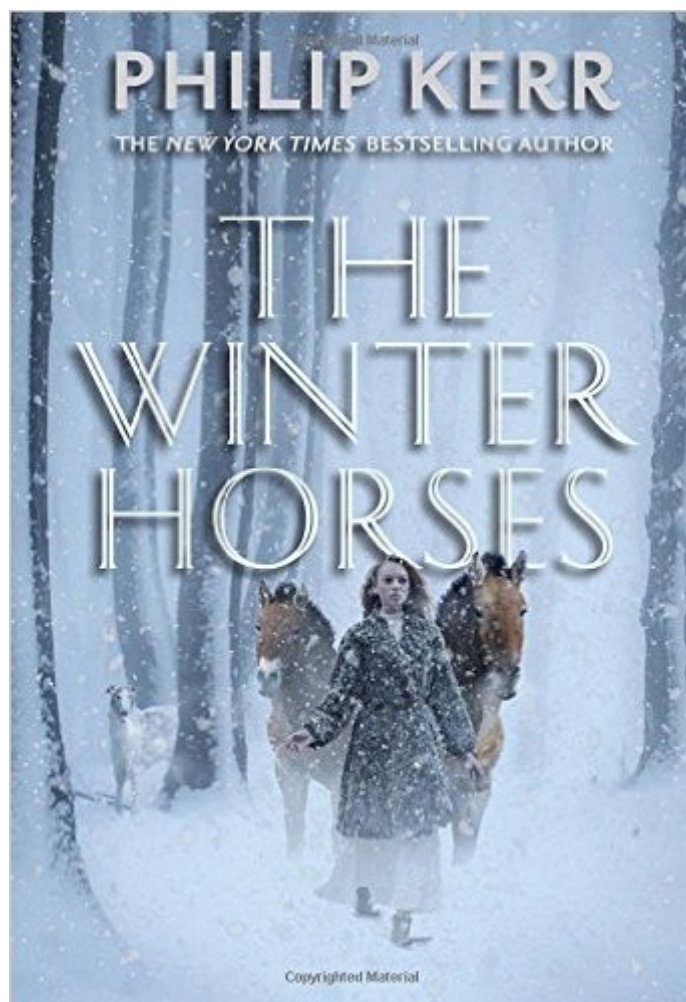


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# The Winter Horses



## Synopsis

From Philip Kerr, the *New York Times* bestselling author of the Bernie Gunther novels, comes a breathtaking journey of survival in the dark days of WWII in Ukraine, a country that remains tumultuous today. This inspiring tale captures the power of the human spirit and is perfect for fans of *The Book Thief*, *Milkweed*, and *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*. It will soon be another cold winter in the Ukraine. But it's 1941, and things are different this year. Max, the devoted caretaker of an animal preserve, must learn to live with the Nazis who have overtaken this precious land. He must also learn to keep secrets—for there is a girl, Kalinka, who is hiding in the park. Kalinka has lost her home, her family, her belongings—everything but her life. Still, she has gained one small, precious gift: a relationship with the rare wild and wily Przewalski's horses that wander the preserve. Aside from Max, these endangered animals are her only friends—until a Nazi campaign of extermination nearly wipes them out for good. Now Kalinka must set out on a treacherous journey across the frozen forest to save the only two surviving horses—and herself. From the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 930L (What's this?)

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: Ember; Reprint edition (February 10, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0385755465

ISBN-13: 978-0385755467

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.6 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (131 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #176,123 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #53 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Holocaust](#) #55 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Orphans & Foster Homes](#) #57 in [Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Holocaust](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Reviewed by Rachel B. Kalinka is an orphan. Nazis killed her family and she has been on her own

ever since. Everyone she asks for help refuses her because they fear for their own life. Kalinka is an outcast among humans, but when she is among the wild Przewalski's horses at Askaniya-Nova, she feels at home. The horses are clever and loving, and soon Kalinka plans to stay with the herd for as long as she can. Max is an old man who works at a Ukrainian nature reserve in Askaniya-Nova. He loves animals, especially the Przewalski's horses that run wild in the sanctuary. So when he is ordered to kill all the animals in the preserve, including the horses, to ensure that the invading Germans do not eat the animals, he refuses to do so. Max doesn't understand why the German man who started the reserve --- the only man who was ever kind to him --- would kill the animals. When the Nazis arrive on the reserve, Max realizes that he was wrong. Soon after they arrive they begin killing the animals for food. Then they hunt the Przewalski's horses because they are worried that the Przewalski's will breed with their horses. Only two of the horses survive and one of them is injured. Kalinka knows she has to save the horse. But she cannot do this herself, so she turns to another lover of Przewalski's for help --- Max. Kalinka begins to view Max as a father figure, and they become very close through their struggles to save the horses. As the book continues, Max makes many sacrifices for Kalinka and the Przewalski's horses. Although THE WINTER HORSES is labeled as historical fiction, I thought that it was mostly fantasy.

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