



The Other Side of The Bridge

Katharine Swartz

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Ava Lancet has lost her job, her marriage, and her baby when she discovers she has inherited her grandmother's dilapidated farmhouse in a tiny village in central Greece. With the kind of emotional impulsiveness that has frustrated her stony-faced husband for years, she decides to move there and recover from life's sorrows.

It only takes a few minutes in her new home to realize just what a dump it is, and how ridiculously rash her decision was. Yet Ava perseveres, and thanks to her grandmother's legacy, is welcomed into the village... as well as by handsome widower Andreas Lethikos.

When an elderly woman in the village mistakes Ava for her grandmother, telling her, with tears trickling down her face, that she is so sorry, Ava is both touched and intrigued. What is the woman sorry for, and what secrets did her grandmother keep? With the help of a local schoolteacher who is interviewing the remaining Second World War survivors in central Greece, Ava discovers the surprising threads of her grandmother's life... and they help to weave her own life back together.

In 1942, in Italian and Nazi-occupied Greece, Ava's grandmother Sophia Paranoussis is fighting to keep her family, and especially her impulsive sister Angelika, safe. When she is approached by a stranger to help with the local Resistance, she longs to refuse, yet a sense of both duty and honor compel her to agree. Frightened and yet with growing courage, Sophia begins to aid twelve British SOEs who have parachuted into Greece to blow up the Gorgopotamos viaduct--and falls in impossible love with one of them.

Spanning three generations and exploring the lives of two very different and yet surprisingly similar women, *The Other Side of The Bridge* will remind you how a fragile hope can spring from both tragedy and despair. Written by USA Today bestselling author Kate Hewitt, writing as Katharine Swartz.

The Other Side of The Bridge Details

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From Reader Review The Other Side of The Bridge for online ebook

Eddi says

Interesting novel telling two related stories set in Greece. One in current time; the other in 1942 during world war 2. Modern day young woman inherits her grandmother's old run-down, uninhabited home in a tiny village in Greece. Her personal life was in a shambles, so she impulsively moves there, knowing no one or anything about this village. As she settles in, she becomes very interested in learning about her grandmother's life there, and why her grandmother had never told her about her life in Greece. She gradually discovers that her grandmother had been part of the Greek resistance when she was young, and had done some very risky and grave things. She finally is able to reconcile the memory of the grandmother she knew, with the knowledge of what this same woman had done when young, and how she fit into the family picture.

This was , ultimately, a beautiful love story.

Sandra McKenna says

An excellent story set in a village in modern day Greece, with flashbacks to WW2.
This is a tale of discovery in more ways than one.
I thoroughly enjoyed it, and found it hard to put down.

Cindy Helzer says

Loved it.

sue says

This was a love story. One of those reads you can get a nice cuppa, piece of cake and sit and read outside in the sunshine with. OR equally curl up in front of a flaming fire on a cold winters day.

Ava is having a hard time in her life. Her marriage is rubbish [to say the least] and completely O...V....E....R.

On top of this she loses her job, her baby and her Grandmother.

Upon learning she has inherited a farmhouse somewhere in a village in Greece, she decides that she would go there. And why not? She has nothing at all to keep her here.

She knew the farmhouse was left unkept but when finding it [eventually] she is astonished how much work there is to be done on it to make it habitable again.

Ava seems to be mistaken by a woman in the village as her Grandmother, shes an elderly lady, so she's a bit confused, the things she says to Ava has made Ava wonder what happened. This woman is so sorry for something.....but what?

At least this has given Ava something to aim for again.....
what was her Grandmother involved with, what happened.

Its an easy read, nice and reflective, easy on the eye and the brain, you don't really have to give much effort into reading it.

I've put my stamp on it as a 3.07 being that, I have read similar tales like this before, BUT this is very well thought out and has a lovely flow to it.

I would like to thank Kate Hewitt Limited via Net Galley for allowing me to read this and review it, although its taken some time for me to do so.

Joan Novatt says

Fabulous book!

Ashley says

Cute and sweet

Pam says

Nice historical fiction

I enjoyed this book which looked World War II from the perspective of Greek Village. Liked the link between the present and past.

Rosalie says

This was a wonderful book. World War II and just normal family life. Trying to find out about ancestors. Good read.

