

MY FRIEND THE ENEMY BY DAN SMITH

SYNOPSIS

It is summer 1941 in the rural North-East of England. For Peter, the war is a long way away, being fought by a faceless enemy. His only contact with the events happening overseas is through his father, a local gamekeeper who has gone away to fight. However, all that changes when he witnesses a German plane shot down over the woods near his home. The plane crashes, seemingly killing all those on board, but Peter is sure he saw a parachute opening moments before the crash ...

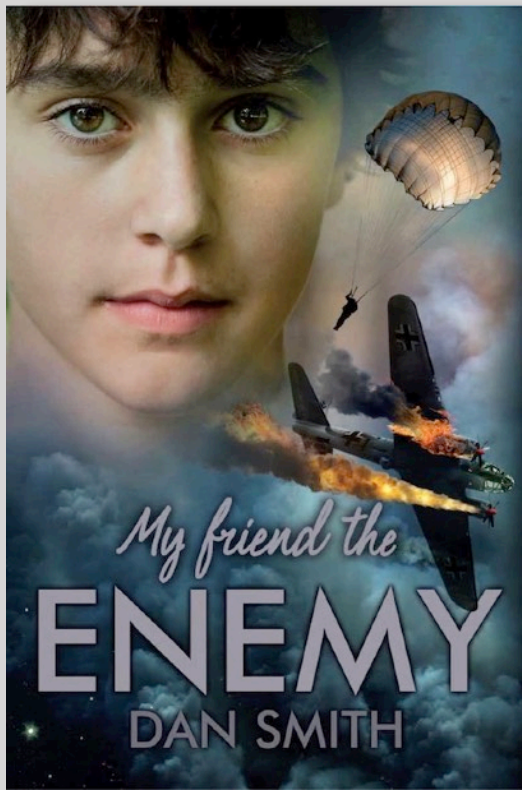
Together with his new friend Kim, an evacuee from Newcastle, Peter returns to the crash site in order to claim an all-important souvenir. But when the souvenir hunt is cut short (after the Home Guard interrupt proceedings) the pair retreat to the woods. It is then that Peter discovers he has absent-mindedly picked up an object neither expected to find - a gun.

Keen to keep their souvenir a secret, Peter and Kim return to the woods to hide the weapon. But in doing this they come across another, more terrifying find. Deep in the woods they find themselves face-to-face with an injured German airman!


Torn between their feelings of pity for the wounded man, and a sense of duty to their country, the pair eventually decide to take care of the enemy combatant; and they set about bringing him food and provisions.

As they concentrate their efforts on bringing their new German friend back to health, Peter and Kim find themselves battling other 'enemies' closer to home.

Through it all Peter and Kim must make some tough decisions about what is right and what is wrong.



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Shortlisted for the Tower Hamlets Book Award 2014

Shortlisted for the North East Book Award 2013

Shortlisted for the Historical Association Young Quills Comp 2013

Longlisted for the Branford Base Award



'... an exciting, thought-provoking book.' THE BOOKSELLER

'This book is of the same calibre as The Machine Gunners [Robert Westall] and the James Holland Duty Calls volumes ... positively outstanding.' WATERSTONES BOOKSELLER

'My heart hammered in my chest with fear and excitement as I read this brilliant story of family, friendship and war.' DUBRAY BOOKS, IRELAND

'It's a great skill when an author can write a story that provokes many thoughts from the reader - this book does it in spades ... This is a sparkling book of friendship and adventure that will capture your heart strings and certainly take you down a turbulent path of mixed emotions.' MR RIPLEY'S ENCHANTED BOOKS BLOG

'... a wonderful story. It's exciting and absorbing and interesting, with relatable and sympathetic central characters, an interesting plot and lots of moral ambiguity ... heartily recommended.' THE BOOK BAG BLOG

'My Friend the Enemy is an exciting and emotional novel set in a time of great uncertainty ... It's such a roller coaster journey - you just don't know what's coming next.' KATE ORMAND, BLOGGER

'... blurs the line between right or wrong, enemy or friend ... I loved it.' My LIBRARY IN THE MAKING blog

'... would make a great accompaniment to any class studying World War 2 as it gives such an insight into what life was really like during such hard times ... If you love books such as Goodnight Mr Tom, I'm sure you will enjoy this.' SERENDIPITY REVIEWS BLOG

'Bombing raids, a crashing German plane and an encounter with a Nazi soldier - what could be more exciting?' KIRKUS REVIEWS



'This book grabbed me from page one ... highly recommended.' HISTORICAL NOVEL SOCIETY

'An exciting and thought-provoking World War II adventure for children aged 9-12. With shades of Michael Morpurgo, Michelle Magorian and Robert Westall's classic The Machine Gunners the author carefully explores the moral dilemma of helping the enemy, and the pressures placed on family members left at home, far away from enemy lines.' LOVEREADING4KIDS

'Filled with action and tense situations, this story will keep readers engaged from its explosive beginning to its dramatic ending; lovers of historical fiction will especially appreciate this interesting take on life on the homefront during World War II.' SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL (USA)

'Smith presents a thought provoking story of friendship and life on the home front amid wartime pressure and fear. This is a well-told tale with believable characters that uses life's ambiguities to illuminate the humanity under patriotism and the harshness of war.' BOOKLIST (USA)

