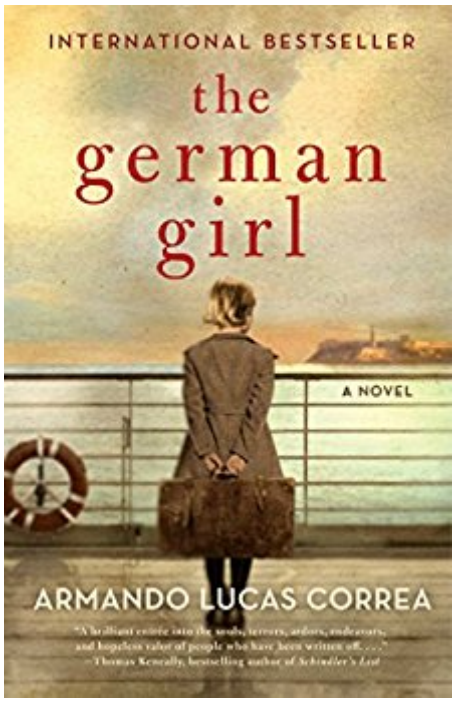
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The German Girl: A Novel



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Synopsis

A young girl flees Nazi-occupied Germany with her family and best friend, only to discover that the overseas refuge they had been promised is an illusion in this Ã¢â ¬Å“powerful and affectingÃ¢â ¬Â• (Kirkus Reviews) debut novel, perfect for fans of The Nightingale, All the Light We Cannot See, and SchindlerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s List.Before everything changed, young Hannah Rosenthal lived a charmed life. But now, in 1939, the streets of Berlin are draped with red, white, and black flags; her familyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s fine possessions are hauled away; and they are no longer welcome in the places that once felt like home. Hannah and her best friend, Leo Martin, make a pact: whatever the future has in store for them, theyÃ¢â ¬â„¢ll meet it together. Hope appears in the form of the S.S. St. Louis, a transatlantic liner offering Jews safe passage out of Germany. After a frantic search to obtain visas, the Rosenthals and the Martins depart on the luxurious ship bound for Havana. Life on board the St. Louis is like a surreal holiday for the refugees, with masquerade balls, exquisite meals, and polite, respectful service. But soon ominous rumors from Cuba undermine the passengersÃ¢â ¬â„¢ fragile sense of safety. From one day to the next, impossible choices are offered, unthinkable sacrifices are made, and the ship that once was their salvation seems likely to become their doom. Seven decades later in New York City, on her twelfth birthday, Anna Rosen receives a strange package from an unknown relative in Cuba, her great-aunt Hannah. Its contents will inspire Anna and her mother to travel to Havana to learn the truth about their familyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s mysterious and tragic past, a quest that will help Anna understand her place and her purpose in the world. The German Girl sweeps from Berlin at the brink of the Second World War to Cuba on the cusp of revolution, to New York in the wake of September 11, before reaching its deeply moving conclusion in the tumult of present-day Havana. Based on a true story, this masterful novel gives voice to the joys and sorrows of generations of exiles, forever seeking a place called home.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Since a very early age I made my mission to read and watch everything related to the Holocaust. And yet I had never heard about the St. Louis and her rejected Jewish passengers until recently. How could that be?The German Girl talks about a story that many tried to swept under the rug because it speaks of the shared guilt of those who did nothing. Cuba, the United States, Canada. They all rejected the refugees from the St. Louis. Many other countries denied visas to thousands, millions of men, women and children trying to escape prosecution and certain death. We let them die.The beauty in Armando Lucas Correa's fascinating book is that we get to know the St. Louis' story through the eyes of young Hannah Rosenthal and, many years later, her great niece Anna. We walk through the streets of Nazi-dominated Berlin, we run around with her and her best friend Leo as they see the world they know and love crumble around them, we feel their fear. And we wonder who were the worst victims, those who died or those who were left behind.The 937 passengers of the St. Louis could be just a number. In The German Girl they finally have a voice. Hannah is their voice. Her dreams are their dreams, her heartbreaks are their heartbreaks.Make the journey with her. Wander along her childhood streets, sail to Cuba, live with her and her memories and ghosts. And get to know the German Girl and try not to cry. I dare you.

This is not your typical Holocaust book. It doesn't dwell on the horrors of Europe; rather, it's an intimate look at a couple of families on the doomed ship, St. Louis. This ship carried mostly Jewish passengers who paid for transport from Europe to carry them to Cuba, allowing them to escape Nazi persecution.Decisions, twists of fate, and timing affect all of us in our daily lives. This is a story that shows us how they affected this small group and the results.Author Armando Lucas Correa is a professional journalist. His skills easily transition to writing fiction, but keep in mind that, this story is

based on an event that actually happened. As a result, the families through which he tells this story, are merely vessels of tragedy. They are imbued with human frailties, strengths, and foibles found in all of us.

A most interesting novel based on a true story -or at least the basis of the story is true. It is another story which highlights the racial and social atrocities of the late 1930s and WW2 period. In particular the fate of Jewish Germans. And it is not just Germany which comes off badly. But it doesn't dwell on the awfulness, rather it plots the lives of people in a very personal way in the following decades as it moves from Berlin to Havana to New York and back in interwoven chapters. It is quite elegantly written.

I did learn something from this book about an actual event at the beginning of the second world war. But I did find the book a little depressing, realising the consequences of the refugee status for many people. The epilogue did show that this was recognised by some countries. I do believe it is well worth reading.

It was recommended to me. Excellent book and very well written. Each person comes alive as you read the book. You are on every journey they take both in the past and the present. By the time Hannah is leaving Cuba I was crying so much I had to stop reading for to wipe my eyes.

A good read from the perspective of a 12-year old girl in Berlin during the WW II years, whose family attempts to leave Germany aboard the ill-fated St. Louis bound for Cuba. The other protagonist is her 12-year old niece in the years following 9/11.

I downloaded a sample and quickly got caught up in the authors writing style. Based on a tragedy well documented in history, the story is about a fictional family of German Jews who book passage on a ship bound for Havana, as they are caught up in a real life exodus from a country they called home. It deals with their fears, anticipations, disappointments, and much more and their journey is described beautifully by Armando Lucas in his first attempt as a novelist.

Great story..love historical fiction..but wow..a whole new perspective ...horrible treatment of people...loved the story and I learned...

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