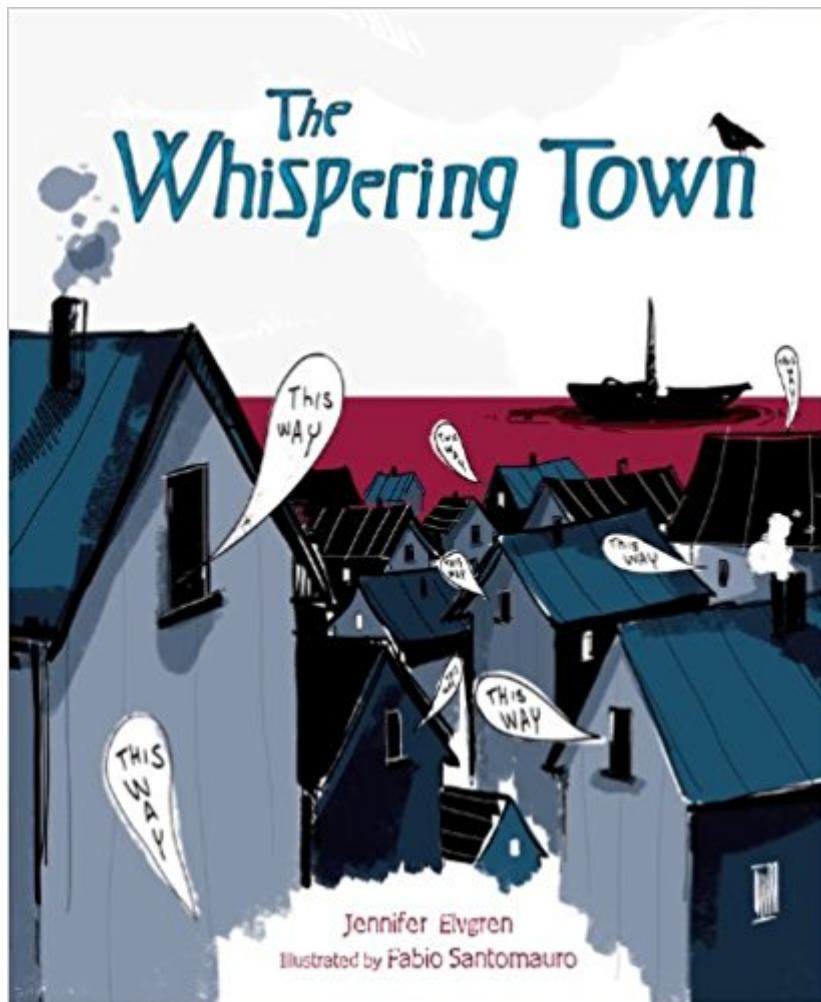


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# The Whispering Town (Holocaust)



## **Synopsis**

The dramatic story of neighbors in a small Danish fishing village who, during the Holocaust, shelter a Jewish family waiting to be ferried to safety in Sweden. It is 1943 in Nazi-occupied Denmark. Anett and her parents are hiding a Jewish woman and her son, Carl, in their cellar until a fishing boat can take them across the sound to neutral Sweden. The soldiers patrolling their street are growing superstitious, so Carl and his mama must make their way to the harbor despite a cloudy sky with no moon to guide them. Worried about their safety, Anett devises a clever and unusual plan for their safe passage to the harbor. Based on a true story.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 530 (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Kar-Ben Publishing (February 1, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1467711950

ISBN-13: 978-1467711951

Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 9 x 10.8 inches

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

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 29 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #158,245 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #38 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Jewish #39 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Holocaust #1119 in Books > Children's Books > Religions

