

***Artifice* by Sharon Cameron**

This YA novel will be of interest to anyone who enjoys fast-paced historical fiction about the Resistance during WWII. Set in Amsterdam, it is the story of the young daughter of an artist who has grown up in a gallery. Now such “degenerate” art is confiscated and artists are in hiding or deported. Isa’s best friend Truus has joined the Dutch resistance and Isa feels alone.

Desperate to pay the taxes on her empty gallery, Isa decides to make the Nazis pay, by selling them a fake – a Rembrandt copy drawn by her beloved father. On the way to the auction, Isa discovers that Truus is part of a ring smuggling Jewish babies out of the city. Although her sale of the forgery is successful, it leads a young Nazi to seek her out, suspicious of the art. But in a totally surprise move, he asks for her help in defecting from the Nazis. Isa isn’t sure if she can trust him, but feels there is little choice.

Meanwhile, Truus needs more money to save more children, a lot of it. Isa thinks she knows how to get it. One more forgery, the sale of a beautiful copy of a Vermeer, and Hitler will pay to liberate some of his smallest victims. That is Isa’s plan, but life gets far more complicated – AND very, very dangerous. A fast-paced read that left my head spinning, but still very satisfying. Appeal to any fans of WW II drama, whether YA or adult.