



The Man in the Box

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To thirteen-year-old Niki Lukasser, World War II

The Man in the Box Details

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From Reader Review The Man in the Box for online ebook

Mel says

The story of the man in the box is so secondary to the obsession of the pubescent children of the village. Is there really nothing else to do than to play with themselves and be concerned with who had sex with whom? I was terribly disappointed with this aspect of the book.

Some of the writing is good. One can feel compassion and sympathy for the main character when an accident happens. But the good parts are so far and few between all the sex that the book didn't become interesting until page 141. If I were to recommend it I suggest starting at that page.

Daniel Evans says

commendable

Galicius says

Hard going with this one already from chapter 2. It seems there is more about some young teenagers than about the man in the box. It doesn't look like I will get very far with this though it was highly recommended to me.

I made it through the self-appointed requirement of reading the first 100 pages of this difficult slog-through and called it quits.

Rich says

A work of fiction about a Jewish doctor hidden by an Austrian family. The small town of Sankt Vero is the setting for this story told by an adolescent boy, Niki. Trying to maintain some kind of normalcy surrounded by extraordinary circumstances and unique characters leads to a very interesting tale.

Chris says

I like this book a lot. The only thing that bothered me was that I could never figure out if Niki was a boy or a girl. It was sort of ambiguous, I thought.

Caroline says

Throughout the book I couldn't help but be amazed how the characters seemed to think the Jew should be grateful, ignoring the fact this man was living in a coffin-sized box, unable to move about, consisting of a potato or thin soups each day, unable to bathe, get fresh air, stay warm in winter, cool in summer... At

least his ending is as happy as a WWII Jewish man's story could be....

Laurie Jameson says

This was not the type of story I was expecting. Instead of being about "The Man in the Box", it was more about a teenage boy's coming of age. It was still a good read, just not what I thought it would be.

Carolyn Mck says

Writers continue to find new ways to write about the Holocaust.

The man in the box is a Jew, Dr Weiss, who is hidden by a family in an Austrian village in recognition of the fact that he saved the life of the son of the family some years before. The son Niki, now 13, is given responsibility for taking food to Dr Weiss each day. He shares his secret with his blind friend, Sigi and together they come to know the Dr's story and begin to understand the complexity of people's humanity, inhumanity and relationships.

While set around themes of isolation and persecution, this is above all a sensitively written coming of age story.

Elizabeth says

I was so excited about this book I set it aside so I would be able to dedicate more time to it's storyline. Unfortunately I only set myself up for disappointment. The Title storyline was interesting, & I can understand the need for an outside storyline because how many interesting pages could be expected from the point of one man trapped in a box for day after day, week after week, year after year? However the juxtaposed life of the fellow villagers far to often turned to orgy-esque escapades that I found not only boring, but increasingly unnecessary to the story. Yes this is, in actuality, the story of a pre-pubescent boy whose family hides a Jewish man from the Nazi's, I understand he would be dealing with issues of his own sexuality, but so did Anne Frank & in that esteemed novel it still managed to further the story rather than hinder it.

Jean says

another holocaust book, but really good

Beth Shields-Szostak says

1st edition

Linzi Farris says

This book is about the Holocaust and a Jewish man the Nazis kept in a box. It is a realistic fiction book with some fantastical pieces. This would need to be read to an upper elementary student because some of the issues are more mature. However, I do believe it is a good book to read because it deals with history, culture, and how to treat others.

Gerry says

Holocaust era Austrian family hides a Jewish Doctor, and two teenagers are his only contact with the outside world. Disappointingly narrated only from kids' view, with little insight into the doctor's perspective.

Rebecca says

The book starts, "During the war, we kept our Jew in a box."

This is one of my favorite books. It's evocative, terrifying, gripping, melancholy and miraculous. The capacity for evil, love, and growth is explored. Never saccharine, and deeply meaningful, this is a wonderful book. It's about a Jewish doctor who is hidden by a family, whose son he once saved. His only contact is the son and his blind girlfriend. The novel is about the doctor and the teenagers, as they grow and he regresses from lack of contact with the world. The writing is powerful and starkly haunting.

Rachel says

The characters were perfect.
