



Kindertransport

By Olga Levy Drucker

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Mama and I climbed aboard. I waved to Papa until he was only a tiny speck in the distance. The train turned the curve, and he was gone.

The powerful autobiographical account of a young girls' struggle as a Jewish refugee in England from 1939–1945.

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Kindertransport By Olga Levy Drucker Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Drucker's account of her traumatic separation from her parents, who sent her from Germany to England in 1939, is, said PW, "memorable and moving." Ages 10-13. (Oct.) q
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From School Library Journal

Grade 5-8-- The author of this personal narrative was born in Germany in 1927 and soon found her life disrupted by the events in Europe in the 1930s. Her mother arranged for her to be part of the Kindertransport, through which 10,000 Jewish children were sent to live with English families. Ollie, 11 when she leaves, speaks virtually no English and finds herself in a series of undesirable living situations: a dingy, louse-infested flat; a luxurious home in which she is virtually ignored; a boarding school that closes when the war begins; a Baptist family intent on avoiding sin; and a home with a sickly woman whose illnesses cause Ollie to miss school. At the age of 16 she leaves her studies to help take care of a family with five children. During this time Ollie worries about her parents' safety in Germany as the war rages, and keeps herself going with thoughts of a reunion with them. Eventually, they make their way to New York, and in 1945, she is able to join them. Her afterword reflects on her experiences as a refugee. The book is touching as well as exciting, and is one of the World War II reminiscences that middle school readers will devour. In a few unfortunates places, the author interjects herself too forcefully into the narrative; for example, she short-circuits a compelling story with comments such as, ``Children don't usually stop to realize what's going on. But if I had, it might have gone something like this. . . ." In spite of occasional flaws, this is a worthwhile purchase written with an authentic voice.

- *Ellen Fader, Westport Public Library, CT*

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Review

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"Memorable and moving." —*Publishers Weekly*

"An autobiographical account--compelling in its authentic details--of the author's WWII years as a Jewish refugee in England." —*Kirkus Reviews*

Users Review

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Latasha Sutterfield:

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