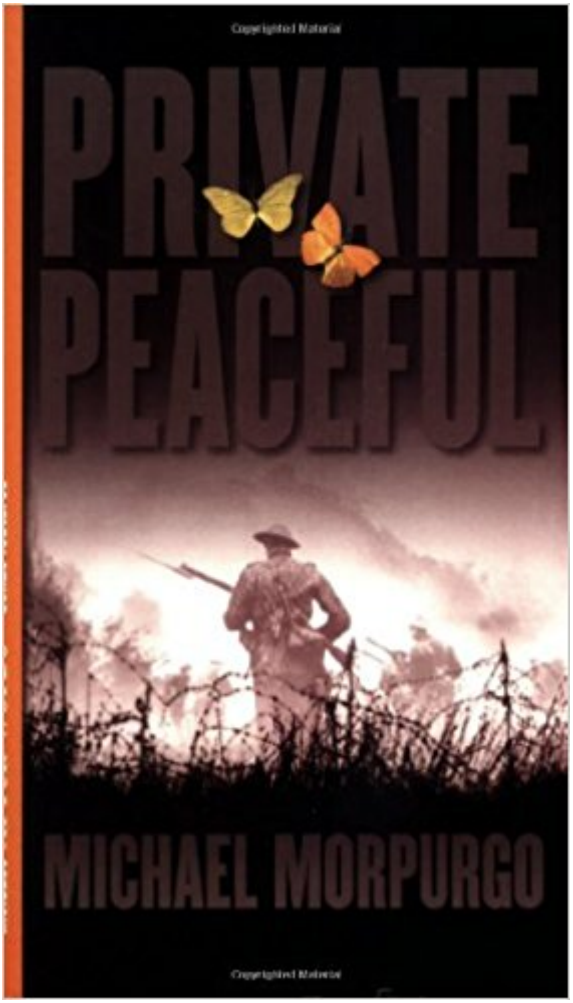
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Private Peaceful (After Words)



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Synopsis

From the Children’s Laureate of England, a stunning novel of the First World War, a boy who is on its front lines, and a childhood remembered. Includes After Words bonus features.As the enemy lurks in the darkness, Thomas struggles to stay awake through the night. He has lived through the terror of gas attacks and watched friends die by his side. But in the morning, Thomas will be forced to confront an even greater horror. As the minutes tick by, Thomas remembers his childhood spent deep in the countryside with his mother, his brothers, and Molly, the love of his life. But each minute that passes brings Thomas closer to something he can’t bear to to think about--the moment when the war and its horrific consequences will change his life forever.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 860 (What’s this?)

Series: After Words

Mass Market Paperback: 202 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Paperbacks (May 1, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0439636531

ISBN-13: 978-0439636537

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 4.2 x 6.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 80 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #62,974 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #46 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Military #67 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Military & Wars #96 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Siblings

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Grade 7 UpÃ¢â ¬â œAt 15, Thomas Peaceful, like many other English soldiers in World War I, is too young to fight, but he lies about his age. Now at the front in France with his older brother Charlie he stands a lonely nighttime vigil for reasons that are not explained until the book’s end, watching the minutes tick by and reflecting on his past. Using first-person narration, Morpurgo draws readers into this young man’s life, relating memories that are idyllic, sobering, and poignant.

Tommo thinks upon the role he played in his father's accidental death, the adventures that he shared with Charlie, his relationship with his childhood friend Molly, and the experiences that he has had since entering the war. Finally, he describes how Charlie disobeyed a direct order to stay with him after he was wounded in action, fully aware of this decision's dire consequences. While this story is not based on any one individual, Morpurgo has personalized the British tactic of executing their own soldiers "for cowardice or desertion," memorializing these men without passing judgment. While readers see the events through Tommo's eyes, the author does not lose sight of the war's effects on the teen's friends and family. Reminders come in the form of letters from home, relationships with other soldiers, and observations of battles. This thoughtful novel touches on themes of humanity and duty, and features brilliant characters whose personal decisions have earned them their very own badges of honor.Ã¢â ¬â œDelia Fritz, Mercersburg Academy, PA Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.
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Starred Review Gr. 7-12. In this World War I story, the terse and beautiful narrative of a young English soldier is as compelling about the world left behind as about the horrific daily details of trench warfare: the mud, rats, gas attacks, slaughter. At 15, Thomas lied about his age in order to follow his beloved older brother, Charlie, to fight in France. Now, nearly two years later, as Thomas sits waiting in the dark for the horror he knows will come at dawn, he remembers it all. Growing up as a poor farm boy in a happy family, he was always close to Charlie and to their brain-injured brother, Joe, a character Morpurgo draws with rare tenderness and truth. Thomas and Charlie even loved the same girl; Charley married her, but she writes to them both. Thomas also remembers British brutality, from the landlord who threatened the family with eviction if Charlie didn't enlist to the cruel army sergeant who tried to break Charlie's spirit. Charlie may be too perfect, almost a Christ figure, but it's Thomas' viewpoint of the brother he loves. Suspense builds right to the end, which is shocking, honest, and unforgettable. Be sure to add this to titles in the Read-alikes, "War to End All Wars" [BKL N 1 01]. Hazel RochmanCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

This book is so beautifully written, that you feel you are there with the characters in each situation. The use of the time at the top of each chapter is a very clever way to get one thinking, questioning and guessing.The climax of the story is cleverely hidden until the last minute. An excellent way for young people to experience a little of what the young people all those years ago had to go

through.Very moving.

Thought-provoking novel of the horrors of war.

I don’t even know why you would send it I certainly didn’t ask for the Chinese version as I don’t speak or read Chinese!!

Not my type of book at all, certainly not something I’d spend my free time reading. It was for my class, but I found it dull and slow and lacking vibrancy.

As with War Horse, Morpugo gives the reader a feel for the young soliders in Europe during WWI. enough mystery to keep one reading.. We used both books for homeschool reading..

This was a gripping book that showed what really happens at the front. No spoilers from me, but a roller coaster of emotions.

I love this book,even if u think it is boring keep readingsWhat I love most is the ending. You think.you know what is going to happen and then BAM it just comes from the blue and it’s suprising

This book was a one of the best books I’ve ever read. I even felt the emotions Tommo and Charlie felt. I give this book a five star rating and I highly recommend this book to others. Also this book was very well written and described. Thank you.

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