller.

SA_Aslam_ says

I put this down after only a few pages. I don't know why I couldn't get into it but perhaps I'll go back to it at a later date.

Linda says

A British prisoner of war breaks free and joins anti-Nazi guerrillas after the Italian capitulation to the Nazis in 1943.

Dusk Peterson says

Mildly good suspense, setting, and character development. Ordinarily, that's all I'd think, but as always when I'm reading a military fiction author I haven't read before, I checked to see whether MacInnes had military experience. Here's what Wikipedia told me: "[Her husband] Gilbert Hight served as an MI6 British intelligence agent . . . MacInnes's third novel, 'Assignment in Brittany' [1942], was required reading for Allied intelligence agents who were being sent to work with the French resistance against the Nazis. Her 1944 book, 'The Unconquerables' carries such an accurate portrayal of the Polish resistance that some thought she was using classified information given to her by her husband." I immediately added MacInnes to my "Must try all their novels" list.

Patricia J. Miller says

Good picture of war

Horizon brings back into view WW II and reminds us of the people at home who carried on even when occupied by the enemy. Great read

Michelle Connell says

Another good one from the WWII era. Peter Lennox is making plans to escape a prison camp when suddenly

he and his fellow inmates are released. What will he do now? Where will he go?

Susan Quillan says

Not her best, but darned good

Rae says

An American prisoner escapes from an Italian WWII prison camp and the adventure begins...

Cphe says

Peter Lennox is on the verge of escaping an Italian prison camp during WW2 when the tide of the war turns. His Italian jailers abandon the prison as the German Army sweeps in. He ends up acting as a liaison to resistance fighters in the isolated mountains of South Tyrol to gather information for the Allied Command. After eight months he begins to wonder if the allies have forgotten him and the job that he was sent to do.

This book was very slow going and ponderous in places. There were large sections about the political leaning of Tyrol during the war and the countries that wanted to gain control. There were quite vivid descriptions of the countryside, the isolated hamlets, clothing and people but there wasn't enough action or suspense for my liking.

I didn't really care for the characters mainly because they really weren't fleshed out, nor were there any real surprises with them. It's certainly not a keeper.

Julia says

Re-read because it was mentioned in someone's review of Above Suspicion which I just re-read and I couldn't remember what this one was about.

A British soldier who has been a POW is assigned as a liaison to resistance fighters in the South Tyrol at the end of WWII. He gets bored because not much happens during the winter months (too much snow for action) and because he isn't supposed to leave the house where he is staying. Eventually things start to happen, but I found this to be very slow. I also found the end to be unsatisfying. (view spoiler)

It also felt ponderous when she kept describing the politics of the South Tyrol: It used to be Austrian, then was taken over by Italy, then administered by Germany. Some of the people who didn't like Italy were pro-German but most didn't like either Germany or Italy.

This may have been necessary for an understanding of the story, but it seemed repetitive and more of an info dump.

I like Helen MacInnes but this book didn't grab me as much as most of hers.

Marilou says

Great story of a WWII POW escapee holed up in the Tyrol with the resistance fighters who were waiting to be out from under Italian rule and, certainly, out from under Nazi rule. Long, boring days and nights in the Alps turned an "undisciplined" private into an outstanding soldier. The Greatest Generation meets Heidi. A glimpse into the sacrifices made by the few for the many. WWII fiction/non-fiction fans must read! Helen MacInnes's 4th book and the last set in WWII. Several characters (Frau Schictl and Johann) appear in her first book, *Above Suspicion*. A long and, sometimes, dry read, but well worth it if only for the satisfying climax in the last chapter.
