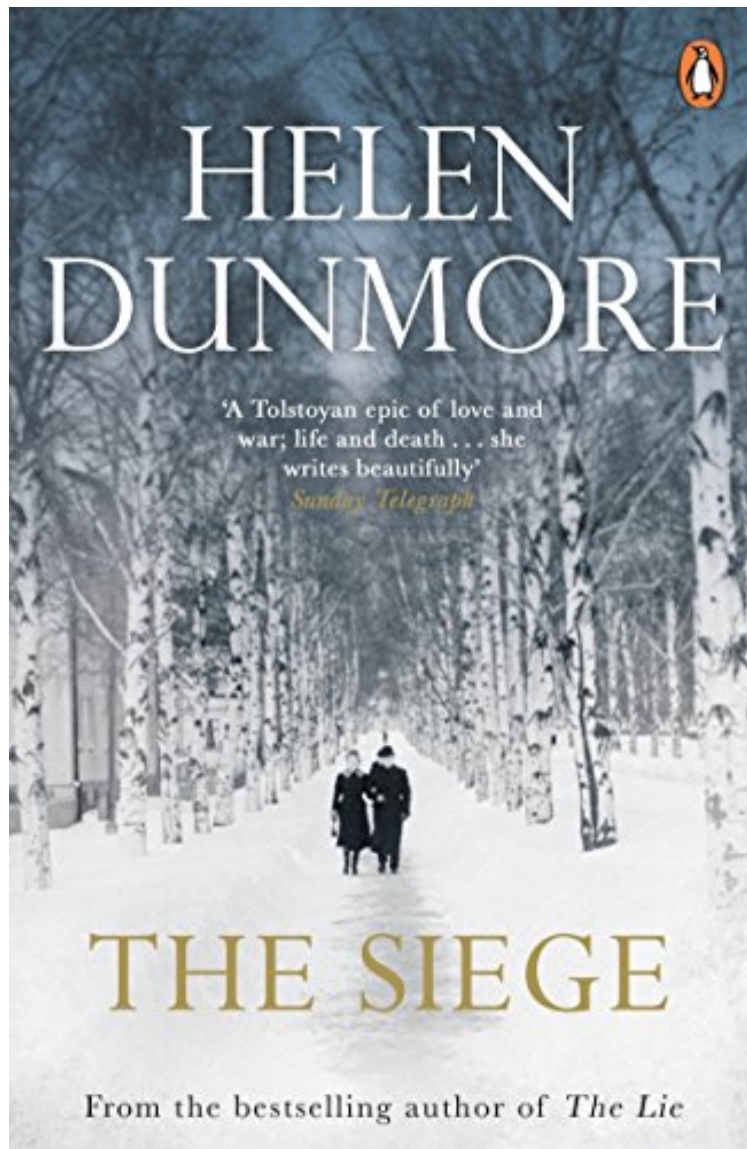


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The Siege

Von *Helen Dunmore*
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Von Helen Dunmore : The Siege before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time,
and all praised The Siege:

KurzbeschreibungHelen Dunmore follows the lives of four ordinary people, united by love, trying to survive the siege of Leningrad in her powerful historical novel *The Siege*. Leningrad, September 1941. Hitler orders the German forces to surround the city at the start of the most dangerous, desperate winter in its history. For two pairs of lovers - Anna and Andrei, Anna's novelist father and banned actress Marina - the siege becomes a battle for survival. They will soon discover what it is like to be so hungry you boil shoe leather to make soup, so cold you burn furniture and books. But this is not just a struggle to exist, it is also a fight to keep the spark of hope alive... *The Siege* is a brilliantly imagined novel of war and the wounds it inflicts on ordinary people's lives, and a profoundly moving celebration of love, life and survival. 'Remarkable, affecting...there are few more interesting stories than this; and few writers who could have told it better' Rachel Cusk, *Daily Telegraph* 'Literary writing of the highest order set against a background of suffering so intimately reconstructed it is hard to believe that Dunmore was not there' Richard Overy, *Sunday Telegraph* 'Utterly convincing. A deeply moving account of two love stories in terrible circumstances. The story of their struggle to survive appears simple, as all great literature should. . . a world-class novel' Antony Beevor, *The Times* Novelist and poet Helen Dunmore has achieved great critical acclaim since publishing her first adult novel, the McKitterick Prize winning, *Zennor in Darkness*. Her novels, *Counting the Stars*, *Your Blue-Eyed Boy*, *With Your Crooked Heart*, *Burning Bright*, *House of Orphans*, *Mourning Ruby*, *A Spell of Winter*, and *Talking to the Dead*, and her collection of short stories *Love of Fat Men* are all published by Penguin..deThe final words of Helen Dunmore's *The Siege*--"No, I shall not wholly die..."(Alexander Pushkin)--respond to the stark threat with which the novel begins: "Re: The future of Leningrad ... The Fhrer has decided to have Leningrad wiped from the face of the earth". In this powerful work of fiction, Dunmore writes through her fascination with one of the most remarkable, and painful, episodes in Russian history: the siege of Leningrad through the winter of 1941 during which untold thousands perished of cold and starvation. *The Siege* is a type of memorial, a literary document to an experience in which, as Dunmore writes, "being dead is normal". People die in the streets, in their beds; whole families are frozen, "bodies piled up by the Karpovka canal, or outside the cemeteries". What does it take to survive? Dunmore explores that question through the powerful characters--Anna Levin, Kolya (her child-brother) and Andrei (her lover)--who people this novel, conjuring the contest with death that becomes the daily existence of the Leningraders, their belief in a world beyond the siege. *The Siege* is itself part of that world, stricken by memory and the question of what it means for a novel (and a novelist) to take on the "flesh of all those other Leningraders who died of hunger in silent, frigid rooms". This is part of the wager, and accomplishment, of Dunmore's extraordinary book and confirmation of the extraordinary skill and sensitivity, of her writing. --Vicky LebeauPressestimmenA Tolstoyan epic of love and war; life and death...she writes beautifully *Sunday Telegraph* Remarkable, affecting...there are few more interesting stories than this; and few writers who could have told it better -- Rachel Cusk *Daily Telegraph* Utterly convincing. A deeply moving account of two love stories in terrible circumstances. The story of their struggle to survive appears simple, as all great literature should...A world-class novel -- Antony Beevor *The Times* Literary writing of the highest order set against a background of suffering so intimately reconstructed it is hard to believe that Dunmore was not there -- Richard Overy *Sunday Telegraph* A remarkable parable of human survival against the odds *Mail on Sunday* In this wise, humane and beautifully written novel she has written a masterpiece *Independent* A searing historical novel. Dunmore vividly evokes the unbelievable cold, privations and violence as people struggle to survive...an extraordinary description of the horrors of the time *Sunday Express* An important as well as a thrilling work of art *Independent on Sunday* A moving and powerful novel in which Dunmore employs all her celebrated descriptive and narrative skills...beautiful *Daily Mail* A harrowing, urgent narrative of cold, starvation and the battle to survive *Sunday Times*