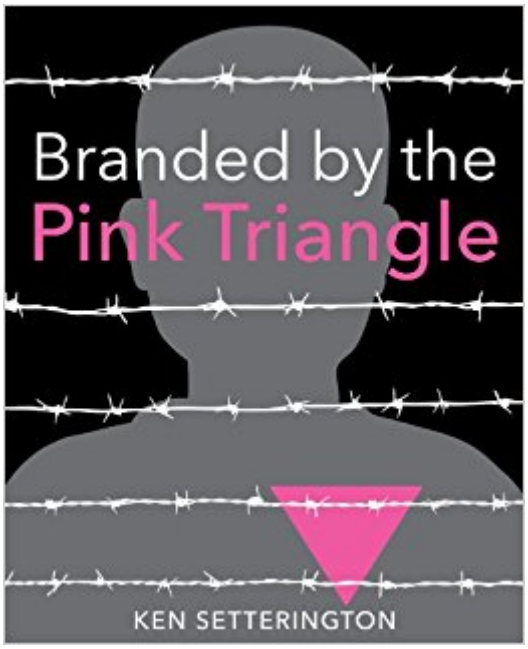
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Branded By The Pink Triangle



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Synopsis

Before the rise of the Nazi party, Germany, especially Berlin, was one of the most tolerant places for homosexuals in the world. Activists such as Thomas Mann and Albert Einstein campaigned openly for the rights of gay men and women and tried to repeal the law against homosexuality. But that all changed when the Nazis came to power; existence for gay people became fear-filled. Raids, arrests, prison sentences and expulsions became the daily reality. When the concentration camps were built, homosexuals were imprisoned along with Jews and any other groups the Nazis wanted to suppress. The pink triangle sewn onto prison uniforms became the symbol of the persecution of homosexuals, a persecution that would continue for many years after the war. A mix of historical research, first-person accounts and individual stories brings this time to life for young readers. Stories of bravery in the face of inhuman cruelty, friendship found in the depths of despair in the camps and the perseverance of the human spirit will educate and inspire.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up-Stories from the Holocaust are universally heartbreaking and horrifying, and this one is no different. The pink triangle was used by the Nazis to identify homosexual prisoners in the concentration camps, and here Setterington shows how it has been adopted by the gay movement as a symbol of strength and pride. He describes how German society’s relatively tolerant attitudes of the 1920s grew less so as Hitler and the Nazis came into power and began a quest to purify the "Aryan race." By weaving the individual experiences into a broader account of the treatment and persecution of homosexuals by the Nazi regime, the author provides a compelling and evocative

narrative. Culling first-person accounts from concentration camp survivors, he is able to paint a picture of the fear and harassment (and for some, ultimately death) that these individuals and their families endured. The writing is succinct but detailed enough to satisfy researchers. Period photographs, a lengthy time line, and an extensive bibliography round out the strengths of this thoughtful, informative work.-Jody Kopple, Shady Hill School, Cambridge, MAÃ Â (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Though homosexuality had been illegal in Germany since 1871, Berlin was widely regarded as the gay capital of Europe in the early twentieth century, when attitudes toward homosexuals were generally relaxed. All that changed with the rise of Nazism in the 1930s. Persecution of gays became the order of the day, and, with the creation of concentration camps, many were remanded to this living death, forced to wear pink triangles on their clothing to identify them as being homosexual. No one knows how many gays died in the camps, but the mortality rate is estimated to have been as high as 60 percent. Setterington, a librarian, has written an informative, well-researched, and well-documented history of the brutal treatment of homosexuals at the hands of the Nazis, humanizing his account with stories of survivors who have written about their experiences. He also includes an overview of the distressing condition of being gay in postwar Germany and, finally, brings the story up to date with a hopeful chapter titled, Ã¢â ¬Å“It Gets Better.Ã¢â ¬Â• SetteringtonÃ¢â ¬â„¢s is a significant contribution to LGBT history and one that deserves a wide readership. Grades 7-12. --Michael Cart

This was very eye opening for, when I used to think of the holocaust I would mainly think of what the Jewish had to go through. But this book got me to see other sides of the story and what it was the holocaust was like for other, including homosexuals. I think it is a good thing that this book was written to preserve the memory of those who died and those who survived in the holocaust. Some of the stories in here where so heartbreaking and I cried a couple of times, but it made me realize how lucky I am to grow up in a place where people are accepted for their differences.

