



# The Bronze Horseman (The Bronze Horseman Trilogy Book 1)

By Paullina Simons

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**The Bronze Horseman (The Bronze Horseman Trilogy Book 1) By Paullina Simons**

The golden skies, the translucent twilight, the white nights, all hold the promise of youth, of love, of eternal renewal. The war has not yet touched this city of fallen grandeur, or the lives of two sisters, Tatiana and Dasha Metanova, who share a single room in a cramped apartment with their brother and parents. Their world is turned upside down when Hitler's armies attack Russia and begin their unstoppable blitz to Leningrad.

Yet there is light in the darkness. Tatiana meets Alexander, a brave young officer in the Red Army. Strong and self-confident, yet guarding a mysterious and troubled past, he is drawn to Tatiana—and she to him. Starvation, desperation, and fear soon grip their city during the terrible winter of the merciless German siege. Tatiana and Alexander's impossible love threatens to tear the Metanova family apart and expose the dangerous secret Alexander so carefully protects—a secret as devastating as the war itself—as the lovers are swept up in the brutal tides that will change the world and their lives forever.

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## **The Bronze Horseman (The Bronze Horseman Trilogy Book 1) By Paullina Simons Bibliography**

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## **Editorial Review**

### **From Publishers Weekly**

Set in her native St. Petersburg, Russia, Simons's latest thick novel (after *Tully*, etc.) focuses on a WWII love affair. As the story opens, Tatiana, the youngest member of the Metanova family, is just 17; she still shares a bed with her older sister, Dasha. Not long after the country goes to war with Germany, Tatiana meets Alexander, a soldier, and sparks fly. It turns out, however, that Alexander is the same soldier Dasha has been crowing about. Possessed of a strong sense of family loyalty, and living under conditions that permit no privacy, Tatiana refuses to interfere with her sister's happiness, but the attraction between Tatiana and Alexander proves too powerful. Complicating matters, another soldier, Dimitri, has information that could destroy Alexander, and Dimitri likes Tatiana, too. In order to protect both Dasha's feelings and Alexander's life, the star-crossed lovers become part of a deceptive quadrangle as war intensifies around them. Taking her title from a tragic poem by Alexandre Pushkin, Simons skillfully highlights the ironies of the socialist utopia. Despite the novel's sprawling length and its seemingly epic scope, the nearly single-minded focus on dialogue between Tatiana and Alexander leaves other character development shortchanged and the reader with the impression of a peculiarly tiny canvas. Nave and occupying the Cinderella role in her family, Tatiana is certainly a survivor though one who finally outstays her welcome. While her love story is often both tender and fierce, it is also overwrought and prolonged past the breaking point. (June) Forecast: An advertising blitz, five-city author tour and glamorous jacket may distract readers from the novel's shortcomings and ensure short-term success (foreign rights have been sold in 10 countries), but this is not the *Russian Thorn Birds* the publisher hopes it will be.

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### **From Library Journal**

In 1941 Leningrad, two sisters share everything including a passion for Red Army officer Alexander.

Simons, the author of *Tully* and other titles, was born and raised in St. Petersburg.

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### **From Booklist**

The Soviet Union suffered immensely at the hands of Germany during World War II, and no Russian city suffered more than Leningrad. The Germans laid siege to Leningrad in 1941, and the resulting horror and chaos gave rise to many dramatic tales of deprivation and heroism. Simons tells one of them here. Tatiana Metanov's life is typical of the way most people lived in Leningrad in the late 1930s and early 1940s: her family is crammed into a small living space, and their days consist of endlessly waiting in various lines for supplies. On the day Germany invades the Soviet Union, Tatiana meets Alexander Belov, a lieutenant in the Red Army. The story of their love takes the reader through the whole, awful span of Leningrad under siege. Unfortunately, the novel is overlong, and, at times, Simons shifts awkwardly between her fictional story and real events. But readers who persevere--those who love long novels for the sense it gives them of "living" with a book--will come to care about these characters and their plight and will take away a definite sense of what the siege of Leningrad actually meant on a personal level. Simons is the author of the best-selling *Tully* (1994), and heavy publisher promotion will draw attention to her new novel. *Brad Hooper*

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#### **Randi Adams:**

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