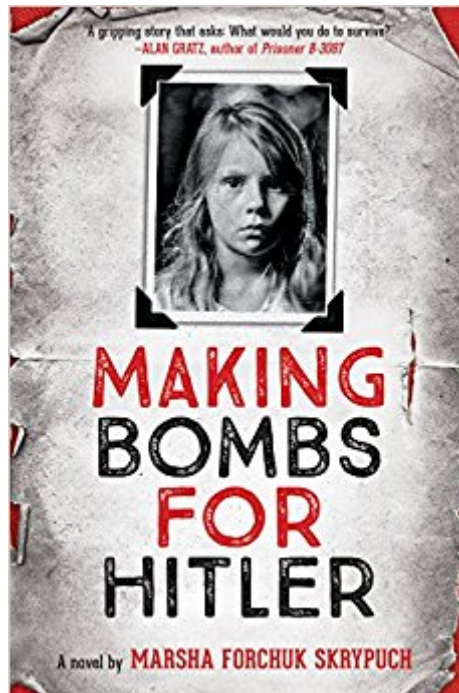




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Making Bombs For Hitler



Synopsis

Lida thought she was safe. Her neighbors wearing the yellow star were all taken away, but Lida is not Jewish. She will be fine, won't she? But she cannot escape the horrors of World War II. Lida's parents are ripped away from her and she is separated from her beloved sister, Larissa. The Nazis take Lida to a brutal work camp, where she and other Ukrainian children are forced into backbreaking labor. Starving and terrified, Lida bonds with her fellow prisoners, but none of them know if they'll live to see tomorrow. When Lida and her friends are assigned to make bombs for the German army, Lida cannot stand the thought of helping the enemy. Then she has an idea. What if she sabotaged the bombs... and the Nazis? Can she do so without getting caught? And if she's freed, will she ever find her sister again? This pulse-pounding novel of survival, courage, and hope shows us a lesser-known piece of history -- and is sure to keep readers captivated until the last page.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 760 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 240 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Press (February 28, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0545931916

ISBN-13: 978-0545931915

Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 1.1 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 54 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #25,999 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #10 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Holocaust #19 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Europe #39 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Military & Wars

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Gr 6â8â This stark novel follows *Stolen Child* with another story depicting the horrors faced by children in Nazi work camps. Lida is determined to watch out for her little sister, Larissa, but she's rendered unconscious soon after being captured by Nazi soldiers. She awakens to find herself in a

dark, filthy railroad car jammed with other Ukrainian children. Lida is one of the "lucky ones" because soldiers have decided she can be of value to them. She is devastated that she has been separated from her younger sister and can only fear the worst. Even though the other children in the railroad car are strangers to one another, they all quickly bond. Once they reach the end of their journey, Lida and her new friends are herded into a labor camp, divided up, and given various tasks. The children come to realize they will be worked until they are too weak to function, then killed. Lida works in a factory making bombs that will be used to kill soldiers who are fighting to end the Nazi reign. With tremendous courage, Lida and her friends begin a sabotage plan, despite the threat of death if they are discovered. Students will admire Lida's pluck amid such heinous conditions. Scenes of the labor camp convey the horrors without graphic description. VERDICT An absorbing read about the lesser-known Ukrainian experience during World War II, this is a solid choice for curricular ties and for middle school historical fiction collections.â "Julie Shatterly, W. A. Bess Elementary School, Gastonia, NC

Praise for Making Bombs for Hitler:"A gripping story that asks: What would you do to survive?" -- Alan Gratz, author of Prisoner B-3087"Inspired by real, historical accounts, this is a powerful, harrowing story of transformation." -- Booklist"Skrypuch draws on real-life stories of survivors in telling Lida's poignant tale, and she creates a cast of young people who are devoted to one another in both thought and deed.... A well-told story of persistence, lost innocence, survival, and hope." -- Kirkus Reviews"The story [has a] strong undercurrent of friendship and loyalty; an author's note gives further background on this important piece of history." -- Publishers Weekly"Students will admire Lida's pluck amid such heinous conditions.... An absorbing read about the lesser-known Ukrainian experience during World War II, this is a solid choice for curricular ties and for middle school historical fiction collections." -- School Library Journal"Skrypuch has written a gripping, emotional novel of one Ukrainian girl's perseverance during the horrors of war.... This is a vivid picture of what youth experienced during World War II and the hopelessness of displaced populations of all backgrounds and religions." -- VOYA

When my 9 year old asked for this book, I really thought I heard it wrong... Hitler... bombs... what???? But after looking into this more I knew I had to get it for her... we patiently waited after pre-ordering it until it was released... and after we got it she read it all in a day and a half. We had a lot of good conversations with her about the holocaust and how it affected kids in particular. I am so glad books like these are being released at the appropriate level of a young reader.

A coworker's students have been reading this book. On a whim, I purchased it. I have been interested in WWII stories since I was a kid. This book told a riveting story that was so sad, but kept me wanting more. As a teacher, students in 5th and up would learn a great deal from this novel.

This is extremely well done historical fiction for upper elementary and middle school aged students. The author handles this sensitive material with a deftness that's left me in awe and while the characters are all fictional, the circumstances are lifted straight from Nazi work camp survivors' descriptions. If you like to use books to drive deep discussions into philosophical topics with children, this is an exceptional tool.

Ukrainian Canadian author Marsha Skrypuch writes "as one interview said" "War Fiction: Writing the stories that haven't been told." She writes about genocide and displaced persons with an eye toward well-researched historical detail often given a personal touch through interviews with survivors who lived through the very stories her fiction brings to readers who often begin each book with little or no knowledge about the stories that have been covered up, overlooked, or allowed to fall through the cracks of our baseline knowledge about man's inhumanity to man because fictional and historical accounts often focus on politics and battles rather than on those who suffered. In "Making Bombs for Hitler," Skrypuch "author of twenty books for young people" focuses on the Nazi practice of rounding up Polish, Ukrainian and other children and using them as slave labor in work camps on behalf of the Reich. Those who were too young or too infirm to be productive were eliminated. Some were drained of blood that was sent to the front for use by wounded German soldiers. Others, like the novel's protagonist, Lida, were forced into camp jobs, rented out to local farmers and others, or pressed into factory work. While Lida is a strong character, she is a child as are the others in her cold barracks room. So, young readers will be able to identify with her fears and concerns, including her worry about the fate of her younger sister who was taken somewhere else. Those sent to the bomb making factory are caught between their will to survive and the morality of making weapons for the Nazi war machine. It's difficult to read this without wondering "As a twelve-year-old child, what would I do under similar circumstances?" One strength of the book is the way in which Skrypuch portrays the bonding on the characters under deplorable conditions. They come together out of an inner strength much stronger than a simple will to survive, but out of a heartfelt and very human need to help each other. This is a heroic story that will stay with its readers long after the last page

has been turned. I have read most, if not all of Skrypuch's novels because all of them are strong, well written and dear.

I am a nine year old girl who is very interested in history. I love this book, it is my new favorite book. A lot of people like this book and it sold out quickly at our school book fair. There was a second shipment which also sold out on the first day. I have this on my iPad but will purchase a hard copy also so that I can read it at school.

Our 5th grade ten year old grand daughter said her friends had read the book and it was always unavailable at the library. So we bought it for her and she read it within a few days. She really enjoyed the story and is now sharing her book with other friends.

I got this book for my 9 year old he loved it

Very well written book. I found it at an elementary book fair. It does NOT belong there. It is a realistic fiction and the content of that time period would be hard for younger children to deal with.

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