Age Range: 7 - 9 years

Grade Level: 2 - 4

## **Customer Reviews**

\*Starred Review\* Based on a true incident, this is the story of two families, one Danish, the other Jewish. Young Anett is told by her mother, there are new friends in the cellar. This is no surprise to the girl; the cellar is where Danish Jews are hidden from the Nazis. The new boy, Carl, and his mother are to remain hidden for two nights, until a boat can take them to Sweden. Until then the other villagers provide bread and eggs and even books. The moonless nights make it difficult to evacuate the duo, yet as the Nazis come closer, it becomes clear that they must somehow make their way to the harbor. Then Anett has an idea. That night, the villagers stand in the doorways of their houses, each whispering, this way, and forming a chain that leads Carl and his mother to the

first step toward safety. The illustrations have the bold look of a graphic novel and use oversize figures to command attention. Both author and illustrator do an excellent job of bringing both the horror and humanity of this story to a level younger children can understand, and there is much of both: Nazis pounding on doors; Carl giving Anett his most prized possession, a heart-shaped stone, a last gift from his father. An unusual and strong addition to Holocaust literature. Grades 2-4. --Ilene Cooper --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

"Urgent and refreshingly unsentimental." - Publishers Weekly "The direct simplicity of the story's telling serves well as an introduction for younger children to the Holocaust. This uncomplicated narrative of Danish resistance will facilitate teaching and discussion of a difficult yet necessary subject." - Kirkus Reviews "Urgent and refreshingly unsentimental." - Publishers Weekly "The direct simplicity of the story's telling serves well as an introduction for younger children to the Holocaust. This uncomplicated narrative of Danish resistance will facilitate teaching and discussion of a difficult yet necessary subject." - Kirkus Reviews --Kirkus Reviews

A picture book about the Holocaust for young children is tricky to pull off but Elvgren expertly does so by taking a discrete incident that involves a secret, something that appeals to all of us. In Nazi-occupied Denmark, Anett's family is hiding a Jewish woman and her son. As the soldiers close in, Annet comes up with a way to guide the two through the night, past the soldiers, to a fishing boat that will take them to safety in Sweden. Based on a true event, this story shows young readers how people can band together to overcome the frightening obstacles imposed on them in a terrible time and still come out triumphant.

My 10 year old son had the pleasure of reading this book. He loved the illustrations and like most boys, liked the mix of words and captivating visuals. But unlike most books, he actually thought about what he read and asked me further questions. He wanted to know where this took place, the historical theme and found the ending very positive and comforting. I recommend this book for parents that are looking for subtle, yet effective ways to teach important life lessons.

When I read the description and reviews, I admit that I was expecting a more detailed picture book story than what is presented here. (I was thinking that maybe I would be surprised by a clever ending but it was more straight forward than that.) That being said, this is a good story. It is well-written and has interesting illustrations. The story is about how a family and eventually a town

helps a Jewish family hide from the Nazis and escape to safety. This would be a good choice for a reader who may not have the attention span or maturity for a longer, sadder story but would still like to learn about WWII and have a discussion. (This could also be used in a discussion of the Underground Railroad as there are many parallels between the two.)

Simple but effective children's story about protecting families during the Holocaust. The colors of the illustrations added to the feeling of gloom which would have permeated the atmosphere. I think it would make curious children to want to know more.

What a tough topic to tackle in a children's book! How do you convey the truth about the Holocaust without traumatizing a child? Elvgren succeeds. Deftly and gently told, her story introduces a reader to the grim facts while telling a true tale about courage in the face of danger. I hope teachers and librarians will take notice of this book. I foresee the story being the basis of many a thought-provoking discussion. A simple, yet profound story, beautifully told.

Jennifer Elvgren takes a very difficult subject and makes it a story that tells the story of the power of community. In a day where evil discourages us this story of hope is a great way to help our little ones know the difference they can make in a dark world. Love this book!!!

When fear paralyzes good intentions and people don't do what they can within their sphere of influence, we all pay a horrible price. May we all be brave in the face of danger.

This little book retains its original format, giving the reader an opportunity to share it with children. While not really a "picture book" story, the charming drawings make sharing easy for a wide range of ages. This is a story to keep alive for everyone.

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