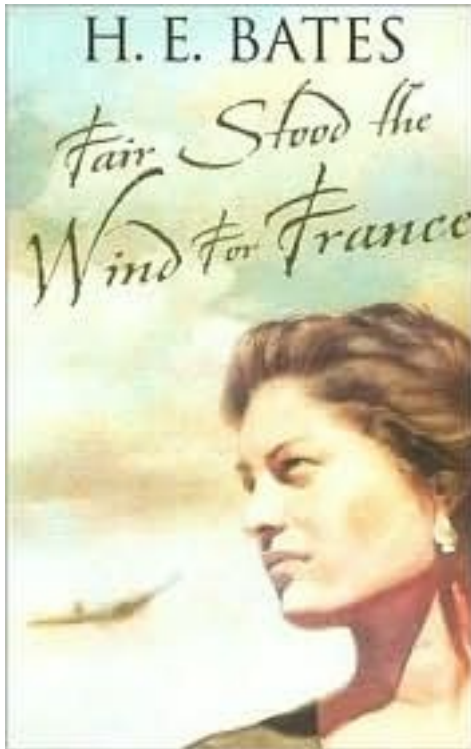

H.E. Bates

Fair Stood the Wind for France



Title: Fair Stood the Wind for France

Author: H.E. Bates

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Description

Treacherous mud clutched at the wheels and the Wellington up-ended. End of mission. The great bomber had been giving the crew trouble since leaving Italy. Finally over occupied France, it settles like a weary, wounded edge on what seemed to Franklin a hard, smooth field. The five members of the crew were welded by the crash into a single whole, one tiny forged weapon in the vast territory of the enemy weak and ineffectual yet confident as only men can be whose minds are free. Francoise's family accepted them calmly. In Francoise it was faith, a simple piety so humble, so complete that all the mechanized myrmidons of the Reich could not touch her spirit. In her father it was stubbornness, that glorious pigheadedness of the French peasant who won't be pushed around. In her grandmother it was a kinship with the infinite. Having survived two wars, she remained unmoved by the swaggering vainglory of the Nazi. And in Pierre it was hatred, a hatred so deep that only rarely did it flash on the surface. It was natural that Francoise should be so strongly drawn to Franklin, the pilot. His gentle strength, his sensitive mind, the careful restrained warmth of his emotion found a calm, sure response in the simple innocence and candor of the girl. All through the delirious pain of his torn, wounded arm, Franklin felt the girl's presence like a cool, comforting hand. In the end it was her courage and, above all, her faith which saved him not only from the enemy but from himself.

Insightful reviews

Franklin: I bought this book because the price was right and I thought it was about sailing ships. The edition I read was a hardback from the 1940's. The book is about a British aircrew that crash lands south of Paris and of their travails in trying to escape occupied France. The book is suspenseful, The pilot's arm is injured and infected. Crewmen and Partisans are constantly in danger from the occupation forces. There is romance. There is the brutality of war. The book was well written

Michelle: Fair Stood the Wind for France is an astonishing novel. It wasn't the run-of-the-mill war novel I was expecting at all, but a lyrical, lovely tale of unlikely love. It grapples with themes of loss, pain, faith and sacrifice. And the writing! From Bates' dreamy opening passage, I was enthralled.

My full review is, as always, on my blog, Book to the Future:

<http://booktothefuture.com.au/?p=1968>

martin: A surprisingly beautiful, bittersweet novel that was moving and enjoyable

Got this in a charity second hand book sale years ago, but never read it because World War 2, romance and planes have never been my favourite fiction themes. However, the imaginative title always caught my attention so I finally started it.

I had expected a novel written in wartime to be painfully jingoistic and motivational in that odd "come through adversity to win the war over the culturally less deserving enemy" style. H E Bates' love of Britain (and France) isn't like that. This is a book about people, not peoples. The

main characters do have some traits that would've been idealised for each of their nations, but they are individuals not stereotypes. It's an intensely personal romance against the odds of the suffering, fear and chaos that comes from war. War and unknowing fear are the bad guys here - the German occupiers themselves are rarely seen and their brutality is reported rather than described first hand. This indirect experience adds to the fear that really cripples Franklin - nicely contrasted with the simple faith of Francoise.

The ending is at the same time intensely sad and uplifting. A message that in the midst of all the pain and confusion, it is possible for love, faith and hope to survive and in O'Connor's case be strengthened(

Katherine Holmes: this can be a darker aspect of H. E. Bates, fairly somber all through and extremely telling approximately an English pilot's crash in France and the following lack of his arm. Franklin relies on a farming family members for his survival and for his break out from the Nazis that seem unpredictably within the small French village. the tale of his amputation and the woman who is helping him is tense, his hiding in a mill loft and the French scene of a winery and river. even supposing prolonged, this is often all constructing into the subject matter of heroism that the civilians should have so as to aid their very own and their allies. the second one a part of the publication is ready his get away and his starting to be dedication to the girl, as he often refers to her. Bates' powerful kind and characters saved me within the tale whereas he confirmed Franklin's slips as a tender pilot who might by no means fly again. i've got loved different books of his. This one does not have his traditional sophisticated humor and contact yet its message is key and reflective of his personal RAF provider in the course of global conflict II.

Jenny Nolan: This e-book is an absolute gem! It used to be released in 1944 and written in, I believe, 1942. i like novels set in WWII, and the truth that this used to be written whereas the conflict nonetheless used to be raging makes it unique! it's the tale of a downed English pilot and his crew. they're stranded within the French nation-state and never certain who can be pal or foe until eventually they ensue upon a type French family. The characters and the tale are particularly endearing. I simply reread this ebook and it was once like traveling with an outdated friend, much more fascinating and endearing than I remembered! I completely adore this ebook and those characters. the 1st studying made me need to know extra approximately wartime France and the typical humans of the resistance. i have now performed a little research on that subject which made the second one examining a fair larger joy. The author, HE Bates, did a superb task of shooting that point and the folks of France who stumbled on the Nazi profession and the Vichy-regime despicable, relocating them to do every thing they can to aid the Allies and win again their homeland.

Joe Rodeck: "Because of his tears the mountains have been amazing within the sun." properly written ala Hemingway. Downed pilot falls in love with French resistance woman who is helping him. Will he come again to England alive? i used to be aggravated that the heroine has no name, no age, no description (hair, eye color, anything!). She is barely "the girl." The intercourse scenes (1944) most likely torrid for the day are by chance a laugh now. Skillful prose contains makes this novel whatever greater than a easy chase/escape story. And the protagonist is a wounded warrior, yet I will not supply any further away.

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