



His Watchful Eye

Jack Cavanaugh

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Konrad Reichmann, an outstanding product of Hitler's youth movement, becomes disillusioned as the reality of the Russian front bears no resemblance to the "glory" of the Third Reich. Even lower than his unit's morale are supplies and fuel as Russia's winter is unleashed against them. When the slaughter of innocents opens his eyes to the true nature of the Reich, Konrad embarks upon a bold and dangerous plan to change the course of history. Can he avoid the trap set for him?

His Watchful Eye Details

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From Reader Review His Watchful Eye for online ebook

Kaitlyn Krispense says

takes a deep breath

takes another

and another

Wow. That was a ride.

Jack says

Exciting, edge of your seat inspirational/historical thriller.

Sherry Ledet says

This is book #1 of this series. It is about a minister, and a group of teen boys who are in Hitler's Nazi Youth and also the church youth group. The story begins with the fall of the Berlin Wall, then begins in 1940 Christmas with a party for the kids at the minister's home.

This book is very well written. I recommend it to those readers who enjoy history and the events in Germany in WW2.

linda brimmer says

Another cliffhanger

If you're not a speed reader or like to stay up

Late at night, don't pick this book up. It's a continuous story of Pastor Josef's group of young Christian, German's lives as they struggle through World War II

Pegg says

Another powerful, insightful, and disturbing book about German Christians during WWII. I couldn't put it down. In fact, I finished it two days ago and didn't stop to write this review - I jumped right into book #3! Jack Cavanaugh does such a good job of explaining the inexplicable. How could young people, raised in Christ's Church, become Nazi youth and then soldiers involved in unspeakable acts against humanity? What caused them to go this way - and what brought some of them back? This is another book worth your time to read and digest. Parts of it are disturbing but they are important to understand because things like this really happened. The fictional characters are so believable, you can begin to understand what it could have been like. Well done, Mr. Cavanaugh, you deserve all 5 stars for this one!

Erin Miller says

really good book about Christian youth during the Third Reich

Eva says

One thing I love about reading a book series is how invested I can become in the characters and the story if the writing is good. The SitN (Songs in the Night) trilogy, of which *His Watchful Eye* is the second book, is one of those serieses. (honestly, what *is* the plural of 'series'?) I've probably read it four or five times, and during my last re-read of HWE, I felt happy while I read it, just because the entire thing was so comfortable and familiar, and the characters really do start to feel like family after awhile. I've experienced similar things with other book serieses, but SitN is definitely one of the best in that regard. I know all the ins and outs of each book (HWE is my favorite, and I read it the most recently, so that's why I'm reviewing right now instead of the first one) although they never bore me. The entire saga has wrapped its way around my heart and I don't think it could ever be removed. But I doubt any of you are really 'getting' what I'm saying, so I'll move on to the proper review.

The books in this trilogy are not stand-alones, so I highly recommend that you read book one, *While Mortals Sleep*, first and then follow up with the second and third books. I'll try to keep from giving away spoilers for book one, although since this series is so little known, I doubt anything I said would make much sense. But it was the same with my review of *The Adversaries*, and I still got a couple people into reading it (and liking it) so hopefully this review will do the same. I'm just going to say something right away. It's basically the book review...the rest is just details.

I completely and totally recommend this book (and series) for any historical fiction bookworm. You definitely won't regret reading it and I promise doing so won't be a waste of your time. Pinky promise.

Moving on...

I knew little (as in, nothing) of Germany's side of WWII when I first picked up this series a couple years back, and I certainly had never given much thought to what German Christians went through during the war. The SitN series was a real eye-opener for me (the third book especially, since that focused on the Cold War/Berlin Wall fiasco, of which I knew pretty much zip) and I'm pretty sure the series was what got me more interested in WWII books, movies, and the history of the war in general.

All three books are rich in historical detail...the kind of detailing that makes it seem as though you're right there in bombed-out Berlin. Or the Russian steppes as the German army retreated. Or staring down a sniper rifle scope pointed directly at Adolf Hitler. (all three of those examples are really things that happen in HWE) The plot is fast-paced, with lots of heart-pounding action and mind games. Romantic moments are sprinkled throughout (perfectly clean romance, by the way) and I enjoy romance when it's written well and isn't the main focus of the book - like in all of Jack Cavanaugh's books. (with the possible exception of *Dear Enemy*) I have no faults with the pacing or the emotional pull of the story. (um...far from it in that regard - even though I've read the thing several times, I still cry in certain places) I can't think of a single place where the plot drags.

As in all Cavanaugh books (I'm starting to sound like a broken record, aren't I?) the characters are memorable, unique, and strong. Konrad, the Wehrmacht sniper who sets off on his own personal vendetta against Hitler. Lisette, the girl he loves (but who isn't just there to serve as a love interest) who rescues a blind child and helps care for four other handicapped orphans. Josef and Mady, the pastor and his wife who hold everything together as they battle against the Nazi regime. Ernst, a brilliant scientist who falls in love with a woman he can't have (Ernst and Konrad are pretty much tied for favorite character...Ernst might win by just a tiny margin). And Rachelle, a French POW who is separated from her husband. Of course, there's many other characters (I haven't even touched on the main villain, who's basically a demented murderer) but I touched the most important ones, and I don't want this review to go on for too much longer. Long reviews can be boring. Anyway, I think I've hit on all the main points that a book review should.

