



## Simple Faith

*Anna Schmidt*

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After losing her beloved husband and daughter and surviving Hitler's Sobibor death camp, Quaker widow Anja Steinberg dedicates her life to helping others and keeping her son safe. As a member of the resistance, she helps displaced Allied airmen get back to their units in England. The journey is rigorous and filled with danger and there is no time for romance. Anja knows that Mikel, her fellow resistance worker, loves her. He would make a good husband and father for her son, but she doesn't share his feelings. Is friendship enough? Then American Peter Trent parachutes into her life. She must face facts—her heart did not die with her late husband and true love could be hers again. But marrying Mikel may be the only way she can save Peter.

## Simple Faith Details

Date : Published March 1st 2014 by Shiloh Run Press

ISBN : 9781620291412

Author : Anna Schmidt

Format : Paperback 320 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Christian Fiction, Christian Historical Fiction, Romance, War, World War II, Inspirational, Amish

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## From Reader Review Simple Faith for online ebook

### **Kathleen (Kat) Smith says**

If you have followed my book reviews for any length of time, then you know I am a huge WWII fan of both historical fiction and non fiction books. I am so thrilled I got the opportunity to review Anna Schmidt's novel, Simple Faith, the second novel in the Peacemakers Series. In this one she utilizes the true story of a group of German medical students who banded together in what came to be known as the White Rose to speak out against Hitler and the Nazis.

The journey of the characters of Anja and Josef and Beth take in this novel is set against the background of historical fact. "Amazingly, during World War II there were several so-called escape lines managed by brave local citizens of countries occupied by the Nazis. Like those who worked on the Underground Railroad, these individuals - at considerable risk to their own lives and safety - provided false papers, safe houses, food, shelter, and clothing to move Allied airmen from the site of their downed planes behind enemy lines across much of Europe until they could reach Gibraltar - a British territory - and move from there back to England. They traveled hundreds, even thousands of miles by train, bicycle, or on foot, and perhaps the most amazing piece of this story is that the best known of these escape lines - the Comet Line - was created and managed by a young woman." (excerpt).

This is the story of Second Lieutenant Peter Trent who was shot down while attempting to escape a fire in his bomber that was activated by a photoflash bomb and thus requiring an immediate evacuation of the plane. This was not before being shot in the leg and as he tries to remember all his survival training tips as he parachutes into Belgium in November of 1943, he only hopes he can make it out alive along with the five other crewmen who jumped with him. But for now with being shot in the leg, he can only hope that a "friendly" comes to rescue him before the Nazi Gestapos do.

What Peter does discover is a band of people who are willing to risk their lives and those of their children to make sure that he finds his way back home instead of being shot or captured by the Nazi's. Peter and Anja are about to embark on a life changing journey that will do more than test their survival skills but also test their faith in God along the way.

I received Simple Faith by Anna Schmidt compliments of Shiloh Publishing and Pump Up Your Book Tours for my honest review. I did not receive any monetary compensation for a favorable review and the opinions contained in this review are strictly my own unless otherwise noted. For me, this one was aspect of the war, I have never heard about until picking up Anna's novel. I can't imagine how difficult it would be the not only find an Allied airmen, but to risk their own personal safety against being arrested or killed while trying to get him home while the Nazis continually searched for these men. Knowing their plane was shot down, it only seems logical that they would search nearby farms, homes and businesses looking for people who were willing to hide them. Almost like what countries did during the Holocaust to hide the Jews who were being shipped off into concentration camps. I thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of the research that went into the creation of this amazing novel and can easily give this one a 5 out of 5 stars. I look forward to picking up the first novel in this series, to see how Anja escaped the Nazi death camp in All God's Children.

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### **Amy says**

I just finished an advanced copy of this book, and I cannot say enough good things about it. Incredibly suspenseful, heartbreaking yet uplifting, it will have you sitting on the edge of your seat as you read about

Anja, Peter and their friends trying to outwit and escape the Nazis. I adored the first book in the series, and this one was even more exciting. I can't wait for the next one to come out!

