

A rusted shed in colonial Africa becomes the confessional for a German survivor's thirty-year love story — and the stage for a Jewish teenager's moral awakening — in this sweeping, unforgettable novel of war, exile, and the courage it takes to reunite what history tore apart.

A NOVEL OF LOVE, WAR & MEMORY

The Shed — *Shattered Fragments of a Past*

by **Sharon Feinstein**

“A corrugated-iron shed in Africa becomes the confessional for thirty years of war, exile, and a love story that refused to die.”

What happens when a Jewish teenager in colonial Rhodesia gives a key to *a stranger with a hidden past* — and he uses it to tell her everything?

Bulawayo, 1963. Sixteen-year-old Danielle Granger rides past the boys' school each morning and notices the caretaker: tall, blond, blue-eyed, with an accent she cannot quite place. She asks him to clean out the derelict garden shed so she can use it as a refuge for her poetry. He does it — more beautifully than she expected — and gives her a key. The shed becomes their world.

But “Robert Cecil” is not who he claims to be. He is Sebastian Klein, born in Berlin, a former German police officer who loved a Jewish woman called Rosa Hirsh and spent the war trying to save her family while wearing the uniform of the regime that hunted them. Danielle, whose own grandparents barely escaped the Nazis, draws his story out of him — fragment by shattering fragment.



The Shed moves between two worlds with masterful fluency: the heat and dust of apartheid-era Rhodesia, where Danielle's adolescent moral awakening is set against a colonial society she is only beginning to question; and the terror of Nazi Berlin — Kristallnacht, the deportations, the bombed-out hotel rooms where Sebastian dances with a wartime lover while Rosa crosses the Pyrenees alone.

Rosa Hirsh is one of contemporary fiction's most remarkable women: a photographer who risks arrest to document Nazi atrocities, a refugee who survives Marseille and the mountains only to emerge in Lisbon as a British spy, seducing an Abwehr officer before shooting him in the face. She and Sebastian search for each other across the ruins of Europe for twenty years — narrowly missing, always missing — until a teenager in Africa, improbably, impossibly, finds them both.



READERS OF THESE BOOKS WILL NOT PUT IT DOWN

— Austerlitz — W.G. Sebald

THE PREMISE

Two intertwined love stories — Berlin 1933–1945 and Bulawayo 1963–1965 — converging in a single act of courage by a seventeen-year-old girl in Paris.

SCALE & SCOPE

117

chapters across 30 years & 5 countries

GENRE

- Historical Literary Fiction
- Holocaust & Memory
- Coming-of-Age
- Wartime Romance
- Colonial Africa
- Espionage

IDEAL READERSHIP

Readers of serious literary historical fiction; book clubs with appetite for moral complexity; WWII narratives that go beyond the familiar; Jewish readers across generations; lovers of Southern African literature.

- *The Reader* — Bernhard Schlink
- *The English Patient* — Michael Ondaatje
- *The History of Love* — Nicole Krauss
- *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold* — Le Carré

“A shed becomes a confessional, and a confessional becomes a redemption. Feinstein writes Berlin’s horror and Africa’s beauty with equal, devastating clarity.”

ON THE NARRATIVE VOICE

“Rosa Hirsh — photographer, refugee, spy, survivor — is one of the most fully realised women in recent historical fiction. Fierce, fragile, and utterly unforgettable.”

ON THE FEMALE
PROTAGONIST

“The novel asks the hardest question: can love survive thirty years of silence and war? The answer, when it comes, is earned on every page.”

ON THE ENDING

A love story. A war story. A story about what it costs to bear witness — and what it gives back.

The Shed is the kind of novel that stays with a reader for years.

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