



The Other Blue Sky

Shari J. Ryan

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A standalone spinoff from the #1 Bestselling Book, *Last Words*.

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As a child, I didn't know my life was different from that of others. I had nothing to compare it to, and I had no insight about the day I was born ... until the moment I overheard the truth.

In a split second, I became a stranger to my reflection, my name, and my reason for being. I was not Annie anymore, and the people raising me were not my parents. Even the blue sky I cherished became an unfamiliar sight.

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Fisher enlightened me, and through him, I gained a deeper understanding of life. Now, I know there are two sides of the beautiful, blue sky. I'm on one side, and my lost loved ones are on the other, but at the end of it all, we'll be together again under the one and only sky.

The Other Blue Sky Details

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From Reader Review The Other Blue Sky for online ebook

Cranky - The Book Curmudgeon says

5 Cranky Stars

This is definitely a 5 Star book. The author states that it can be read as a stand alone but I highly recommend that you read "The Last Word" to have a better understanding of these characters. In "The Last Word" we were introduced to Amelia and her two daughters, Annie and Clara. This is Annie's story and what a story it is.

Ever since she was young, Annie has felt lost and out of place. She overhears her parents discussing the fact that they have no legal birth papers for her, but she is too young to understand the ramifications. She knows that she was born in Europe but doesn't know the circumstances. If you have read "The Last Word", you know her history.

On her 13th birthday, she is given a diary and she begins her quest for the truth. When she is 14, she discovers that the lack of a legal birth certificate is something she must hide. All her life she has had to hide the fact that she is Jewish but at 16, she finds out why. A former Nazi soldier comes to her school to speak about the Holocaust. For the first time, she finds out that not all the soldiers agreed with what they were forced to do. When she admits to him that she is indeed Jewish, her best friend walks away in disgust. This is when her true quest begins to find out the truth of her birth.

Of course, she imagines all the bad things that could have happened to her. She is sure she was kidnapped, and her real family is out there somewhere. All her life, her mother has refused to discuss the Holocaust, so she cannot openly asked questions. Through secrecy and several years of investigation, she finally discovers the truth. At the age of twenty, she finds the love of her life in Prague and the lies and deceit continue. It is not until her mother almost dies at the age of 94 that Annie finally gains the courage to force her mother into telling the truth.

Be sure to have a big box of tissues handy when you read this book. These characters could be your neighbors and best friends and your heart will ache for all they have gone through.

Lin (From Chika With Love - Blog) Cohen says

When Shari first told me she's going to write a book about Annie, I was over the moon. Last Words is one of my all time favorites and I couldn't wait to have more of those special characters. Of course, she did an amazing job.

Annie's story had me so emotional, it literally took my breath away more than once.

All the things she's been through, all the struggles, all the insecurities about who she really is broke my heart. She's one of the strongest characters I've ever read about and I absolutely adore her.

Like in *Last Words* - this book left a mark in me. It makes you think, it makes you feel, it makes you look at your life differently. It's not just the Holocaust, which we all agree that it was unbelievably terrible, it's life itself after dealing with the greatest loss a person can deal with.

I think God gives struggles to the person he knows would be able to deal with them. We are all blessed even when it doesn't seem like it. That's what I'm taking with me from this book. ❤️

kgagnon says

This is Annie's powerful and moving story of a Holocaust survivor. We first met Annie in *Last Words*, learning how as a baby, she was rescued heroically from certain death, and eventually came to the United States to be raised in a safe and loving home. As a teen, she overheard a conversation that caused her to question and doubt all that she knew. She felt lost, and alone, not sure of her place in this world. As she set out, in a dangerous time, to find her truth, she will find a strength she didn't know existed. My heart broke at times for Annie, her Mom, Fisher, and her whole family. The lessons they learned were not easy, but peace and strength could be found in the simplest places. This poignant journey is so gripping, heartbreaking, but also hopeful and healing. It sinuously moved from past to present, weaving a tale that kept me engaged and my heart racing. The emotions it made me feel, from laughter to loss, horror to joy, and everything in between is the reason I love to read. This story touched my soul and reaffirmed that even the smallest of life's gifts deserves appreciation. I absolutely loved and swooned over Fisher, he is the perfect book boyfriend/husband! It was also so much fun catching up with Annie's family, including Charlie and Amelia, they were so adorable together. This is storytelling at its absolute finest and I loved every moment of this beautiful, raw and emotional journey!