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## **Beckie Burnham says**

Simple Faith, book 2 in Anna Schmidt's The Peacemakers series, presents an interesting look at the work of people of faith in the midst of the horror of WWII. Set in Belgium, France and Spain, the novel continues the story of Anja that began in book 1, All God's Children. It can, however, be read as a standalone. Filled with daring adventure, suspense and romance, Simple Faith is a recommended read for those who like historical romance set during WWII.

Peter Trent is an American airman forced to parachute from the disabled bomber he serves on. Behind enemy lines, Peter struggles to survive his initial landing. Found by the young son of Anja Jensen, Peter is rescued and set into the escape line run by Anja. But the Gestapo is on his trail and determined to find not only Peter, but to bring in those responsible for the running of the escape line. Fighting their growing attraction, Peter and Anja flee Belgium and start on their trek to Spain and freedom. But of course, there are lots of dangers awaiting them and others who fight for freedom.

Simple Faith is foremost a plot-driven romance with elements of suspense and danger for the characters. The romance is somewhat predictable, but the story of the escape lines providing its foundation is fascinating. Like the Underground Railroad used to transport slaves to freedom in the United States, escape lines operated in Europe allowing American, Canadian and British airman to return to England. The sacrifice that the local people made to protect the Allied forces is a story that needed to be told. These people risked everything, including torture and death, to make sure that strangers would live. Another interesting feature of the novel is Anja's Quaker faith. A pacifist, she looks for the Light in all she meets, including those who are her enemies. She is called to do her part to stop the Nazis. The Society of Friends or Quakers rely on silence to find the will of God and I found this a powerful image of God's voice to His people. I was surprised, though, that while there were many references to God and the Light, there was never any direct mention of Jesus. There also seemed to be a universalist bent to the faith portrayed by the characters.

If you like a book filled with historical detail, an interesting story, romance and likable characters then Simple Faith is a good book for you.

Recommended.

(Thanks to Shiloh Press and Pump Up Your Book for a review copy. All opinions expressed are mine alone.)

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## **Barbara says**

WW II is a fascinating time period to read about, and I love reading about the Quaker faith and how many of them put their lives on the line in order to save others. This book was a perfect example of both. Peter and Anja's story is filled with faith, danger, death, safety, romance, love, and trust. The young boy in the story, Daniel, is a wonderful example of how children can step up and act much braver than you would expect them to when circumstances are dire. Christian historical fiction fans will love this one! I can't wait to read the last book in this series, as I loved the first two.

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## **Faith says**

Anna Schmidt's newest series is dedicated to telling little-known stories of heroism from WWII. I loved the first book, *All God's Children*, and I so enjoyed the second, *Simple Faith*. Both of them are exactly what they should be.

This one tells a story set around the Escape Lines, organized bands of men and women who ferried Allied Airmen to safety.

Pause for a moment and think about that: If you went down behind enemy lines, you were all alone. You'd be terrified and with good reason.

Imagine the feeling of awe that would come if you were discovered by a civilian who had the connections and the desire to help you? Imagine your reaction when they explain that you are now an "evader" and will become a passenger in the "escape line."

Now imagine that those escape lines criss-cross this occupied territory, that they are manned by everyone from professional actresses to creative farmers, that all who take part are in grave danger. Think about how the journey would be long and hard. You might have to walk or ride a bicycle and you might travel inside a coffin in a train car. Anything to keep you safe. You would be disguised and given lessons on what to do and who to be... but at the end lay British territory and a chance to get home eventually.

For Peter Trent, it all begins when his plane goes down. With the ruins still smoking behind him and the fate of his fellow crew unsure, Peter drags himself as far as he can and is not too hopeful about rescue when a young boy finds him.

That boy is Anja's son, and you may remember her and Daniel from *All God's Children*. Along with Daniel and her Grandparents, Anja has chosen to put her life on the line for complete strangers.

Thus it begins... a necessary bond formed between a widowed Quaker and an All-American airman.

Along the way we meet Doctor Josef, son of a Nazi Official who embodies German integrity and wants his beloved country back.

