



# Revolution

By Jennifer Donnelly

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## Revolution By Jennifer Donnelly

Readers of *If I Stay* and Elizabeth George will love *Revolution* by Jennifer Donnelly, author of the award-winning novel *A Northern Light*. *Revolution* artfully weaves two girls' stories into one unforgettable account of life, loss, and enduring love. *Revolution* spans centuries and vividly depicts the eternal struggles of the human heart.

Andi Alpers is on the edge. She's angry at her father for leaving, angry at her mother for not being able to cope, and heartbroken by the loss of her younger brother, Truman. Rage and grief are destroying her. And her father has determined that accompanying him to Paris for winter break is the solution for everything.

But Paris is a city of ghosts for Andi. And when she finds a centuries-old diary, the ghosts begin to walk off the page. Alexandrine, the owner of the journal, lived during the French Revolution. She's angry too. It's the same fire that consumes Andi, and Andi finds comfort in it—until, on a midnight journey through the catacombs, words transcend paper and time, and the past becomes terrifyingly present.

### Praise for *Revolution*:

An ABA Indies Choice Young Adult Book of the Year  
An ALA-YALSA Top Ten Best Book for Young Adults  
A *Kirkus Reviews* Best Book  
A #1 *Indiebound* Selection  
A *School Library Journal* Best Book of the Year  
A *Bulletin* Blue Ribbon Book  
A Chicago Public Library Best of the Best Book  
An Amazon.com Best Book of the Year

★ “A sumptuous feast of a novel, rich in mood, character, and emotion.”—*SLJ*, Starred Review

★ “Every detail is meticulously inscribed into a multi-layered narrative that is as wise, honest, and moving as it is cunningly worked. Readers . . . will find this brilliantly crafted work utterly absorbing.”—*The Bulletin*, Starred Review

★ “Brilliantly realized, complete, and complex. The novel is rich with detail,

**and both** the Brooklyn and Paris settings provide important grounding for the **haunting and beautifully told story.**”—*Kirkus Reviews*, Starred Review

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## Revolution By Jennifer Donnelly Bibliography

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- Number of items: 1

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- Binding: Paperback
- 512 pages

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## Editorial Review

### Amazon.com Review

**Amazon Best Books of the Month, October 2010:** *Revolution*, Jennifer Donnelly's remarkable new novel, weaves together the lives of Andi Alpers, a depressed modern-day teenager, and Alexandrine Paradis, a brave young woman caught up in the French Revolution. While in Paris with her estranged father, a Nobel geneticist hired to match the DNA of a heart said to belong to the last dauphin of France, Andi discovers a diary hidden within a guitar case--and so begins the story of Alexandrine, who herself had close ties to the dauphin. Redemption and the will to change are powerful themes of the novel, and music is ever present--Andi and Alex have a passion for the guitar, and the playlist running through *Revolution* is a who's who of classic and contemporary influences. Danger, intrigue, music, and impeccably researched history fill the pages of *Revolution*, as both young women learn that, "it is love, not death, that undoes us."--*Seira Wilson*

### From Publishers Weekly

Donnelly (A Northern Light) melds contemporary teen drama with well-researched historical fiction and a dollop of time travel for a hefty read that mostly succeeds. Andi Alpers is popping antidepressants and flunking out of her Brooklyn prep school, grieving over her younger brother's death. She finds solace only when playing guitar. When the school notifies her mostly absent scientist father that she's flirting with expulsion, he takes Andi to Paris for Christmas break, where he's testing DNA to see if a preserved heart really belonged to the doomed son of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette. Andi is ordered to work on her senior thesis about a (fictional) French composer. Bunking at the home of a renowned historian, Andi finds a diary that relates the last days of Alexandrine, companion to (you guessed it) the doomed prince. The story then alternates between Andi's suicidal urges and Alexandrine's efforts to save the prince. Donnelly's story goes on too long, but packs in worthy stuff. Musicians, especially, will appreciate the thread about the debt rock owes to the classics. Ages 14–up.

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### From School Library Journal

Starred Review. Gr 9 Up—Andi Alpers's younger brother died two years ago and his death has torn her family apart. She's on antidepressants and is about to flunk out of her prep school. Her mother spends all day painting portraits of her lost son and her father has all but disappeared, focusing on his Nobel Prize-winning genetics work. He reappears suddenly at the beginning of winter break to institutionalize his wife and whisk Andi off to Paris with him. There he will be conducting genetic tests on a heart rumored to belong to the last dauphin of France. He hopes that Andi will be able to put in some serious work on her senior thesis regarding mysterious 18th-century guitarist Amadé Malherbeau. In Paris, Andi finds a lost diary of Alexandrine Paradis, companion to the dauphin, and meets Virgil, a hot Tunisian-French world-beat hip-hop artist. Donnelly's story of Andi's present life with her intriguing research and growing connection to Virgil overshadowed by depression is layered with Alexandrine's quest, first to advance herself and later to somehow save the prince from the terrors of the French Revolution. While teens may search in vain for the music of the apparently fictional Malherbeau, many will have their interest piqued by the connections Donnelly makes between classical musicians and modern artists from Led Zeppelin to Radiohead. *Revolution* is a sumptuous feast of a novel, rich in mood, character, and emotion. With multiple hooks, it should appeal to a wide range of readers. *Eric Norton, McMillan Memorial Library, Wisconsin Rapids, WI*  
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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Alan Johnson:**

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#### **Lynn Jones:**

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#### **Carroll Boggess:**

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