Nicole says

Where to start?

I really enjoy Historical Fiction, but I have a deep love for a specific time period. I devour books written around and during World War I and World War II. For me, they embody all of the fear, struggle, loss, love and passion in a time of great change and upheaval. Shari J Ryan's *The Other Blue Sky* is all of those things and more.

Annie's whole world turns upside down when she overhears her mother and father talking about Annie's need for a birth certificate. What will they do? Will someone come looking for Annie? Confused and curious, Annie sets out on a lifelong journey to find out who she really is. Along the way, she discovers that the place and circumstances of her birth put her into a very small and unique group, that love is more than an emotion, it's a connection, that sometimes knowing something is more difficult than never having learned it and that despite her feelings of not belonging, she is more loved than she could ever have imagined.

This story is so well written, but what impresses me the most is the amount of research and attention to detail that went into this book. From a strictly historical perspective, this book is spot on. I'm going to tell you straight up that you are going to need tissues for this book. Man, I haven't ugly-cried like that over a book in a long time. Happy, hopeful tears; tears shed from a place of compassion; tears of grief. I cried them

all, and it was soooo worth it. If you haven't read Ryan's book Last Words, do it. It is a prequel of sorts that sheds light on Annie's journey from a different direction.

Kristen Lewendon says

This book is sneaky. I made it through the first half of the story and was starting to doubt my decision to have the tissues on standby. But I've learned from my history with Shari Ryan titles: I will need the tissues far more often than I won't. The story kind of crept up around me, surrounding me with what appeared on the surface to be a very simple tale of a daughter's search for her birth family. It wasn't until I was neck-deep in the drama that I realized I had been carried out to sea by the powerful emotional undertow. Annie is a woman who is coming to terms with the life-altering events that happened both before and since her birth. Fisher is just the sweetest, most precious man ever to be a husband. Personally, I want a Fisher of my own. I loved having this opportunity to come back to this family and see Annie learn about her heritage, even if I do feel hollow and emotionally drained and I'm asking "why do I keep doing this to myself?" I received a complimentary advanced copy of this book.

Reading with 2 book lovers says

This book about annie gave me so many feels. I devoured this story and reccomend it to everyone who loves stories about the holocaust then this is a story for you.

Emily Goodman says

The Other Blue Sky is one of the best books of 2018. Ryan did a phenomenal job of telling the story of young Annie, a missing baby from a concentration camp and her journey for answers. We originally met Annie as a child in Ryan's release Last Words, however please note while The Other Blue Sky has some of the same characters it's complete written as a standalone and can be read without having read Last Words.

While I more than enjoyed Last Words, Ryan brought a whole new layer to her storytelling with Annie. Last Words was all about love and survival. With Annie's story, Ryan took us further into the aftermath of the devastation post Holocaust. As missing child Annie struggled to right herself and live the life she deserved, setback after setback, she persevered despite the misfortune she had been given upon birth. Ryan's character development with Annie was so deeply complex that with every layer she unveiled, she tugged you into this emotional story further and further.

My review doesn't begin to give this book the justice or notification it deserves. The Other Blue Sky is an absolute must read and it's compelling message will stay with you long after reading.

Alissa says

This was such a unique story and I have found myself thinking about it even a week after finishing it. It was more like a women's fiction story for me which was a nice change of pace. What a history Annie had and unraveled over the years. A beautiful story that will capture your heart and make you think about long after you turn the last page!

Liz says

I have not yet read Last Words, however, it is now at the top of my list to read. Though The Other Blue Sky by Shari J. Ryan is in the same world, it can be read as a standalone, though I do think there is some interconnections I may have missed.

This is a story that was emotional and heart wrenching. It is also a story about survival, hope and truths. Annie is a Holocaust survivor trying to find her place in this world. It was her search for truths, as harsh as they can be, we follow throughout this book. And Fisher, I can admit I swooned over him. So sweet, caring and understanding.

The Other Blue Sky by Shari J. Ryan was a look at the harsh reality of how hard life can be, but it also showed the strength a person can have. It was raw, emotional and honest. I loved the characters and their journey, even as their story broke me at times.

4.5 emotional stars! Happy reading!

Michell Hall casper says

WOW!!!!

Shari Ryan did it again. This book was beautiful on the inside and out. The story is difficult to read. I always get emotional when topics about racism/hate come up. And the Holocaust was one of the worst times in our history. Why can't we all just get along?