We meet Giselle, beautiful and exotic actress who puts her talents to use creating ruses that save lives.

And we meet Mikel, a Basque who has known his share of grief. He's almost convinced himself not to hope ever again... but Daniel and Anja keep changing his mind. Mikel keeps a sense of dark humor, and it is he who reminds us that American's are the most difficult people to rescue because they think they know everything.

These are men and women who deal with loss, who cling to those they love, who hold fast to hope, and who ache for those who are suffering. You can't help but be moved by this vividly told tale of WWII heroism.

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## **Marianne says**

Having read the first book of Anna's Peacemaker Series, I was looking forward to reading *Simple Faith* to find out more about the quiet of the land who did their part to fight against the atrocious terror reigning Europe during the World War II.

I was not disappointed! Anna wrote this book with the same attention to detail that she did in the first book. My heart beat with adrenaline as danger was ever near, and still Anja carried on with her undercover work together with her colleagues. I felt the stress on her shoulders as she struggled to help her grandparents and

fellow men, and still kept her son safe. But I also felt the joy as they reached safety, as Daniel brought her a bouquet of flowers. I had to wonder as I was reading this, would I, or will I have the faith and courage to do even a small part of what Anja was involved with if the need arises? I trust I would be.

I received this book free from Fred at The Book Club Network and Barbour Publishing in exchange for an honest review. A positive critique was not required. The opinions are my own.

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## **Brittany says**

Simple Faith is the sequel to Anna Schmidt's book, All God's Children, which I really enjoyed. It is set during WWII and picks up where All God's Children leaves off and tells us Anja's story. Anja is a widowed mother of a ten year old boy, Daniel. She has suffered horribly through the war and her back story is told in All God's Children. However, Simple Faith can be read as a stand alone book and the reader will learn all that has happened in Anja's life. The trials she has suffered, along with her Quaker faith, fuel Anja's desire to help Allied airmen escape across Europe and past the enemy lines.

As much as I enjoyed the first book in this series and looked forward to reading Simple Faith, I was unprepared for how much I was going to love this book! It starts off with a bang right from the beginning as we watch Peter Trent make his escape by parachuting into enemy territory. He finds himself injured and trapped in Belgium. He must learn to trust in the ability of Anja, Mikel, Josef and Lisbeth to help him heal and escape. This is no simple feat and danger follows them throughout the whole novel. Peter has to hide and recuperate, all the while the Gestapo is searching for him. Then the book really takes off as we read about the daring and very elaborate escape route and the drastic measures that must be taken to stay hidden while fleeing. There are great twists and turns in this book and an absolutely beautiful love story that develops throughout.

I recommend Simple Faith to fans of historical fiction. Although you can read it as a stand alone, I believe that your reading experience will be greatly enhanced if you have also read All God's Children. You will truly understand more about what Anja has persevered through and will enjoy seeing what has happened in the lives of Josef and Lisbeth.

I received a complimentary copy of Simple Faith from the author through The Book Club Network in exchange for an honest review, which I have given.

Read this review on my blog at:  
<http://brittreadsfiction.wordpress.co...>

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## **Lindsey (Books for Christian Girls) says**

About this book:

“The War Had Taken Anja's World...

Quaker Anja Steinberg could not save to Jewish husband and young daughter from the Nazis, but even in the midst of heartbreak, Anja is following her faith's calling to help Allied airmen escape from behind enemy lines to freedom

When American Peter Trent's plane is shot down, he parachutes into a field near Anja's grandfather's farm,



What a wonderful story great characters. I have always liked these kind of stories. main character Anja Steinberg is a Quaker but married a Jew. Because he was a Jew he was killed and also their daughter. All she has left is her son. They must leave there and go into hiding only place to go would be to go to her grandparents. There is a American plane goes down and they rescue the soldier and get him to safety. She begins to risk her own life to help others to escape the Nazi 's . Two men come into her life one she really loves but will she have to sacrifice that love to keep him alive? Loved the book great story. This book is full of drama, history, romance and most importantly Faith. I would recommend it for anyone who likes any of these.

