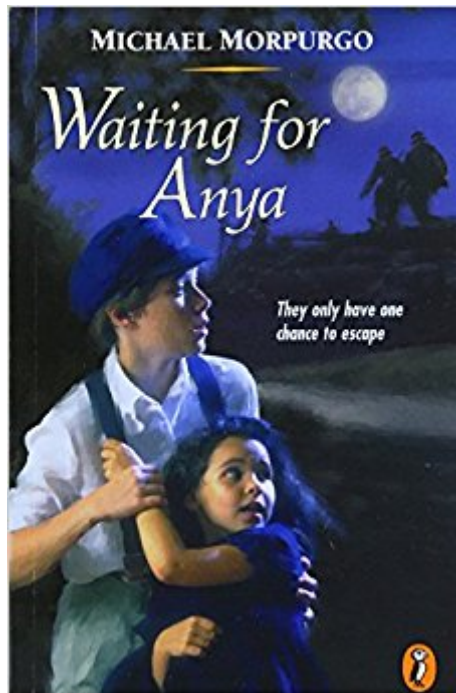




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Waiting For Anya



Synopsis

The gripping story of a boy who risks his life to take Jewish refugees to safety during World War II. "A reclusive widow's farm has become a haven for a growing band of Jewish children hiding from the Nazis. Jo knows he must keep the secret, and help out any way he can. But when German soldiers move into town, the danger suddenly becomes much more real. As Jo knows all too well, the penalty for helping these children escape is death." In its understated style and gentle telling of a harsh lesson, the story is reminiscent of Lois Lowry's *Number the Stars*. "Action-packed . . . Morpurgo's characters rise above the two-dimensional, giving young people much to ponder in the areas of good versus evil and hero versus villain." "The Horn Book" An ALA Best Book for Young Adults

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Like the acclaimed *Number the Stars*, this well-plotted novel features a young Gentile hero battling the Germans in their war against the Jews. As it opens, Jo is guarding the sheep when his dog alerts him to a bear; Jo warns the villagers in his small French town and they kill the hapless beast. The theme here prefigures the more tragic hunt for human prey, while the bear chase itself brings Jo into contact with Benjamin, the reclusive Widow Horcada's Jewish son-in-law, who is hiding in her mountain home. Separated from Anya, his daughter, Benjamin hides other Jewish children and leads them to safety in nearby Spain. Jo is soon enlisted, bringing supplies to the widow's house. Then the Germans encamp in Jo's village, observing everyone and sealing the Spanish border. Jo's concern for the Jews is measured against his reluctant awareness that the German occupiers are

not uniformly evil--in fact, the villagers' relations with the Germans form the most distinctive element of the story. Although some key elements are historically improbable (chiefly, a German officer's partial rejection of Nazi principles), the adventure of the Jews' escape into Spain is both gripping and temperate. Ages 10-14. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 5-9-- In a village in southern France, only a few miles from Spain, Jo discovers that the Widow Horcada is sheltering Benjamin, her Jewish son-in-law, who is helping to smuggle Jewish children over the border. He is also waiting for his own child, Anya, from whom he was separated. When a garrison of German soldiers is sent to occupy the village in order to stop the flow of refugees into Spain, Benjamin needs the cooperation of the entire village to save the children. What Jo and the others learn, though, is that the Germans are human and that there are more similarities than differences among them. Readers do not see battles, but will witness their effects when Jo's father returns a sick and bitter man; they do not see the horrors of the death camps--it is enough to know that those who are taken away will not be seen again. Everything is seen through the eyes of one young, compassionate boy. There are no villains and no larger-than-life heroes, just human beings following what conscience or duty tells them is right. In its understated style and gentle telling of a harsh lesson, the story is reminiscent of Lois Lowry's *Number the Stars* (Houghton, 1989). --Susan M. Harding, Mesquite Public Library, TXCopyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I do not normally enjoy M.M 's books, but I am a member of a book club and my friend suggested it to us. So I read the book, a little bored at first, but after 3-4 chapters I found it very interesting and enjoyable. I rated it 3 stars because I found it less intriguing at some chapters than others. I would recommend it to M.M 's fans and people who would like to try something new. Also, if you are not a m.m fan(like me) this book may change your mind!!!!

A lovely tender story,sad that people and children had to suffer so much during the war, peace in the world is what there should be,.children should read this,so they can learn about the bad things that happened and that there are kind people in the world ,who are brave and stand up to these bad people.

Read this book over and over as a kid! Was so excited to find it as an adult I bought two!

[illegible]

Bought this for a school project. It's a good quick read.

It was brilliant I loved it. Michael morpurgo is a great writer and I've read a lot of his books and this was one of the best

The book *Waiting For Anya* was very well written. It is a story about a boy named Jo who is a shepherd in France during World War II. He finds out that an old widow who lives in his town (The "Black Widow") has, along with her son-in-law been hiding Jews from the Germans. The story gets complicated as twenty-two German soldiers move into Jo's village. Jo is swept up in the Jew's crisis and is determined to help them escape. The story further unravels as Jo's father (a POW) comes home. Time is running out for the Jewish children. Jo's bravery, and the heartbreaking conclusion make this a wonderful book for people of all ages to read.

This book is amazing! As is the author!! This is a well written, truth based, book! Waiting for Anya is exciting, somewhat suspenseful, and has a lot of true facts about world war two! I especially was relieved to know that Jo, the main character, was respectful, polite, and mature, but Not in any way boring! This is one of my all-time favorite books! I am reading it for the 3rd time!! ~Kori Barnes

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