



# The Klipfish Code

*Mary Casanova*

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## **The Klipfish Code** Mary Casanova

The year is 1942, and Norway is under Nazi occupation. Twelve-year-old Marit has decided to take action, despite her grandfather's warnings. But will her plan work? Can she really complete her part of this secret code? And even if she can, would it make any difference to the Resistance?

As this novel reveals what Norwegian people did to preserve their dignity and freedoms, it uncovers a startling statistic: the German secret police systematically rounded up one teacher in ten and sent them to concentration camps for their refusal to teach Nazi propaganda to Norwegian schoolchildren. Set on an island of sturdy fishing trawlers and brightly painted homes, with smells of kelp and salt water, here is a riveting novel about risks taken, secrets kept, and, always, questions about whom to trust.

## **The Klipfish Code Details**

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Author : Mary Casanova

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## From Reader Review The Klipfish Code for online ebook

### Carie says

Yet another perspective of World War II - this time the setting is in occupied Norway. This feels like a perfect book for 3rd-4th grader who is interested in the subject. The horrors of the holocaust aren't depicted in this story, yet the oppression and tactics of the Nazis becomes clear. Having been to Norway myself, I had a connection to this story.

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### Elsie says

This was a very good book and a great little story for kids. It gave a great insight into the history of Norway during the second World War. This is a part of history that I really knew nothing about. It was very interesting to learn about the bravery and pride of the Norwegian people in their country and their heritage. And how they stood against the Nazi's and their propaganda. Good book. I hope I can encourage my grandkids to read this one.

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### Jjhockey24 says

“Klipfish Code”

Author, Mary Casanova

BOOM! BANG! Norway is getting bombed and Marit and her brother Lars rush downstairs where find their parents. “Get downstairs now!” Yells their dad. They run but don’t make it in time so instead, they hide under the kitchen table. It is morning and Marit and Lars find out that they have to be sent to an island with their aunt and uncle. At this point Marit is not happy. They are at the island with Aunt Ingeborg and Uncle Bestafar. Everything is different...

Mary Casanova lives in Ranier, Minnesota and grew up in St. Paul, Minnesota with 10 siblings. She has written 31 books and 7 American Girl Doll books and is a Newbery Honor winner.

The setting takes place in a village in Norway. There are houses on each side of the street and the village is located near the ocean. The novel occurs mostly in the fall and takes place in the year 1942.

The main character is Marit, a 12-year old who finds a way to fight against 5-year long Nazi occupation. She and her brother get separated from their parents. But Marit stays strong. She is trying to get the Nazi's to stop. And when her aunt gets taken away everything changes...

One strength is the author's description. for example, when she wrote "his pants were ripped like holes in cheese." I picture in my head what this will look like. Another strength is the beginning because right from the start, it grabbed your attention. so you won't want to put the book down. A weakness is that it was stormy the whole book because it said that there was storms when Marit and Lars were on a boat in the river. This weather makes the story sad. Another weakness is the book seemed gloomy and sad because they had to get separated from their parents and their aunt got taken away.

I would rate this book 4 stars because it has good description that makes you feel like you were there. And you could feel how the character was feeling. Will Marit and Lars survive the 5-year long Nazi occupation? What do you think? Read the story to find out! you won't be disappointed.

### **Sylvia says**

The Klipfish Code is about Marit and her little brother Lars. It takes place during the nazi occupation of Norway. From the invasion to them leaving the country. Marit and Lars' house gets bombed and they are forced to live with their Grandpa or Bestefar and their aunt. The story follows them through school during the occupation and everyday life during the occupation. I love this book because I love learning World War II in all the countries. This book is also loaded with plot twists. Though it is a little sad in some parts, I would recommend this book to anyone who likes realistic fiction history books.

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### **Katie Claussen says**

This book is a great book for students who are interested in history because it take real facts and sticks them with a girl who is living in the time period. The book works through her struggles of trying to stay alive while not completing listening to the Nazi's. I would recommend this book for older students, 4th -8th grade.

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### **Deb Farrell says**

A good young adult read. It was an interesting story about the Resistance in Norway during WWII. It's always interesting to hear the perspective from a child, about a very adult conflict. The young girl, Marit's role, in helping the Resistance and her final enlightenment about her grandfather was very moving. Some of our family has heritage from the Scandinavian area and so many references to food, clothing and the weather were familiar. A quick read and enjoyed it!

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### **Daniella Spriggs says**

The Klipfish Code by Mary Casanova is a good book. The main character is Marit who is 12 years old. She is in the middle of war trying to fix things and get her family back. She has to protect her little brother Lars. Two things I liked about the book is how Marit never gave up her mission even though it was hard. Also, in the book every time there is a word in German you could go to the Glossary in the back of the page and it gives you the definition, and how to pronounce it. I think people would enjoy reading this book.

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### **Hannah Scott says**

I really liked how the story was told from Marit's perspective, giving the reader a chance to better understand what the war was like for her while helping the Resistance and being away from her parents for over 5 years.

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### **I Love to Read! says**

A truly inspiring book about resistance to Hitler and the Nazi regime in Norway. I recommend this book to anyone!

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### **HW6thgrade says**

The story The Klipfish Code is about a girl Marit and a boy Lars, they are in trouble with all the Nazis surrounding them. They have to go live with their grandparents and Marit wants to know more about these Nazis so she goes exploring. I would recommend this book for fifth graders and above because this book is very serious and is talking about the war between the Nazis. I really liked this book because it was talking about history and I like history. Also, once you get into the book it goes into detail and is explained very well so you can get a better understanding of this topic.

In the end, you should read this book because it engages you and makes you think about the serious events that actually happened in our world a long time ago.

