Occupied Summary Connor

Main characters:

Jens 38 yrs old, part of the Palace National Guard, a premier section of the Danish Police. He is 6’7” tall, making him easy to spot. He’s from Ribe, Denmark, a small, ancient town in the southern portion of an area called Jutland just two hours from the German border. He lives and works in København.

His wife, Vibeka twenty-nine, is a valued seamstress who had worked for many of the wealthy and upper class women in København. She joined the underground, locally run by a mysterious man known as V.

In 1943 they have been married only a few months but have been together for two years. Vebika has been sexually assaulted by two young Nazi soldiers, is bitter, angry and determined.

Jens has recently joined the underground in hopes of being with Vibeka on any assignments, confident that he can keep her safe. He remains as a police officer, carrying information secretly in a remarkable memory.

Part one:

København, Denmark, April 1943

Germany has occupied Denmark since April 9, 1939.

The small country of islands is part of the Scandinavian area comprised of Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark. København is on a large island ten Kilometers from Sweden. Many Jews were removed to safety in Sweden in 1943, and before. The Danish people were known to withhold Jews’ identities and began to get them to safety in Sweden. The Nazi’s also began to round up highly trained Danish Palace Guard first and then police, who had been allowed to keep their positions when the country was considered a Protectorate.

By mid-1943 the Danish people protested German occupation with strikes and the Danish underground begins to sabotage many German warehouses and military equipment, causing the Nazi government to declare Martial Law in August of ’43.

Part 2—summary

Jens and Vibeka flee København, running and hiding on the back roads to his uncle’s farm. Uncle Ollie keeps them in the barn with the cows and feeds them what he can share. He has a boat a few kilometers away and offers them a chance to take the boat across 16 kilometers to Sweden. Small town of Helsingφr is their goal. The ocean crossing is threatened by Nazi gun boats. Once there they lie exhausted on the beach. They have rowed the equivalent of ten miles in open water. When they get to town they search for a safe person to approach and walk for half a day before trusting a Swedish policewoman, looking for a place to stay. She assumes they are Danes on the run and indicates a colorful house, owned by a Christian minister and his wife. She tells them they can possibly get some food there.

The couple put them in a downstairs dirt floor space with a small group of people. The darkest time of their lives, so far.

Part 3---Hiding in the basement of the minister’s home, Jens and Vibeka are part of a group of 18, some couples, two teenagers, 2 children. They are given water and a thin soup and are allowed to stay 3 or 4 days. A Swedish army man comes and takes Jens and 3 other men to help the Swedes pull off an operation to stop an ore train from Norway to Germany, run by the Germans. The ore will be used to make ammunition and Panzer tanks for the Nazis. Jens is a good shot and stays with the army until they are quartered on a barracks, which is ransacked by a German squad.

Part 4—2/28/24

Begins with Vibeka and 2 Swedish women leave the basement hiding place together and offer her a safe place to stay, an apartment where they are caring for an old aunt. She is safe for awhile.

in the Swedes’ apartment where she cares for the aunt and hopes she can get her ID card, because her own is either with Jens or missing. Jens, part of Lt. Ericksen’s group hunt German soldiers who’ve ransacked the barracks. Knowing he’s not safe there, he and 3 other Danes leave and make a run for it through thick forest, trying to return to Helsingor to search for their wives or for a way into anonymity in Sweden.

Onward to Part 5 3/13