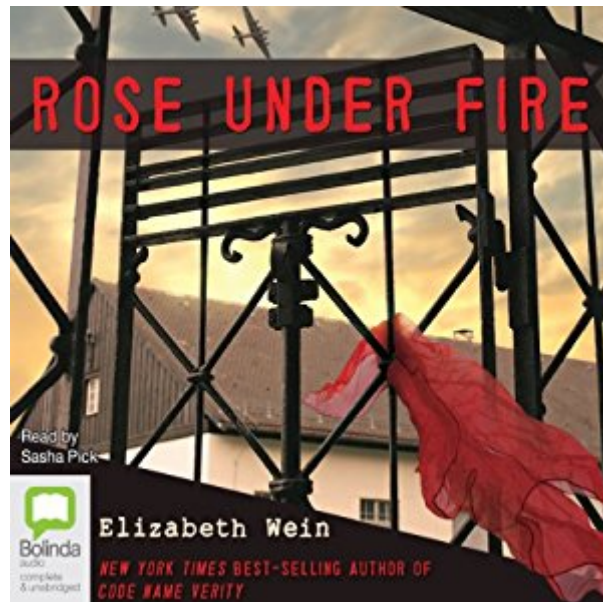


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# Rose Under Fire



## Synopsis

Audie Award Finalist, Teens, 2013 Rose Justice is a young pilot with the Air Transport Auxiliary during the Second World War. On her way back from a semi-secret flight in the waning days of the war, Rose is captured by the Germans and ends up in Ravensbrück, the notorious Nazi women's concentration camp. There, she meets an unforgettable group of women, including a once glamorous and celebrated French detective novelist whose Jewish husband and three young sons have been killed; a resilient young girl who was a human guinea pig for Nazi doctors trying to learn how to treat German war wounds; and a Nachthexen, or Night Witch, a female fighter pilot and military ace for the Soviet air force. These damaged women must bond together to help each other survive. In this companion volume to the critically acclaimed novel Code Name Verity, Elizabeth Wein continues to explore themes of friendship and loyalty, right and wrong, and unwavering bravery in the face of indescribable evil.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Whispersync for Voice: Ready

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## Customer Reviews

Rose Justice is an American pilot for the ATA during WWII. She is captured and sent to an all women concentration camp, Ravensbruck. Just like all concentration camp stories, Rose is in for a very horrible and difficult time. Told through her journal from before and after the concentration camp, mostly after, we get an intimate look at life inside the camp, learning to live afterward, and even a glimpse at the trials that took place once the war was over. Rose Under Fire is a companion to Code Name Verity. You do not have to read Verity to understand this book, but I think everyone

should read it anyway. Maddie is back in this one as Rose's friend. Some people in Maddie's past are referenced, but you aren't told what happened. If I were reading this book without having read *Verity*, I would absolutely want to go back and see what happened in *Verity*. There are a lot more surprises in *Verity* that might not be as shocking if *Rose* is read first. I felt that *Verity* was a more powerful story, but I enjoyed reading this one more. I do have a soft spot for concentration camp stories, and it made it even better that this was fictional. I could really get into the characters and root for all of them, but at least I know in my heart that the specific casualties were fictitious. *Verity* was full of technical information about airplanes, so much that I found myself skimming over those parts. That was definitely not the case this time. Rose's flying passion was part of her, but it didn't take over the story. There was a lot of poetry this time, something else Rose was passionate about. I am not a big fan of poetry within stories. It didn't ruin the book for me, as I understand that her poetry was necessary in keeping the morale up for so many girls in the camp.

I don't think I've ever cried so much while reading a book. Elizabeth Wein is a genius. Honestly, I can't think of any other way to describe her. *Code Name Verity* was one of my favorite books of last year and *Rose Under Fire* will undoubtedly be one of my favorite books of this year. I've always been a fan of historical fiction, but Wein's ability to bring these stories to life is just completely above and beyond other historical fiction that's out there (although Ruta Sepetys gives her a run for her money). Rose is an 18-year-old American pilot who is working for the Air Transport Auxiliary in England. She pretty much flies planes around England moving them from one location to another whether it's for repair (I loved the story of her freezing to death flying a plane with a hole in the windshield) or because it's needed somewhere else. She's stationed in the same location as Maddie Broddart from *Code Name Verity* and it was so nice to see what Maddie, and Jamie, were up to. The story takes place after D-Day, which, as a lover of history I am ashamed to say, surprised me. I guess I always think of D-Day as the end of the war and it's crazy to me that all these terrible things happened for more than a year after D-Day. Rose dreams of flying to Europe and eventually her uncle, who has a powerful job with the British military, gets her over there. I loved her descriptions of Paris after the war, it was really powerful getting to see it through her eyes the first time she was there. When Rose is flying back to England from Paris she gets taken off course and captured by Germans. Honestly, at this point in the book I thought I was going to have to go to the end and read what happens. I was just so anxious about what was going to happen to Rose.

*Rose Under Fire*, by Elizabeth Wein, is the companion novel to *Code Name Verity*. This book starts

a bit after Code Name Verity ends and features only a few of the same characters. The main character here is Rose, an American pilot working for the Air Transport Auxiliary in England. One day, she flies off-course and is caught by the Germans and sent to a concentration camp, Ravensbruck. She spends six months there before she escapes with some friends, and then she shares her story through journal entries. I love that Wein gives friendship so much the spotlight in her novels, much more than romance, and that she makes clear that platonic relationships can do so much to help us through horrible times and keep us trucking on. There was so much sacrifice of one person for another in this book, so much attention to the greater good. I think that was wonderful. And, importantly, I loved that Rose was always the protagonist and hero of her own story. She instigates the action in her life; she gets herself into a mess and she works with a team to get herself back out of it. And then, when she's out, she deals with pulling together the pieces of herself to become a working human being again. I also appreciated how much time Wein spent describing Rose's post-traumatic stress disorder when she got back to "normal life." She spends weeks cooped up in her hotel room. She can't put on clothes. She knows what she went through but has trouble remembering the details of just how miserable and horrifying it was. And when she has to help her friend to overcome those same demons, does it to make sure that they are both able to live full and valuable lives, it is a true act of courage that, I think, would go unnoticed by most people.

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