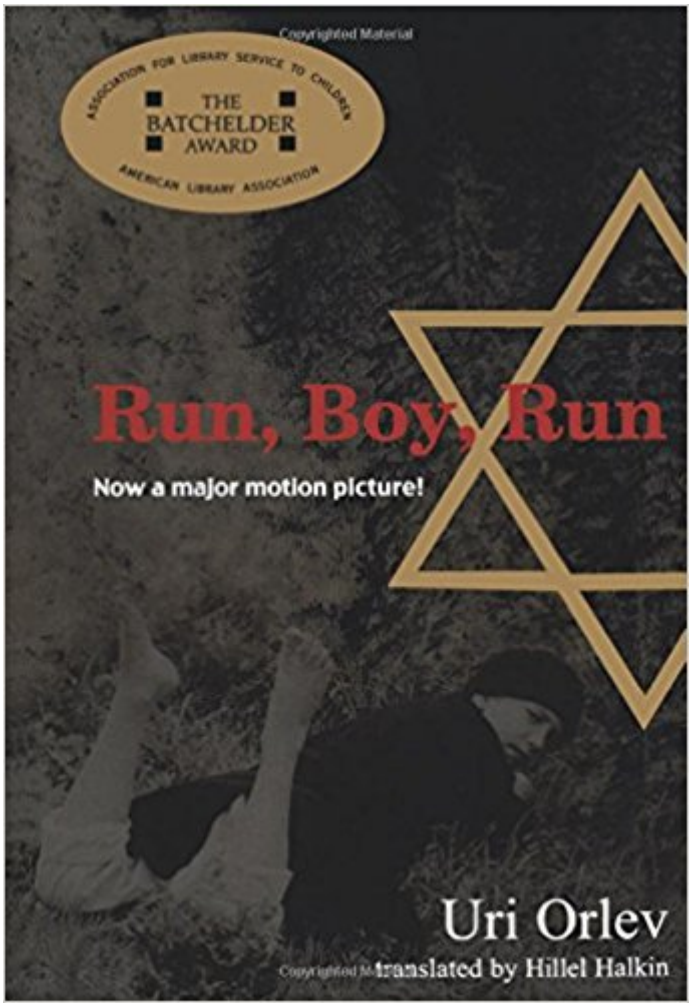
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Run, Boy, Run



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Synopsis

“’Srulik, there’s no time. I want you to remember what I’m going to tell you. You have to stay alive. You have to! Get someone to teach you how to act like a Christian, how to cross yourself and pray. . . . The most important thing, Srulik,’ he said, talking fast, ’is to forget your name. Wipe it from your memory. . . . But even if you forget everything—even if you forget me and Mama—never forget that you’re a Jew.’"And so, at only eight years old, Srulik Frydman says goodbye to his father for the last time and becomes Jurek Staniak, an orphan on the run in the Polish countryside at the height of the Holocaust. With the danger of capture by German soldiers ever-present, Jurek must fight against starvation, the punishing Polish winters, and widespread anti-Semitism as he desperately searches for refuge. Told with the unflinching honesty and unique perspective of such a young child, Run, Boy, Run is the extraordinary account of one boy’s struggle to stay alive in the face of almost insurmountable odds—a story all the more incredible because it is true.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review Reviewed with Jerry Spinelli’s Milkweed.Holocaust survivor stories for teens run the risk of being either too brutal or too sentimental. These two novels avoid sensationalizing the violence because, in each case, the protagonist is a child too young to understand what’s going on, which distances the horror. In both books the child is saved, but there’s no radiant uplift about rescuers. Yes, some heroes do hide the children and help them, but as John Auerbach shows in his

