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After The War



Synopsis

"Didn't the gas ovens finish you all off?" is the response that meets Ruth Mendenberg when she returns to her village in Poland after the liberation of Buchenwald at the end of World War II. Her entire family wiped out in the Holocaust, the fifteen-year-old girl has nowhere to go. Members of the underground organization "Brichah" find her, and she joins them in their dangerous quest to smuggle illegal immigrants to Palestine. Ruth risks her life to help lead a group of children on a daring journey over half a continent and across the sea to Eretz Israel, using secret routes and forged documents -- and sheer force of will. This adventure will touch readers, who will marvel at the resources and inner strength of mere children helping other children to find a place in this world in which they can belong. Carol Matas, one of the foremost authors of historical fiction, brings the desperation and passion of this remarkable journey to life.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 840L (What's this?)

Mass Market Paperback: 128 pages

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Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.4 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (28 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #647,180 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #111 in [Books > Teens >](#)

[Historical Fiction > Holocaust](#) #130 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Holocaust](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

"It is quiet, almost peaceful. Then the ship begins to roll, just a little. I am not sleeping, I'm staring up at bunk above me, Zvi beside me, holding my hand. I am desperately trying not to think of Auschwitz, but I'm not doing too well."-Excerpt Page 90-91 "After The War" a historical fiction novel by Carol Matas, is a great read about the Jewish conflicts in the time after World War II. In this novel, fifteen year old Ruth Mendenberg must overcome challenges in leading a group of Jews

throughout Europe to Palestine. At this time she is also looking for her family who is believed to be of the many Jews who lost their lives in the war. Matas, the talented author, creates great theme and conflict in this novel. She has also published the sequel called "The Garden". I am sure this too would be a great book. Theme in this novel is very evident. Many lessons have been learned in reading this, not only by the reader but also by the main characters. One of the main themes would be that anything is possible if you try, but if you don't try then you could put yourself in a bad situation which may keep getting worse. Ruth proves this in "After The War" by how she handles the many difficult situations that she stumbles upon, on the way to Palestine. Another theme, which is more tied into the plot of the novel, would be that sometimes you have to lie to survive. Ruth must lie numerous times about her name, her age, where she came from, and anything else that may link her to being who she really is - a Jew. She does all this and more because it is her only way to survive. If she doesn't lie she might not be able to live her life of freedom. Conflict is another literary element.

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