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The Plot To Kill Hitler: Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Spy, Unlikely Hero



Synopsis

Perfect for fans of suspenseful nonfiction such as books by Steve Sheinkin, this is a page-turning narrative about Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a pastor and pacifist who became an unlikely hero during World War II and took part in a plot to kill Hitler. Written by two-time National Book Award finalist Patricia McCormick, author of *Sold* and *They Never Fall Down* and coauthor of the young reader's edition of *I Am Malala*. It was April 5, 1943, and the Gestapo would arrive any minute. Dietrich Bonhoeffer had been expecting this day for a long time. He had put his papers in order and left a few notes specifically for Hitler's men to see. Two SS agents climbed the stairs and told the boyish-looking Bonhoeffer to come with them. He calmly said good-bye to his parents, put his Bible under his arm, and left. Upstairs there was proof, in his own handwriting, that this quiet young minister was part of a conspiracy to kill Adolf Hitler. This compelling, brilliantly researched account includes the remarkable discovery that Bonhoeffer was one of the first people to provide evidence to the Allies that Jews were being deported to death camps. It takes readers from his privileged early childhood to the studies and travel that would introduce him to peace activists around the world eventually putting this gentle, scholarly pacifist on a deadly course to assassinate one of the most ruthless dictators in history. *The Plot to Kill Hitler* provides fascinating insights into what makes someone stand up for what's right when no one else is standing with you. It is a question that every generation must answer again and again. With black-and-white photographs, fascinating sidebars, and thoroughly researched details, this book should be essential reading.

Book Information

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Age Range: 8 and up

Grade Level: 3 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 5 Up **Gr 5 Up** McCormick provides a very readable account of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's life, from his wealthy childhood in Berlin to his death at the hands of the Nazis in 1945. Readers learn of Bonhoeffer's family, childhood, talent as a piano prodigy, and eventual calling to become a minister. He traveled to Spain, the United States, and England as he tried to reconcile his deep faith with the growing Nazi threat at home. Ultimately, though he had pacifist views, Bonhoeffer joined the German effort to assassinate Hitler. Despite the title, McCormick omits many details in the conspiracy. The focus is primarily on Bonhoeffer and his personal struggles. However, this account of his life is interesting and enlightening. Michael J. Martin's *Champion of Freedom: Dietrich Bonhoeffer* is more comprehensive, but McCormick's is a more compelling read. **VERDICT** An appealing narrative suited for students interested in history but not quite ready for heavy analysis. **Margaret Nunes**, Gwinnett County Public Library, GA

Offers a lucid history of the rise of Nazi Germany and a dramatic account of one man's resistance to evil. (Publishers Weekly (starred review)) **A tragic, inspirational, and quite unusual tale of a man who was the moral center of a resistance movement that, though it failed, continues to live on in international memory.** (Booklist (starred review)) **Readers will discover how compelling a story about ideas and ideals can be.** (Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books) **Praise for NEVER FALL DOWN:** **"One of the most inspiring and powerful books I've ever read. Never Fall Down can teach us all about finding the courage to speak our truth and change the world."** (Archbishop Desmond Tutu) **Praise for NEVER FALL DOWN:** **"Following the pattern of excellence McCormick began with her novel SOLD, she has created another amazing story through skilled and patient research."** (Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA) (starred review)) **Praise for PURPLE HEART:** **"Timely and provocative thriller."** (Publishers Weekly (starred review)) **Praise for PURPLE HEART:** **"McCormick builds the plot subtly and carefully with rich, spare prose."** (Kirkus Reviews) **Praise for PURPLE HEART:** **"Gripping details of existence in a war zone bring this to life."** (ALA Booklist) **Praise for SOLD:**