adult autobiographical story collection, The Owl and Other Stories [BKL S 15 03], which centers on escaping the Warsaw ghetto, luck and wild coincidence were a large part of what enabled a few to live. Part survival adventure, part Holocaust history, these novels tell their story through the eyes of a Polish orphan on the run from the Nazis. Orlev is a Holocaust survivor, and his award-winning novels about being a child in the Warsaw ghetto, including The Man from the Other Side (1991), are widely read. This new story is not based on his own experience, but it does come from real life--the experience of an illiterate ghetto survivor who escaped into the Polish countryside, stealing, foraging, begging, working. The boy is nurtured by some and hated by many. He hides his circumcision and invents a Catholic identity; he forgets his real name, his family, and the street where he lived. In one unforgettable incident, he loses his right arm because a Polish doctor refuses to operate on a Jew. He survives, immigrating to Israel, where Orlev hears him tell his story. The narrative is simple and spare, factual about everything from hunting with a slingshot to making a fire with a piece of glass, and it’s always true to the viewpoint of a boy who thinks he is "about nine."In contrast, Spinelli’s narrative is manic, fast, and scattered, authentically capturing the perspective of a young child who doesn’t know if he’s a Jew or a Gypsy; he has never known family or community. He lives by stealing; his name may be Stopthief. Unlike Orlev’s protagonist, this boy lives in the ghetto, where the daily atrocities he witnesses-- hanging bodies, massacres, shootings, roundups, transports--are the only reality he knows. His matter-of-fact account distances the brutality without sensationalizing or lessening the truth. He first finds shelter with a gang of street kids, where one fierce older boy protects him, invents an identity for him, and teaches him survival skills. Later he lives with a Jewish family. The history is true, so although Spinelli’s narrator is young, the brutal realism in the story makes this a book for older children. Both novels end with what seems to be a contrived escape, though in Orlev’s story, the ending is true. Add these stirring titles to the Holocaust curriculum; the youth of the protagonists allows them to ask questions and get answers that will help readers learn the history. Hazel RochmanCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"The novel has obvious relevance fro studies of the Holocaust." KLIATT 11/01/07 KLIATT

It gave me an opportunity to remind me, when I was through an ordeal to survive the years of German occupation when I was only 9 years old, and lost somewhere in the rural aeria., hungry and cold, with determination to keep going, for about two years. In 1943 i find my way back home as of a miracle.

This book is amazing! If you enjoy reading about the horrors of what happened during WW2 in Germany you will really enjoy this true story. Maybe enjoy is not the correct word because this was a very bad time in history. Imagine being 8 years old and trying to survive on your own in a war torn country where everyone wants you captured or killed just because you were born Jewish. This poor 8 years old boy named Jurike did just that. He quickly learns how to find food and avoid the Germans he even changes his name just to try and blend in.. Its heart breaking to know that this stuff really happened. I watched the movie version on Netflix after reading the book and thought both were amazing.

Surviving the Holocaust was a miracle for such a young boy.His story of survival will enlighten you to the horrors of the time.They will further show the goodness and kindness of many people who opened their homes to the child.HaShem works in mysterious ways to protect his children.A must read!

The true story of a little little Polish boy on the run from the Germans and their collaborators during World War II. He’s Jewish, of course. The story is powerful enough for one to ot be able to put the book down in any case, but it’s also written rather well and seems to spare no effort and letting you into the experience of this kid. He really had courage and grit and stamina. I’d have given up by day three.Wonderful for children to read as well because it’s not just compelling but inspiring.I only discovered later that there’s a Polish movie on this story.

I found this book a bit "easy" for me, but I think it would be perfect for a tween who is looking to explore the Holocaust. I was quite pleased to discover it was based on a real child - like "A Diary of Anne Frank," I think this adds to its charm. I would definitely recommend it to parents looking for age-appropriate books.

A very moving true story of a young Jewish boy escaping capture by the Germans. His experiences both in the forest and in working for several Polish farmers are amazing. I purchased a copy for my ten year old grandson. Children today in America have such an easy life and need to understand that all can fall apart. Children need to understand about other children who do go hungry and are force to eat things that are gross.I highly recommend the book.

Run Boy Run is a compelling book based on true events, which is empowering as well as inspiring to young and old alike. Based on a true story of an eight year old Jewish boy in Poland during World War 2. A compelling account of a young boy's survival during the Holocaust. This is a must read!

A great true story which can be enjoyed by both young adults and their parents. A very moving true story, which reads well about a young boy and his struggle to survive, alone, as a Jew in Poland during the holocaust.

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