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The Watcher



Synopsis

After Wendy is kidnapped, the only way she can survive World War II Germany is with the help of a special dog and the family she never knew she had in this historically accurate, standalone companion to *Shadows on the Sea* that Kirkus Reviews calls “a stimulating blend of suspense and history.”

1942. Berlin, Germany. How did Wendy end up in such a place? Just a few months ago, she was enjoying her time in Maine, supporting the American war effort. But she was kidnapped, then betrayed by her own mother, who is actually a Nazi spy. As a new Berliner and now a German Wendy is expected to speak in a language she’s never known and support a cause she doesn’t believe in. There are allies, though, among the Germans. Allies who have been watching over Wendy since she arrived. And Wendy, along with her new German shepherd puppy, must confront them. If only she can find them. Her life depends on it.

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Customer Reviews

One of the best books I have read for a long time. Love this author. She is always bringing history and truth into her writings. What beautiful reading for adults as well as young adult readers. Her primary characters, are faced with life challenges, and Ms. Harlow weaves in an honest and realistic solution, which allows the character, in this case, Wendy, to grow as a young woman, displaced, in a chaotic, and dangerous environment, to find her place, and to reach a solution for herself and others. Ms. Harlow's books always are intriguing, and for a young adult reader and those of maturity, keep us looking forward to every page! The history, clearly, is well researched. The inspiration for young readers, is amazing. Many face challenges in this day and age, having to make choices that initially may not be clear, but later, need to be made. Wendy faces these challenges realistically and makes mature decisions that were not easy during the era (1942) yet, she faces this with determination, courage, and faith, and not afraid to be herself in a time where being oneself was not easy....a real role model for other young adult readers. The history about the Bible Students is also interesting and factual, and not often heard of in history. I appreciated the author bringing that into her book as I have visited the Holocaust Museum and was impressed by the faith of other people who were persecuted in Germany for their beliefs that were German, Aryan(blond hair, blue eyed), and were willing to stand up for their faith against Hitler's regime. This is woven into the book with accuracy and with respect for those who were firm and stood steadfast in their beliefs. I highly recommend this book for both adults and young adult readers alike. And also, recommend the prior book leading up to this, Shadows on the Sea.....all of Ms. Harlow's books are inspirational, uplifting and hopeful to young readers, as well as adults, a breath of fresh air, and a rare thing these days.

I got this book for my 13 year old daughter but read it myself first and loved it. I can't wait for her to read it (she'll love it) so we can discuss it and the lessons the book teaches. Ms. Harlow manages to teach so much about World War II Germany in her tale of Wendy, a 14 year old American girl who finds herself suddenly caught up in the whole thing. As Wendy tries to understand what is going on around her and why, juvenile readers will be getting a thorough history lesson while also being thoroughly entertained. Additional historical information in the back of the book is excellent too. She really did her research; that's the sign of a very good writer.

Bought this for my very lackluster reader. She has actually gotten up early just to read! Red Letter day for her. Very pleased with my purchase. Would recommend to anyone who enjoys historical fiction or biographies.

I really love learning about back in war time. This book is great and also teaches about giving up things you love, like Wendy gave her dog up for Barret (Contrad) the blind boy! I LOVE IT!!!!

This is a great book for 4th - 6th graders giving great information in the historical fiction format about WWII. I highly recommend it.

Wonderful book for middle school children and a fast read for adults! Would recommend with lots of historic accuracy.

I'm so glad I read "Shadows on the Sea" first as it was the perfect lead into the character Wendy, in "The Watcher." This was a well-written, brilliant book! This story unfolds at a fairly fast pace and stays that way. Although there appeared to be many new characters, other than Wendy and Adrie, from Shadows on the Sea, each one played a very important role in the thrilling fulfillment of this story. Who can forget dear, sweet, little boy Hunfrid and his assimilation into the German ideology of Hitler's 1000 year reign. And, Frieda...is she protecting Wendy or spying on her to turn her over to the Gestapo. And Johanna who bravely stands up against the war for her deep faith and belief in her God. Opa, whose risks his life to keep a promise to Wendy's father, even though it would mean certain death if their friendship is revealed.. Who can Wendy trust when she finds herself in Germany. Will Barret be a true friend? Last of all, who is the Watcher? I just loved reading this story. Wendy, who is told she is pure German, is in grave danger when it is discovered who her father really is. It is hard not to continue to tell everyone what happens in this story because it is that exciting! The ending was a complete surprise and I do not want to give it away, but I would love to give a Spoiler Alert as the book is that engaging... it makes you want to tell all! Wendy is never sure of her mother's love because of her mother's devotion to the Third Reich. Again, I would love to tell all! So do yourself a favor and enjoy this exciting book! It is that powerfully written!

A great adventure story for kids and 70 year old grandparents too!!

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