

## Love by the Morning Star

By Ms. Laura L. Sullivan

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**Love by the Morning Star** By Ms. Laura L. Sullivan

Upstairs, downstairs, and in *which* lady's chamber?

On the brink of World War II, two girls are sent to the grand English country estate of Starkers. Hannah, the half-Jewish daughter of a disgraced distant relative, has been living an artistic bohemian life in a cabaret in pre-war Germany and now is supposed to be welcomed into the family. Anna, the social-climbing daughter of working-class British fascists, is supposed to be hired as a maid so that she can spy for the Nazis. But there's a mix-up, and nice Hannah is sent to the kitchen as a maid while arrogant Anna is welcomed as a relative.

And then both girls fall for the same man, the handsome heir of the estate . . . *or do they?*

In this sparkling, saucy romance, nearly everything goes wrong for two girls who are sent to a grand English estate on the brink of World War II—until it goes so very, very right!

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## **Love by the Morning Star** By Ms. Laura L. Sullivan Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 8 Up—It's 1938 in rural England, and Anna Morgan is desperate to find a way out of her life as the working-class daughter of a grocer. When she's given an opportunity to live at a grand country estate called Starkers, she believes that her chance has finally come to marry well and fulfill her destiny of becoming a lady, despite the fact that she's supposed to be there working as a kitchen maid in order to spy for a group of Nazi sympathizers. In Berlin, Hannah Morganstern is happy with her life as a singer in her father's cabaret, and confident that she'll soon find a place as an opera singer in Vienna. Her dreams are dashed, however, when the German government begins shutting down Jewish businesses and threatening to send Jews to prison camps. Hannah is half-Jewish, and her parents believe the best way to keep her safe is to send her to live with distant relatives, who she has never met, at a grand estate in England. When the two girls arrive at Starkers on the same afternoon, one is welcomed as a member of the family and a companion to the lady of the house, while the other is sent to work in the kitchen. What follows is a delightful comedy of errors, full of near misses, misunderstandings, and double entendres. While the plot drags at times and lacks some necessary historical context, this is a light and fun romance that should appeal to fans of *Downton Abbey*.—Liz Overberg, Darlington School, Rome, GA

From [Booklist](#)

Two young women leave Germany for England in 1938. Aryan Anna has a kitchen maid's job waiting at Starkers, a gracious country estate, but she is really there to be a plant for Nazi sympathizers. Half-Jewish Hannah, raised in her father's cabaret, is going to Starkers as well. She is a distant relative of Lord Liripip, and his third wife has grudgingly agreed to take Hannah in as things become more perilous abroad. But their same-day arrival leads to an identity mix-up when the lord's son, Teddy, assumes the more regal Anna is "upstairs," and vivacious Hannah, "downstairs." Just as Shakespeare did in his comedies, Sullivan is able to string out this confusion in a sprightly (albeit sometimes stereotypical) manner, even as serious undertones abound. She also throws a nod to P. G. Wodehouse in her depiction of the upper classes, whose ability to cope with change is always underwhelming. Hannah is a breath of fresh air both for her hosts and for readers, who will enjoy rooting for her. Grades 10-12. --Ilene Cooper

Review

"Intrigue, romance, and humor combine to produce a thoroughly delightful read."

—**VOYA**

"Hannah is a breath of fresh air both for her hosts and for readers, who will enjoy rooting for her."

—**Booklist**

"Sullivan's wry and evocative omniscient voice makes Hannah and Anna's escapades a pleasure to read."

—**Publisher's Weekly**

"Sullivan delights in leading readers through a jaunty muddle of romantic misfortunes."

—**Kirkus**

"A light and fun romance that should appeal to fans of *Downton Abbey*."

—**School Library Journal**

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Lawrence Woods:**

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#### **Susan Bondurant:**

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#### **Charles Krueger:**

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