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### **Jennybeast says**

WWII Norway, good story, kids surviving with parents away in the resistance, aunt taken (defiant teacher), grandfather secretly ferrying people away. It's a long sweep of time, covers some of the ambiguity of war.

Good for tweens and upper elementary who are looking for a longer story. Nice alternative viewpoint on WWII.

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### **Michelle says**

3.75: Especially good option for middle grade readers interested in a WWII story set in Norway.

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### **Kelli says**

Good young adult fiction. I passed it on to my fifth grade daughter when I finished. I enjoyed the Norwegian references throughout. Good WWII book for intended audience...nothing too graphic, yet you empathize with main characters.

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### **Mali says**

A story of the Nazi occupation of Norway, told from the perspective of Marit, a girl whose parents join the resistance, leaving her and her brother to live with their fisherman grandfather and school teacher aunt. Marit longs to rebel, and support her family and her people, but the situation is complex. Even to talk to the Nazi soldiers may bring danger to her family or friends, much less to challenge them or fight back. The complexities are well described, and Marit makes choices that she isn't always proud of. The story was well

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developed. If I have any complaint it is that it feels a bit rushed; I might have enjoyed if she had lingered a bit more over the ambiguities (how did Marit really feel about Olaf and Kaptain? What did Hanna's mother think about what she was asked to do?). But of course the intended audience is young, and she might have lost a few readers by being too cerebral. And maybe I'm the culprit for rushing through the book. A side note about the end, for those who don't mind spoilers: (view spoiler).

Over all a great read for kids of any gender, ages ten and up (as well as adults).

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## Alex (not a dude) Baugh says

Military tactics of the Nazis when conquering countries was an early morning blitz attack from the sky by the Luftwaffe, dropping bombs cities, towns and villages to assert their power and scare people, followed by an invasion of foot soldiers who took over everything while folks were still stunned. That is exactly what the Nazis did on the morning of April 9, 1940 in Denmark and Norway.

Mary Casanova's novel, *The Klipfish Code*, begins just this way. In a small village in Norway, the blitz bombing has just woken up 10 year old Marit Gundersen and her family, giving them no time to even get down to the cellar for shelter. When it is all over, the house is in shambles, and beloved heirlooms destroyed. It doesn't take long for Marit's parents to decide to send her and her young brother Lars to live with their Aunt Ingeborg, a teacher, and their Bestefar, a grandfather with whom Marit does not like or get along.

As the summer days go by, the German presence increases all around Norway, including the small fishing island where they are now living, but luckily for Marit, she soon meets Hanna, a girl her age and the two become best friends. And, though Bestefar is a fisherman, Marit is kept busy with chores on the small farm he owns. Marit assumes she and Lars will go home to begin school when September arrives, but she is told they will be staying put and will go to school there. Aunt Ingeborg is Marit and Hanna's teacher.

Meanwhile, Marit notices that Bestefar is away on his fishing trawler more and more frequently, and for days at a time, which is fine with her since it means she doesn't have to put up with his constant criticism. But when he is home, and Marit watches as he submissively hands over milk, cheese, eggs and any other food as their "donation" to the German soldiers, leaving barely anything to the family to live on, she gets angrier and angrier at his lack of Norwegian spirit.

After all, as Marit notices, other Norwegians are surreptitiously showing their solidarity to Norway, to King Haakan VII, forced to flee during the invasion, and to the Resistance by wearing a paper clip or drawing the H7 enclosed in a V for victory\*. What's wrong with Bestefar, that he doesn't do anything? Even when the Germans arrest Aunt Ingeborg in the middle of class one day for defying one of their order, he remains submissive. And why don't her parents write more frequently, after all she hasn't seen them in two years, now? What are they doing? Marit is full of anger, but also frustrated that she can't do anything to help Norway.

That is until the day she races out of the house after angry words with Bestefar and stumbles on a young man who has been shot by the Germans and who turns out to be a Resistance worker. Though he is seriously injured, Marit, now 12, manages to get him to the loft in Bestefar's barn to hide, but she is finally forced to ask Hanna's mother, a nurse, to come look at him. Near death, Henrik asks Marit to complete his mission for him: delivering a compass to a house in another village and to tell them she needs a bucketful of Klipfish. It is a dangerous journey, not just because Marit would be drawn into Resistance activities, but the weather is against her as well as her own strength needed row a boat through treacherous waters. And worse, she would have to take Lars with her and put him in danger, too.

Now, given this opportunity to do something against the Nazis, does Marit have the courage to act on her convictions. Can she do what she believes Bestefar can't do?

There are two common threads running through all the WWII books I have read for children, teens and adults. The first thread is that each story, real or imagined, is unique. This may be due to the fact that so many are based on real events and in real life, everyone experiences the same event differently. The second thread is that no matter how different the story, at some point the protagonist will be asked to do something they didn't think they were capable of. And yet, so often, they do what they must, even when they are afraid, and at great risk. Sometimes they live to tell the tale and sometimes they die, but either way they act, they do something to sabotage the Nazis - even something as seemingly small as delivering a coded message concealed in a compass.

The Klipfish Code is told from Marit's point of view, so we are privy only to her thoughts, observations and conclusions. And the reader can watch her process as she begins to feel she needs to do something to thwart the Nazis in some way, and to demonstrate her loyalty to Norway. It isn't enough to just hate Nazis, that would make Marit too much like them. So, what we really see is how fear, determination, conviction and courage coalesce in Marit, and result to action. And that is what makes this such a great middle-grade novel.

This book is recommended for readers age 9+

This book was purchased for my personal library

Because The Klipfish Code offers such wonderful teachable aspects of WWII, there is a Teaching Guide available at <http://www.marycasanova.com/pdf/klipf...>

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