Janine says

The story of new friendships, lost histories and discovering who you are and what you want in life. All set in a small town in Greece.

Ava Lancet goes to Lousidous Greece, to the home she inherited after her grandmother passed away. She needs time alone after separating with her husband. She is also still grieving the loss of their baby. She makes several good friends who help her fix up the house and trace the history of her grandmother and why she left so soon after the war. No one in this town likes to speak of the war, so it's hard to find the answers she desperately wants. Little by little she gets some answers, but they only lead to more questions.

I loved this book because it kept me interested throughout the entire story. I didn't want to stop reading because I was anxious to find out what happened. Ava's grandmother, Sophia's part in the story was very interesting too. This is one of those books that you don't know what happens until the very end.

Shirley Green says

Exceptional !!!!

Loved this book. Sorrow, excitement and romance without all the mush. Also gave me a little history lesson which I could really use. SMG

Judy says

This novel combines a historical plotline set during WWII in Greece with the current day story of her granddaughter who has traveled to Greece to take possession of the house left to her by her grandmother and escape the sorrow of her stillbirth and her problems with her husband. I enjoyed the setting of a small Greek village in both stories, and the two stories together are two different kinds of love story, but both are satisfying.

Terri says

Original review found at <http://kristineandterri.blogspot.ca/2014/07/this-was-a-great-book.html>...

I received this book via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

For those that know me they know that this is the type of novel that I gravitate towards. Historical fiction surrounding wartime. When I read the synopsis of the story I knew I had to read this book.

This book was centralized around Greece during WWII and the Greek resistance. This was an aspect of the war that I have not been introduced to previously and I enjoyed learning another new piece of the puzzle.

The story is told through two different characters. Ava in the current day who flee's to Greece to overcome the grief of losing a child and a failing marriage and Sophia during wartime who plays a reluctant role within the Greek resistance.

For the first time I was drawn to Ava's story more than Sophia's. Normally I am drawn in to the story of the past however I felt Ava's journey was compelling and complex and I enjoyed how her story progressed. Without giving any of the plot away her journey was one of growth, acceptance and love. By escaping to rural Greece she learned to see past her own issues to accept that other's may handle situations different than herself and that does not make their feelings any less real than her own. I liked how she was vulnerable yet strong. I enjoyed how her relationship with Simon played out throughout the course of the book and felt that it was realistic.

I was less drawn to Sophia's story at first. Although a strong character I felt that the reader did not really know who she was for the first half of the book. Her character was focused on what was expected of a female during this time and the traditions that needed to be honored. It was not until her story started to conclude that we saw the strength of her character and she started to win me over. I will not tell how her story played out however the conclusion was both tragic and beautiful.

Another highlight for me was how Greece was highlighted through a small rural village. It held a charm of its own throughout the story. I could easily visualize it and dream of visiting a place like this.

It is my understanding that this story was written by Kate Hewitt under the name of Katharine Swartz. As I found this an enjoyable read I will be checking out other works by both names.

Veronica A Pitts says

An interesting Story

This was a great story. Katharine Swartz wrote a great book. I never knew That Greece was also affected with WW II as was were other countries. MS Swartz wrote about a young lady named Sophia who lived in this quite little town in Greece, who had a big scary job to do.

Christa says

This was a wonderful book that had both a WWII and current day storyline. Both storylines were interesting and appealing, but I felt more invested in the current one. Ava Lancet has suffered tremendous loss, and she is adrift when she discovers she has inherited an old house in Greece from her grandmother. She decides to travel to the village where her grandmother was from, but never talked about, and spend time there. While in Greece, Ava meets new people, some of whom become important to her, learns some about her grandmother's early life, and begins to find healing.

The historical storyline has Ava's grandmother Sophia worrying about her irresponsible younger sister and trying to keep her family away from the attention of the soldiers and rebels who are in their village. Sophia

becomes involved in the resistance against her will, and experiences life changing events.

I loved this book, and will be looking for more by the author. I loved the main characters, past and present, was enthralled by both storylines, and loved the wonderful setting of the small Greek village.

Rosemarie says

Good read enjoyed. Full of feelings,love, and caring!

Good read. Enjoyed. Full of feelings, love and caring.

Good story line. Kept my interest. I liked the back and forth with the chapters.