This book has taught me about another aspect of Nazi regime where homosexual Jews were the worst victims. Yet, it’s hard to believe their rights were denied until recent, about 10 years ago. It was difficult for me to read survivors’ stories as there aren’t many survivors to share. I’m delighted to know they were honored ’n recognized. Easy to read and if ya enjoy reading different aspects, this

is the one I recommend.

Very insightful read about the trials of Holocaust victims.

This topic of this book was something I hadn't ever even heard of so that's why it was so interesting.

This is an excellent, well-researched, and very accessible book on a difficult subject - the persecution of gay men by the Nazis. Written in a very straightforward, factual manner, this is a book that could benefit anyone wanting to know more about events of this time. My only concern is that the book is marketed as a young adult title. It is completely appropriate, accessible, and informative for the adolescent and young adult reader. But there is no hint of oversimplification or telling the reader how to react to the material. Any adult wanting to know more about this chapter in history could benefit from reading this book.

More and more more books are written about the holocaust every year but usually about one person;s experience.This book told the story of gays in that era of whom we knew very little. It told of how gays lived before the warand then told more than one story. It mentioned different people's stories in various parts of Europe during the warand what happened to them after the war. Recommended for anyone interested in history, in holocaust history,in particular.

Branded by the Pink Triangle by Ken Setterington tells the story of the Nazi persecution of gay men. Setterington weaves survivors' stories in a chronological history wherein they told about, at first, the harassment they suffered at clubs and bars, to the eventual deportation to concentration camps where all gay men had to wear a pink fabric triangle sewn onto their striped uniform. Branded also deals with the atrocities committed against gay men and the horrific conditions they endured in the concentration camps. This book had been classified by Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication as juvenile literature. I cannot disagree more with such a classification. In fact, my own library system has six copies of this book, and they are in the adult collection.I raise a very weighty topic when I argue when is the appropriate time to tell children about the atrocities committed by the Nazis against Jews and gays. Without question, this history cannot be denied and must continue to be told. My reservation is that Setterington has ostensibly written a book for children yet the content within is so graphic I cannot imagine any child reading this on his own and not feeling wholly traumatized afterward. The cover, font size and plentiful illustrations all point to a junior format of a

book. In fact, all five of Setterington's other books owned by the Mississauga Library System have been placed in the Children's Department, so I do not feel as if Branded was an exception, but rather that Setterington fully intended for children to read this. However I do wonder about the five pages of endnotes, and why they were in a work of juvenile nonfiction, and thus why Library and Archives Canada felt to classify it as such.The target audience for such a book is likely not children in general, but rather children of gay fathers. Setterington described Berlin nightlife before the National Socialists came to power, when it was an exciting place for gays to be out and socialize. I found the description of the goings-on at sex clubs to be entirely inappropriate for juvenile literature. Repeated references to acts of "indecency" committed with another man, or of men who allow themselves "to be misused indecently", do not belong in a book for children. The language, where Setterington used such slang terms as "queen" for an effeminate gay man, would be totally lost on a child reader under the age of ten. Just who was Setterington writing this book for? For the child of Perez Hilton? For the son of BrÃƒÂ no?After the liberation of the concentration camps it is a sad fact that the gay men who were incarcerated were not set free. Since they were sent to the camps for being homosexual, and homosexuality was still a crime in Germany after World War II, gay men had to continue serving their sentences and were transferred to other prisons. It took forty years before any public monument was erected to honour the gay victims of the camps. Before then:"The gay community was not even allowed to participate in the memorial services held at concentration camps or at war memorials. In 1970 gay activists in Amsterdam arrived at the National War Memorial in Dam Square with a lavender wreath to honor the gay men who had perished. The activists were arrested, and the wreath was removed and denounced as a disgrace."Setterington ended Branded with updates and photos of all the men he profiled. Sadly there are no more survivors who were branded by the pink triangle, as Rudolf Brazda died in August 2011. The bibliography provided a lengthy list of survivor memoirs which are essential reading for learning about gay history in Europe during World War II.

Excellent. Must read.

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