As always, if there's any questions you might have, the comment box is ready and waiting. And if you end up reading this book based on my recommendation, let me know what you think! I love introducing people to my favorite books, so I'd be thrilled to hear what you had to say.

Eva

Pygmy says

Bleh, Christian fiction drek. Since this is Christian fiction, no flaming poos will be assigned, but this book fails by being haplessly mediocre, with zero tension/excitement to move the plodding characters through the plot. Backstory and motivations are info-dumped left and right in boring expository lumps. The females are typical Christian fiction creations; nice, bland creampuffs for God. And the guys...well, they're creampuffs too.

Perhaps it doesn't help that this book is not standalone, but a sequel that assumes foreknowledge of a lot of the characters emotional development. I didn't get to see any of the motivational conflict I was hoping to see with the SS sniper character having to choose between his loyalties and his morality. I didn't get a powerful character who struggles and makes his own decisions. Instead I got a boy who sort of goes with the flow and rolls wherever the winds buffet him. Supposedly he was some sort of commanding officer. HA! The guy had so little charisma, I couldn't believe anyone would follow his orders. Maybe he acts with more confidence later on; but I'm not going to find out since I'm not finishing this.

Joyce says

Library copy.

Fascinating reading about WW2 Germany. Some of it difficult to read. Characters are wonderfully done, even the children. Many points of view. The book ends as though in mid sentence. I hope the next book continues on. No spoilers.

Mr. Cavanaugh's writing is so realistic and believable. When it comes to faith as well. Most characters are nominal in their faith. But one always stands out. 'Park' in this one. Can't wait to read the third in this series.

Crystal says

Another heart-stopping read by a great author. Picking up where *While Mortals Sleep* left off, the story of the Schumacher family continues, adding to it the stories of the Youth group as they grow up and learn life's lessons the hard way in Hitler's war-torn Germany. As Josef weakens, Konrad's resolve grows. can't wait to read book 3 in this trilogy

Melissa says

(Written August 30, 2003)

Konrad was just a boy when he joined Hitler's youth movement. Now he is a man, and all the more responsible for his choices. He persuades his friend, Neff, to join the army with him, and they go off together, toting gun and camera.

Back at the Schumachers' home, Lisette waits anxiously for Konrad. She has her own problems, too, as she works as a secretary. The boss, a married man, loves to feast his eyes on his secretaries.

One day when bombings are close overhead, Lisette rescues a young child from a rubble heap. The child has a new home with the Schumacher's already large house of elsewhere-unwanted children.

When terrible things begin to happen in the war, Konrad realizes his captain (?) has become a bloodthirsty man. Leaving the army a traitor, he goes back home pretending all is well. Pastor Schumacher knows differently. Konrad tells the pastor what happened, and what he intends to do about Hitler, the plight of the nation. Resolved, Konrad arms himself to assassinate Hitler, leaving Lisette behind once again.

Will Konrad strike the serpent and become just like him?

In another part of the country, childhood friend, Ernst, is a scientist. One day, Ernst meets a beautiful secretary and falls in love. Only she is French, and hates Germans.

With numerous twists and emotionally charged scenes, Jack Cavanaugh has once again created a masterpiece. I didn't want to put this book down, and I didn't want it to end! I'm impatiently waiting for Book 3!

Jesseca Wheaton says

Nooo!!!! How in the world did it end like this?!?!? Augh! I NEED the 3rd book! Like, now!

ahem okay, I guess I should calm down.

This book was so good! There were many times where I had no idea how in the world it would all get wrapped up. In the end, I guess it still didn't. It was probably the worst cliffhanger ending I've read in my entire life.

This book just had so many emotions running through it. One minute you would be laughing, the next you were crying, and then you just wanted to throw the book across the room.

It was so good to be reunited with the characters from the first book. Konrad, Ernst, Neff, Lisette, Willi and Gail as well as Mady and Josef.

Konrad's journey through out the book along with Lisette's was so sweet, yet at the same time it was hard to read at times. It was completely heart-wrenching all they went through.

The historical accuracy and background was so amazing! When I feel like I'm standing in the buildings in bombed-out Berlin and accompanying the main character on a mission, then you know the author has done a good job! I also may have a slight crush on Konrad. . .something had better change in the 3rd book!!

So, yeah. I loved the book and can't wait to start the last one!! :)

Rebekah Duncan says

I didn't think this could be any better than the first book, but it was!! I cried just as hard and was just as amazed by the plot and characters as the first one. I simply cannot say how much I love this book. Konrad... *please excuse me while I go sob in a corner* It's too much!!! Lisette is so sweet and patient, and I love Neff!! ? The ending is sooo sweet and sooo sad and it's a horrible cliffhanger!! This series literally ripped my heart and smushed it to pieces but I love it so much haha. My mom kept commenting on how depressed I was and I was like, "It's this blessed book!"? But even so, it's worth the pain. 5 stars!!

Donald Harwick says

To some degree it was a disappointment. I expected more after Mr.Cavanaugh's collaboration with Bill Bright.

The characters seemed one dimensional. Although predictable the plot kept a certain tension.
