

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

Though there appears to be an abundance of Holocaust-themed books, Markus Zusak's "The Book Thief" stands out. Narrated by Death himself, this fictional book recollects the early life of Liesel Meminger, a foster girl living outside of Munich, as World War II devastates her and the people in her town. With the help of her kind and loveable accordion-playing stepfather, she learns to read, and shares her stolen books with neighbours during bomb raids, as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement. A powerful escape in a dark world, Liesel's books transform her reality and remind us of the indestructible force of the written word. Despite the intimidating length of the novel, I quickly became captivated by the protagonist, a young girl who loves reading as much as I do. As you witness the daily struggles of the characters, inspired by real stories told by the author's family, you will grow close to them, experiencing an emotional rollercoaster of anxiety and relief, compassion and hope.

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