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## **Jeanie says**

Anna Schmidt has outdone herself with Simple Faith, the second novel in her series, 'The Peacekeepers'! It can be read as a stand-alone book without having read the first book, All God's Children. Until now I was most familiar with her excellent 'Celery Fields' series. In Simple Faith she demonstrates an incredible eye for research and rich detail in this outstanding story of what ordinary people of faith did as they followed the leading of their Lord through the destruction and terror of Hitler's rule in 1940's Europe. This reader was completely drawn into the setting depicted by Anna Schmidt; I felt as if I were part of the action! And I now greatly admire the faith of the Quakers who inspired the characters of Anja, her grandparents and friends and their activities.

Simple Faith opens to the explosion and crash of an American plane shot down by Nazis near the farm belonging to Anja's grandparents, where she and her young son Daniel called home. Nazis quickly surrounded the burning wreckage to capture any airmen who might still be alive. Peter Trent, one of the injured American airmen who parachuted from the plane as it went down, dragged himself as far away as he could, to a ditch on the farm. Anja assisted with Peter's medical care as Peter's escape from enemy territory was planned. There was something different, however, about Peter that Anja had not noticed with the rest of the troops she had helped, an attraction that couldn't be explained. An attraction that she had no time to consider during this time of her life. And even though it wasn't part of her plan, she had to help this man on the treacherous trail to freedom that took her further from the farm, and her family as the Gestapo's men pursued them across Europe.

A veteran escapee of a death camp, Anja attempted to live an obscure life befitting her Quaker faith as a nurse during the week. By weekend and often by night, she was a secret operative of those who helped airmen of the Allied troops escape from enemy territory to return to their country's service. These elaborately designed avenues of escape were not unlike the Underground Railroad that helped African American slaves in 1800's America, and those who helped the Allied troops escape faced if apprehended, torture and death at the hand of the Nazi's.

This reader found the book nearly impossible to put down! It is hard to imagine the lifestyle of one dedicated to helping people to freedom from the Nazi regime, especially of one who had already been in a death camp. The physical stamina alone would be daunting – and the spiritual strength tremendous! It would require a uniquely gifted, determined, and impassioned person who could think quickly on their feet, plan and make changes to those plans without notice. It also required a kind of acceptance that postponed one's own emotions until such a time – if any – that it was safe to let those emotions out, and a persevering faith in God. I tried to imagine throughout the book - could I have done so, in that position? It is with deepest admiration and respect that I consider those men and women who actually did help many men and women to freedom through war-torn Europe! It is with great admiration for Anna Schmidt, also, that I highly recommend this incredible book.

I received a copy of this book through the "For Readers Only" group at The Book Club Network, in exchange for my honest review. All opinions are my own, and no monetary compensation was received for this review.

## Rhonda says

This book has given me incredible insights into WWII for those on the other side of our world. I had seen many artifacts from my late uncle: the censored letters home, his Purple Heart, his leave papers, picture of him in his uniform, his gravestone, and more. But to think of the many silent soldiers who worked tirelessly to bring soldiers to safety and freedom was a real eye-opener for me. I have a great respect for these special helpers as they put their selves and their families in danger every day and yet, they continued. Add in the romance between Anja and one of the soldiers she saves, Peter, and this book is truly remarkable. I was given a paperback copy of this book by The Book Club Network and a pdf copy by netgalley.

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## Audrey says

Life is very dangerous for Anja during the War. She is deeply involved in smuggling Allied air force men who have been shot down by German gunners back to safety. Now the Gestapo are aware of her actions and she is one of those that are on the run. She and Peter, a downed American pilot, have to flee with her son, Daniel and her friends, Josef and Lisbeth who have also been involved in the Resistance movement. It is very risky as they travel from Belgium to Paris and into Spain and finally to Britain. This is an engrossing story that's apparently based on historical facts.