“Hard-hitting ... poignant. The author beautifully balances the harshness of brothel life with the poignant relationships among its residents.” (Publishers Weekly (starred review)) Praise for SOLD: “Unforgettable” (Booklist (starred review)) Praise for SOLD: “Searing...poetic.” (The Horn Book) Praise for CUT: “Poignant and compelling.” (School Library Journal (starred review)) Praise for CUT: “This novel, like Laurie Halse Anderson’s *Speak*, sympathetically and authentically renders the difficulties of giving voice to a very real sense of harm and powerlessness.” (Publishers Weekly (starred review)) Praise for CUT: “McCormick tackles a side of mental illness that is rarely seen in young adult fiction in a believable and sensitive manner.” (Kirkus Reviews (starred review)) Praise for CUT: “You will not soon forget a girl named Callie and this remarkable novel.” (Robert Cormier) Praise for CUT: “CUT is one of the best young-adult novels in years. Riveting and hopeful, sweet, heartbreaking.” (Boston Globe)

The book was written starting with (the cast of characters) that helped me to sort out with ease who was who which had been hard for me in some of the bio’s I had read previously on Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Really enjoyed the book and already passed it on for a friend to enjoy.

Good.

This story by Patricia McCormick is a true masterpiece with the details coming almost straight from the words of the narrator, Arn, himself. She had done her research beforehand, meeting and incorporating herself into the character of Arn as if she had to experience his story herself. Rather than disguise the gore with long, flowery phrases, she uses hard hitting sentences that capture what the Cambodian revolution truly was through the eyes of this boy that she was able to get to know.

This is a beautifully written account of a saintly man, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, during WWII. It is a must read at this time as it could mirror our own problems. God works in strange ways, and sending Bonhoeffer to try to right the horrid ways of Hitler is astonishing. This is a short biography of a peace loving Pastor turned spy to try to save the world.

I’m an adult who was interested in Dietrich Bonhoeffer. I found *The Plot to Kill Hitler* riveting, inspiring and moving. Bonhoeffer is a true hero for the ages. I can’t imagine a more wonderful book

to give a young person interested in history. It's a human story that features life and death tension and moral choices that is simply, beautifully told. But it for a young person and then borrow it for yourself!

The review before me liked this book but thought it was too short. A great book on Bonhoeffer is written by Eric Metaxas. His book is well written but about 800 pages and he documents everything. This book was written for teens (or adults who want a quick read) McCormick does a wonderful job of portraying the sometimes eccentric but always dedicated pastor and spy. I hadn't realized how many of Bonhoeffer's relatives were also involved in this plot. She includes a very helpful list at the beginning of the book of Bonhoeffer's relatives and co-conspirators. This is a great book for learning more about Bonhoeffer and Nazi Germany. Bonhoeffer was a great man in a trying time. I want more people to read about him and not everyone will tackle Metaxas's through biography.

Bought this book for my English class. Just received it today, and came in perfect condition. What I'm looking forward to is learning more about Bonhoeffer, and his choices. I know for certain that he chose the truth, even though for most of it, he had to stand alone. The book is very "straightforward to the details", without having to read irrelevant information. It also highlights other heroes who were part of the conspiracy, and their roles. If you're looking strictly for a book only about Bonhoeffer, and that goes into more detail about his life, this isn't the one. Nonetheless, this book is worth every penny, and worth reading to further your knowledge about German resistance during WWII.

Excellent book by Patricia McCormick. I pulled it from the public library for my 13 yr old son, and he was so impressed with it, that I then read it as well. McCormick clearly did her homework, it is well researched. She carries you along on a clear and concise timeline, that allows you to feel like you are experiencing it alongside Bonhoeffer. She is a fluid writer - this was an easy read, and kept me engaged enough to stay up late into the night. I loved how she included short, effective sidebars with more detail on critical historical information (like the versailles treaty, nuremberg laws etc) that helped me to understand the larger picture, without dragging out the excellent story. I had never heard of Bonhoeffer - and now feel she brought this incredible man back to life, while at the same time giving me insight into this important historical era. I will look for other books by her.

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