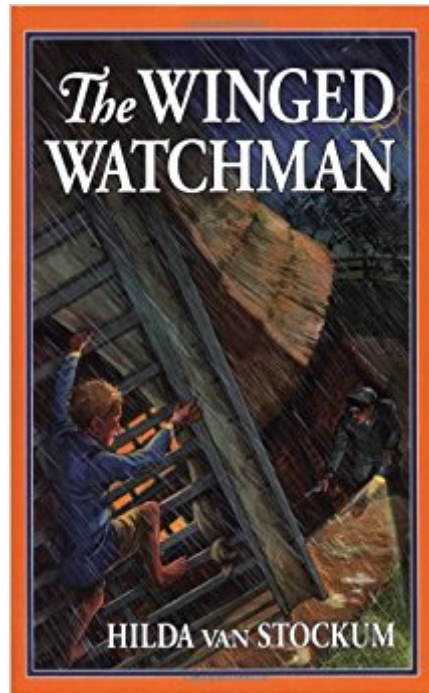




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The Winged Watchman (Living History Library)



Synopsis

Dutch-Irish-American storyteller Hilda von Stockum has placed this adventure of resistance among the windmills of Holland during the Nazi occupation of World War II.

Book Information

Series: Living History Library

Paperback: 191 pages

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Customer Reviews

I owned a copy of this book when I was growing up. That copy is no longer with me, but the memories of this story have followed me through my adult life. There is much to learn about the bravery of the Dutch Resistance, the hardships of war, life in Holland as a windmill family, and the bare survival of wartime deprivations. However, there is also much to learn about the values of loyalty, true belief in right vs wrong, and the inner fortitude of humans who actively took a stand against the evil that surrounded them. It's a gem of a book.

As a book required for school, we used this as a family read-aloud. I had never heard of it before and didn't know what to expect. We LOVED it. My 11-year old daughter says, "It's very suspenseful and it's awesome!" My 9-year old son says, "It's set in World War 2 and it's an amazing book! You'll want to read it in one sitting. It's long but it's good." There was so much to like about the struggles and triumphs of this family during the war, and many heroic characteristics to admire. We learned about Holland, the windmills, the dikes, the culture, and the desperate cost that war can inflict. But finally the book is full of hope and love and family and faith. We didn't want it to end.

Wonderful book. My aunt is from Holland and told me the story, though fictional, really matches up with the stories she was told as a child by her relatives about their WWII experiences. As a home educating mom I like the way the book exposed the horror of the war without taking it too far for my 4th graders ears and heart, the characters love and joy and family connectedness keep you hopeful throughout the story. Highly recommend for read aloud to ages 8-12.

How do I begin to tell the story of what this wonderful book has meant to me? I first read Winged Watchman when I was 10 or 11 years old. I loved the story of Dirk Jan and Joris and the Verhagen's. I am of Dutch descent, something my Grandma Harding was very proud of. She was a Van Vorhees. I could identify with and understand the two boys and their strong feelings of patriotism. This is such an excellent book! I highly recommend it to you!

I like reading WW2 books, and this was one of the best. It takes place in Holland about 1940, Two boys named Dirk Jan and Joris, help soldiers and dogs escape from cruel German hands. Joris's best friend's big brother is a landwatcher and is constantly causing trouble for everyone. The Verganhangens are always trying to help. Taking in refugees, soldiers, even Saint Nicholas! This book is a great history teacher, as it is exiting, funny, tense, all of the things that a good book is.

My ten-year-old son and I loved this book, which I just finished reading aloud to him. It is an exciting story of a Dutch Catholic family living in occupied Holland, focused on the young sons of the family who must risk danger to help their family and friends, including Jewish neighbors, survive and resist the German occupation of the Netherlands. The book gives a detailed people of the hardships experienced during World War II, and of the tough moral dilemmas faced by religious people who have to struggle not to hate their enemies, including fellow countrymen who collaborate with the German invaders. A great read for children and adults alike.

I used this book for a discussion group of 5-7th grade students. We all loved it. I probably loved it as much or more than they did. It promoted excellent discussions on a number of topics, such as why we should be so thankful for what we have.

Wonderful story to help one gain insight into what it was really like to live in an occupied country during the war.

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