



## Defiance

*Carla Jablonski , Leland Purvis (Illustrator)*

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When Nazis invade, what can kids do to fight them?

World War II has taken its toll on the French countryside. German soldiers patrol the towns, searching for any challenge to their rule. The Tessier siblings, Paul, Marie, and Sophie, keep their noses clean and their faces blank as the French military police tighten their grip on their small country town. But all three are secretly doing their part for the Resistance: the men and women working hard to undermine the Germans and win back France's freedom . . . even if it ends up costing them their lives.

Written by Carla Jablonski and illustrated by Leland Purvis, *Defiance* is the second volume in a trilogy about children fighting on a secret front of World War II.

## Defiance Details

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Author : Carla Jablonski , Leland Purvis (Illustrator)

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## From Reader Review Defiance for online ebook

### **Nicola Mansfield says**

Reason for Reading: next in the series

Continuing on from the second book, Paul and his older sister continue to work for the Resistance unbeknownst to their mother who has given up her part in the shady dealings to keep her family safe. The eldest girl's boyfriend is deeply involved with the movement causing her to wonder whether he really likes her or is just using her to get information from the Germans. Paul is working independently putting irreverent drawings around town of the Germans which are starting to cause a fuss. At this time in the history of the occupation we learn of the French police force started and run by the Germans called the Milice. A German military police force manned by French residents, obviously not a popular group with the locals. Throughout the plot we also learn of the Maquis, resistance groups hiding out in the forests planning for the moment when they can attack back. We learn of Philippe Petain, the leader of the new French State which worked in cooperation with the Nazis and we see the benefits that women were able to garner for themselves and their families if they fraternized with the Germans. Sometimes this was often a very hard decision to make when children were involved. The book ends with the family members not in accord with each other but with a ray of hope for the future as they celebrate a birthday and letter received from Papa. A grand sequel to the first book. I'm very much looking forward to where the final book will take us as I am expecting something tragic to happen.

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### **Raina says**

This series makes me sad. It DOES get better as it goes along - as you get to know the characters. But it does not achieve what it wants to be. It feels contrived and not like the high adventure historical fiction it could be. Here's a piece of a review I wrote for another source:

Although the topic is fascinating and unique for this audience, there is a contrived feeling to this series. It feels just a little too dogmatic. The reader never truly connects with the characters, and the illustrations, though in beautiful full-color, feel amateurish and uneven. Purvis excels at drawing places and does not excel at drawing people. Unfortunately, there are a lot of human figures in this story. Although this topic is important and worth covering in an adventure-style historical fiction graphic novel like this, hopefully many other cartoonists will follow and be more successful at using this format to its greatest extent.

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### **Travis says**

This is the second book in the trilogy and like most series you would definitely have to read the first one before this. This book keeps you engaged through out the whole book and you never want to put it down. I recommend this book for people who loves history and mysteries.

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## **Angie says**

Book two of Resistance shows just how involved children were in the Nazi resistance in France during WWII. The Tessier children, Paul, Sylvie, and Marie, all play roles for the resistance groups. Sylvie starts dating a German soldier in order to gain information. Paul continues to draw anti-Nazi propaganda posters and hang them about town. The resistance is hiding in the mountains and at one point Paul joins them and learns more about what life in the resistance is like. The most interesting aspect of this story continues to be the collaborators. How many were collaborating to survive, to help the resistance and how many were collaborating for their own benefit?

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## **Reading is my Escape says**

Resistance series

This is a great middle-grade graphic novel series on the French resistance during World War II. Kids play their part and there is danger, but it is not overwhelming. My son brought this series home from his school library. He loved it and wanted to share it with me. I love when he does that!!

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## **Vinayak Hegde says**

The second book in the Resistance series is better than the first one. The narrative is much tighter and the artwork also much better. The narrative moves forward fast. The scenes around the raid in the jungle build up a lot of tension and well illustrated.

The protagonist (the small boy Paul) runs off into the jungle and joins the renegade Maquis. It is a difficult time for the family as the war has now moved along, the shortages of food have reached their peak and the pressure to collaborate with the Germans is higher. However the French Resistance is slowly coming together. The desire for freedom is pushing the kids to do more riskier things and the mother is a bundle of frayed nerves.

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## **Christine says**

I am really enjoying this series. Carla Jablonski deftly portrays all the complexities of living under occupation, particularly if one has relatives that disagree strongly on how to respond. I appreciate how she examines the dilemmas facing mothers, children, and young men. At what point does one stand up? How much is too much? How long can one go while turning a blind eye? And when one decides to make a stand what is the most effective way to do so? Can you do so without being harmed or putting your family in harm's way? Is it ever acceptable to put your family in danger?

Very powerful graphic novel that speaks to all ages.

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### **Dov Zeller says**

I like what this series is trying to do, but I don't connect to the art or the characters. Nothing really draws me into the story very deeply. I think giving it three stars is a bit of a stretch, but, then again, the idea is great and there is so much potential in it and it brings up a lot of the inner and inter-relational conflicts and excruciating choices people must make during times of war and violent political turmoil.

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### **Chris says**

*Resistance* is an excellent trio of graphic novels about one French family during World War II, living in the "free" part of France during German occupation. There is the artist son who is in his early teens, the social daughter in her late teens, and the isolated prepubescent daughter, along with their mom and aunt. Their absent POW dad impacts their dynamics.

Over the course of the three books, *Resistance*, *Defiance*, and *Victory*, each member of the family goes from mildly resentful to fully and dangerously involved in the resistance movement. None intends to get involved at the start and each takes his or her own path getting there, for many different, complicated reasons. Life is uncertain in an occupied state, for loyalties, motives, and honesty are always in doubt, even among friends, neighbors, and families. Everyone has secrets, trust is always a risk, and someone hostile is always near. This is not an easy or simple story, but it is a moving and realistic one.

