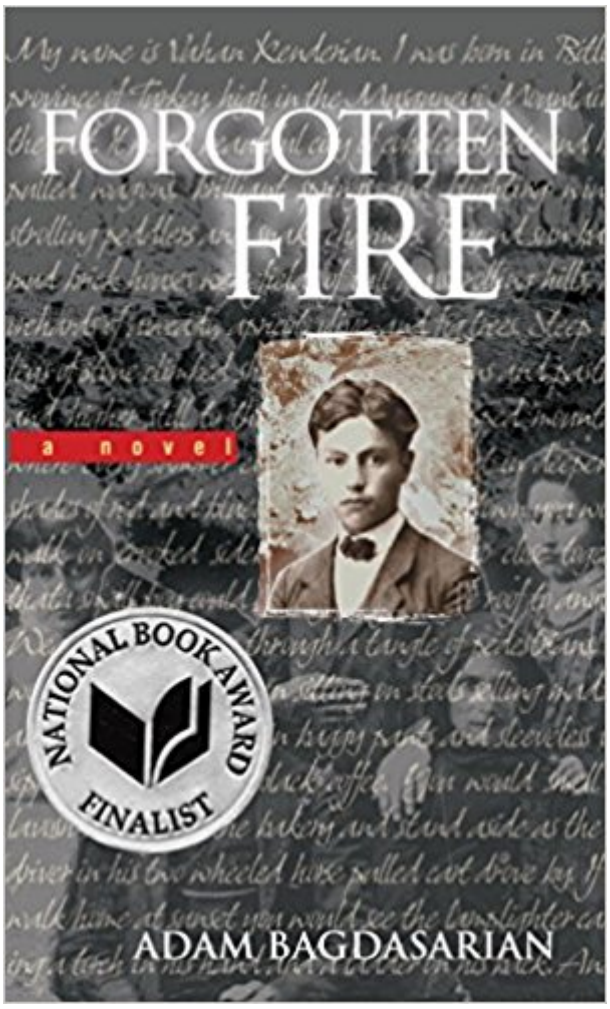
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Forgotten Fire



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Synopsis

AÃ Â National Book Award Finalist.In 1915 Vahan Kenderian is living a life of privilege as the youngest son of a wealthy Armenian family in Turkey. This secure world is shattered when some family members are whisked away while others are murdered before his eyes.Vahan loses his home and family, and is forced to live a life he would never have dreamed of in order to survive. Somehow VahanÃ¢â ¬â„¢s incredible strength and spirit help him endure, even knowing that each day could be his last.

Book Information

Mass Market Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: Laurel Leaf; Reprint edition (April 9, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0440229170

ISBN-13: 978-0440229179

Product Dimensions: 4.2 x 0.8 x 6.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 97 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #73,399 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #53 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Military #58 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Europe #76 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Violence

Customer Reviews

Forced to watch his father escorted out of their lives by Turkish police, his brothers shot to death in their backyard, his grandmother murdered by a rock-wielding guard, and his sister take poison rather than be raped by soldiers, 12-year-old Vahan Kendarian abruptly begins to learn what his father meant when he used to say, "This is how steel is made. Steel is made strong by fire." Up until 1915, Vahan has lived a cosseted life as the son of a wealthy and respected Armenian man. But overnight his world is destroyed when the triumvirate of Turkish leaders, Enver Pasha, Talaat Bey, and Djemal Pasha, begins the systematic massacre of nearly three-quarters of the Armenian population of Turkey, 1.5 million men, women, and children. Soon Vahan is an orphan on the run, surviving by begging, pretending to be deaf and mute, dressing as a girl, hiding out in basements and outhouses, and even living for a time with the Horseshoer of Baskale, a Turkish governor known for nailing horseshoes to the feet of his Armenian victims. Time and again, the terrified and desperate boy grows close to someone--and loses him or her to an appalling, violent death.

Through three years of unspeakable horror, Vahan is made stronger by this fire, and by perseverance, fate, or sheer luck, he survives long enough to escape to the safe haven of Constantinople. Brutally vivid, Adam Bagdasarian's Forgotten Fire is based on the experiences of his great-uncle during the Armenian Holocaust. The absolutely relentless series of vile events is almost unbearable, but the quiet elegance of Bagdasarian's writing makes this a novel of truth and beauty. Parental guidance is strongly suggested for younger readers of this extraordinary, heartbreaking account. (Ages 14 and older) --Emilie Coulter --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Drawing on his own great-uncle's experiences, Bagdasarian covers the years 1915-1918 when a boy from a wealthy, well-respected family from Bitlis, Turkey, is stripped of everything simply because he is Armenian. "The prose is often graceful and the events are as gripping as they are horrifying," said PW. Ages 14-up. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

This volume embodies all that makes for a page turner while, sometimes, making it hard to turn the pages. The young protagonist witnesses some of the most unspeakable - though common - results of war, and retains an innocence and goodness of heart that keeps the reader engaged and eagerly hoping for what seems like an impossible outcome, given the most dangerous of situations and circumstances that are difficult to imagine. The context of the story is within the still disputed genocide in Armenia during the early 20th century, but the setting could be in any number of places before, or since. It is a volume that I have recommended to adult family and friends, but also one I have suggested to younger readers in middle school whose sensibility and maturity make them seem available to the heart - and the hard parts - of this compelling story, which is based on the life of a boy who survived the atrocities of this largely ignored and often forgotten part of history.

Highly recommend this book to any high schooler. My daughter recommended I buy it for me to read. I cried.

I had never heard of the Armenian genocide prior to reading this book. Well written and captivating, it is based on a true story of a survivor of the genocide. As a cautionary note, this book is very graphic in it's description of rape and killings.

ita a great book overall. It will keep you entertained even from the beginning chapters, lots of things

happen and quickly so no boring pages. The book was about the Armenian genocide, so there were many sad scenes. I would recommend it if you need a book for school, or for your own entertainment

A riveting story about the human spirit during inhumane times. I wish all schools around the world would assign this book for children to read. I could not put this book down. I will someday pass it on to my daughters so that they know where they came from and where they should never end up.

I had honestly never know anything about the Armenian genocide. It is one of those awful aspects of history that for some reason people just gloss over and would like to forget. The author of this novel fictionalizes the true story of his great-uncle who survived the genocide. It's a great story, and moves quickly. The only thing I didn't particularly like was the last five pages or so where it seemed the ending was just wrapped up too quickly.

This was a very touching book about the Armenian Genocide. It is a story told through the eyes of a little boy; son of a wealthy prominent Armenian Lawyer that loses everything. It's a very easy to read book that was very fascinating to me (I couldn't put the book down); I was able to read cover to cover in about a week. The author does an excellent job of portraying the horrors of the Genocide, the cruelty of man, the courage of a young boy as he struggles to survive...this book should be made to a movie. I would not recommend this book to younger readers as there are strong references to rape, molestation and cruelty. However, I would strongly recommend and encourage reading this book to high school students.

Great read!

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