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## Rick says

This is the next book in a grouping that, while they aren't my normal genre to read, I thought I would read in an attempt to broaden my reading lists. So if you like to visit my page to get some insight into what men enjoy reading, hang onto your thoughts as some of these books may surprise even me. This book is book 2 in the "Peacemaker's" series by Anna Schmidt. While it may be the 2nd in the series, this book can be read as a stand-alone.

Peter Trent is on his first mission and like most guys flying into enemy territory, he is scared of what the outcome may be. When the plane is shot down, he finds himself hurt and being rescued by a young boy who helped him hide in the ditch away from the Nazis. His mother, Anja, already part of the movement to help soldiers, is busy defending off a group of Nazis that have ransacked her grandparent's house looking for any Americans that were on the plane that went down. When she finds out that Daniel has helped hide the soldier, she is both angry and impressed. As the process begins to reunite Peter with his country, so begins the journey of these two strangers. Across enemy lands, being pursued by Nazis, danger around every mountain passage, can Anja deliver Peter to safety? Will this be the rescue that puts Anja and her son's life in danger? Get on board for the answers to these questions and many others when you BUY THE BOOK!!!

Ok, so maybe these books are beginning to grow on me, and not just because I'm just an old softie at heart. Having not read the first in the series, I was a little concerned that I may be lost in picking this up instead of the first one. No worries though, this is a solid stand alone read. This is also my first book by Anna Schmidt. I enjoyed her writing style, I liked the way that the story flowed, each piece of action building upon the one before it. I could picture this book as a movie, I could even see where the producers or directors would break for a commercial. I like that, I like that there were times that I was holding my breath, then the author would

allow me to breath, then I was holding it again. All of this taking you to the final crescendo where..... Well, that wouldn't be right if I gave it away, now would it? J

Is this a "guy's book"? It could be. This had action, suspense and danger. The perils that the characters face as they make their way towards freedom would keep any guy interested. The romance angle was there, but it was made to be a part of the story, not an addition to the story.

I received this book from the Book Fun Network (bookfun.org) and the publisher in exchange for my honest opinion. I was not required to write a positive review, it just turns out that I enjoyed the book.

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### **Lisa Johnson says**

Title: Simple Faith (Peacemakers Series #2)

Author: Anna Schmidt

Pages: 320

Year: 2014

Publisher: Shiloh Run Press

Note: I received a complimentary copy for an honest review of this book from [www.bookfun.org](http://www.bookfun.org)

In the continuing story of Anja, Beth and others first introduced in All God's Children, the audience will be captivated by the way locals help downed airmen to safety. The network of characters brought to life on the pages will remind people of other acts of bravery done to help during times of war. The Gestapo is always on the heels of the main characters, attempting to keep them from leaving Germany. Not only is the Gestapo presence more visual to locals, the risk of dangers grows exponentially with each attempt to return men to their homeland while keeping the locals from being caught. Even with the main characters from the first story having to obtain new identities there are no guarantees that they will ever be safe. Plus some dark sinister man has infiltrated the escape route used and as the safe houses begin to be torn apart by the Nazis, time becomes even more crucial to moving people before they are caught.

In book 2, the tension builds as readers might find themselves wondering who the antagonist is and who is not. Lives are at stake as well as the future welfare of Germany once the way is over, with most people knowing that their lives and country has been forever changed. Again, the author reveals a couple tenets of the Quaker faith as the tale climaxes and will be completed in book three to be released this summer.

While some author's books can be read as stand alone, the Peacemakers series isn't one of them so please read All God's Children first so you can follow the developing tale. The tension, love, faith, romance and description of scenes capture the imagination from the first to the last page. Personally, I cannot wait to see how the author wraps up the series. I have enjoyed the books very much!

My rating is 4 stars.

Note: The opinions shared in this review are solely my responsibility. Other reviews can be read at <http://seekingwithallyurheart.blogspot...> . Also follow me on Twitter @lcjohnson1988, FaceBook at <https://www.facebook.com/lisa.johnson...>

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### **Deborah Lyn says**

Excellent, well paced historical novel. Want to read more by Anna Schmidt!

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