My only real complaint was with the illustrations--I often had trouble determining facial expressions and body language, which should be some of the most important information communicated by the pictures in a graphic novel. This often left me awkwardly feeling as though I were missing part of the story, and I had to piece things together from the dialogue and context as much as I was able.

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### **Courtney says**

Book 2 of the Resistance series is where this trilogy really begins to pick up steam. The Germans are now firmly rooted in just about all parts of France, even the unoccupied portion. The French police are nearly as bad as the German soldiers. Everyone in town must watch what they say and to whom they say it. Paul, Marie and Sophie are all trying desperately to help the resistance while keeping their family out of trouble. It had never occurred to me that children would be as big a part of the resistance as any adult might be and these kids go above and beyond the call of duty. One can only imagine how much faster a child would grow up under such circumstances. Indeed, even little Marie, the youngest, handles her duties with a diligence generally reserved for those several times her age.

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### **Jennifer Mangler says**

I'm reviewing all three volumes - *Book 1: Resistance*, *Book 2: Defiance*, and *Book 3: Victory* - together because that's how I read them. They tell one story from beginning to end. I especially loved how the graphic novels captured the complexity of living under occupation as well as the complexity of the resistance movement. People on the same side disagreed and didn't get along and resented each other. It wasn't just

"good guys" and "bad guys," and it wasn't always easy to see who was who. Each person had incredibly difficult decisions to make in order to survive and live by her/his own conscience. The novels also really captured the overall sense of fear and mistrust of living under occupation, never knowing who you could trust. I really enjoyed all three graphic novels immensely.

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### **Calista says**

I'm enjoying this series about the German occupation of France during WWII. I didn't realize it lasted for so long. I also didn't realize there were people in France wanting to survive and give in thinking Germany would win. I guess that would be a logical idea people would have, it just never occurred to me before. The resistance struggles on and people even date the Germans to gather intelligence that saves lives.

I enjoy the art here and the story is good. I'm learning, I'm entertained and I enjoy it. It's a nice quick read. I feel one more book in the series is not enough. There needs to be more.

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### **Alex (not a dude) Baugh says**

Defiance is the second book in the Resistance trilogy by writer Carla Jablonski and artist Leland Purvis. It begins in 1943, a year after Book 1 ends. Tensions are now higher and supplies are lower. To make matter worse, the Germans have formed a paramilitary group of Frenchmen called the Milice to do their dirty work, as well as instituting a policy of sending young French men and women to labor camps in Germany to help in their war effort. Paul Tessier, his older sister Sylvie and younger sister Marie are still working underground with the French Resistance.

Paul is still posting his anti-Nazi pictures around the village, but now he is also directing his skills towards the Milice. And he is getting impatient with the resistance movement using propaganda instead of weapons, on orders from Charles DeGaulle in London.

One day, after making a propaganda delivery, Paul finds the house empty, and his mother in their winery cellar demanding more wine to convert into fuel and pouring heating oil into the ancient casks used to age the wine, and ruining them, infuriating Paul even more.

Paul's older sister Sylvie is asked by her boyfriend Jacques to cozy up to the Germans to try to get information for the resistance. But Sylvie storms off because she feels she is being used. Jacques tells Paul about the Marquis, resistance workers who are hiding out in the woods, and that he wanted Sylvie to find out how much the Germans know about Marquis.

Jacques is sent to Germany for labor service, but when she finds out he escaped and is hiding out with the Marquis, Sylvie changes her mind about helping the resistance by gathering intelligence through flirting.

Paul finally is seen hanging up one of his anti-Nazi posters and realizes he, too, must go into hiding. But will he be able to find the Marquis and even if he does, will they allow his to become one of them?

Once again the combination of Jablonski, Leland and Sycamore have produced an excellent graphic novel about events effecting the French in World War II. I have read some criticism of this second book in the

Resistance trilogy that it does not stand alone. Yet, if you read the brief description at the beginning of the story and the Author's Note at the end, Defiance can easily be read as a stand alone novel, though, of course, it is better if read after reading Book 1, Resistance.

Another criticism is that the artwork depicting the female characters is confusing. I also thought this when I read Resistance, however, after a few pages I realized there is an easy way to tell everyone apart. Each character wears the same color throughout. So - Paul wears a blue shirt, little sister Marie wears pink and though Sylvie and Aunt Celia both wear green, they are easy to tell apart.

The only thing that mars this otherwise excellent graphic novel is a lack of explanation about who Marshall Petain and General DeGaulle are and the role they played for France in World War II. On the other hand, if you are using this as a text in a class, it is definitely a teachable opportunity. Otherwise, Defiance is a exciting, informative novel based on real events in France while it was under Nazi occupation.

Book 3, Victory, will be available on July 17, 2012 and I am really looking forward to reading it.

This book is recommended for readers age 12 and up

This book was borrowed from the Webster Branch of the NYPL

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### **Gage Daugherty says**

I read about how Paul and the Resistance are planning how they are going to stop Germany from taking over the rest of France and how they are going to stop the french people from wanting them to take it away. I also read that the Maquis are hiding in mountains learning how to fight, hide, and run from the Germans to help France win the war.

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### **Matthew says**

World War II may be raging on in other parts of Europe, but here in the middle of France, Nazi rule is secure. However, young Paul Tessier isn't going to stand by and watch idly as the Nazis take over Europe; he wants to fight. Defiance, a Graphic Novel by Carla Jablonski and the second book in the Resistance series, Jablonski masterfully captures the emotions and actions of a young teenage boy as he struggles to survive in a time of war. Defiance is for anyone who wants to know more about the actual underground resistance in France during WWII, is looking for a moving graphic novel/historical fiction read, or just a quick book to sit down with.

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