Thank you Shari Ryan for opening up your heart and home and telling us this beautiful yet painful story and help educating us in a way. I know this is fictional. But I also know a lot of this was researched and was not fictional and my heart goes out to all those people who suffered through that time and still struggle.

I'm not going to recap the book. All I can say is once I started I couldn't put it down. It is definitely a **MUST** read. It is emotional but it did have some laugh out loud moments. And left you with **HOPE** and **HEALING** at the end.

Cynthia Villarreal Ortiz says

This book....this book is just Amazingly and Beautifully Written!!

Shari J Ryan has written two books that intertwined so perfectly and both have real stories to tell, but this one is just filled with so much heart-wrenching drama that it makes you think and believe that life is a series of events that are coincidentally fitted to make you what you are...and that is what I found in Annie's story, her life is never been a truth, so she decides to find her truth, in the way to find herself, she finds love, heartache, her truth, and she also loses a part of herself, because that is what life also does...it gives and it takes, her story is of love, triumph, adversity, of everything.

This Book Is A Definite Must Read!!

Tracey Vuolo says

This story shatters your views on what you think you know about life. It gives you a whole other perspective that everyone should see in my opinion. Shari, just like with *Last Words*, you have touched a piece of my heart and soul forever. My heart just broke for Annie and sometimes I couldn't breath whether from holding my breath or from feeling her pain, frustration or sadness. You collected my tears that's for sure. Human Beings are such resilient people that it amazes me every day the situations and events we can live through. Annie is absolutely incredible and I adore her so much.

Shari, thank you for writing this gut wrenching and fascinating story. Everyone needs to be reminded that when we look up at that blue sky we really aren't living the same life as each other.

Crystal Wilke says

In 8th grade when we started learning about the Holocaust, I was intrigued. Years later I found out my great grandmother had escaped from a camp and my great grandfather was an American soldier that saved her. He brought her back to the US and the rest is history. So when I read the blurb, I just had to read this book. This is the first book I have read by Shari and I was hooked. I devoured this book in one day.

The Other Blue Sky is written beautifully. You'll need a box of tissues. Secrets don't stay a secret forever. But a mother will do whatever it takes to protect their own. I loved every second of this book and recommended it.

Lily Garcia says

4.5 stars! Spoiler-free review!

I would highly recommend you read *Last Words* before reading this story or my review.

“I was born in hell and faced the unthinkable before I was old enough to comprehend much of anything.”

I've been rewriting my review for the past few days. Unable to find the right words to express how this book made me feel without giving away spoilers. I thought that after reading one of my all-time favorite books, *Last Words*, last year, the hurt and heartbreak would end for this family, but I was wrong.

In this spinoff, we get **Annie's** POV in past and present. Although it has romantic elements, it's not the main focus in this storyline- her journey to finding and healing herself after surviving the holocaust is.

“Hate brought me happiness. Being lost, made me found. Losing, helped me gain strength. Surviving, fulfilled my life's challenges. Through tremendous ups and downs, I can say I have experienced the beauty of life, and I am lucky enough to be part of a family that proves unity within love, rather than just blood.”

Annie and her family harbor so many secrets and pain. Some of us are trying to find the missing piece of our heart. Once it's been broken we feel like it could never be repaired. Sometimes we need to hurt in order to heal. But there's also little things that give us hope that we'll be okay and better things are to come. I won't give away much except I need to gush about her husband **Fisher**, whom I absolutely LOVED so much? definitely real husband goals!

I knew it would be an emotional read, but I wasn't expecting to ugly cry. My emotions were raw, my head and heart were hurting. I read it in a few hours but I had to stop a few times to compose myself.

Did I love it? Yes, but I needed a bit more of romance for my taste. It is definitely hard to read at times. Would I recommend it? Yes, but it's not for everyone. The only thing that kept me sane is that it is HEA! Thank you, **Shari**, for writing another unforgettable story! I definitely won't be forgetting it anytime soon.

Stacie Christensen says

Very few people can say they were born inside a concentration camp during the Holocaust. Disease, starvation, and much worse, prevented most prisoners from surviving. For infants, it was nearly impossible.

I became an anomaly. I shouldn't be alive.

As a child, I didn't know my life was different from that of others. I had nothing to compare it to, and I had no insight about the day I was born ... until the moment I overheard the truth.

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Wow! What a journey Shari takes you on with this book about Annie. It's flawlessly written and will take you on an emotional journey like no other. Highly recommend
