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# Forced Journey: The Saga Of Werner Berlinger (Far And Away)



## Synopsis

2014 Silver Nautilus Book Award for Middle Grade Fiction 2015 New Mexico/Arizona Book Award  
Historical Fiction On the first day of war, September 1, 1939, 12-year-old Werner Berlinger receives a ship's ticket and passport precious items for a Jew in Germany at that time. Leaving his family and traveling alone, Werner has one goal:...get a foothold in America. A place to live, a safe home. That's what Father had said then he and his sister would follow. He'd promised Werner. That dimly burning ember of hope lit the boy's path... Along the way, Werner meets a charming, mischievous fellow refugee Anika, faces bullies and anti-Semitism, and makes new friends, all while caring for his new Mutti, Esther. In Werner's struggle to find a safe home in the U.S.A., he travels across the city from Second Avenue to Central Park to Harlem and back again. Forced Journey, The Saga of Werner Berlinger... is not only an interesting read but there were many times in the story when I felt that what happened to Werner was what happened to me. - Henry Frankel, President, One Thousand Children

## Book Information

Series: Far and Away (Book 2)

Paperback: 188 pages

Publisher: Kinkajou Press (March 5, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1932926321

ISBN-13: 978-1932926323

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.4 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #504,105 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #102 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Holocaust #243 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > United States > 20th Century #16537 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction

## Customer Reviews

Stories of people who suffered during World War II fill shelves of libraries and bookstores, yet readers never seem to lose interest in the most-innocent victims of global warfare the children. Rosemary Zibart presents a touching dramatization of a twelve-year-old Jewish boy sent to America on September 1, 1939, to escape the Holocaust danger lurking in Nazi Germany. In Forced Journey: The Saga of Werner Berlinger, the title character boards a ship with the lingering hope of

reuniting with his father and younger sister Bettina as soon as they can safely make the trip. Alone and scared, he sails to the United States as a refugee, meeting a sweet girl named Anika along the way. Upon reaching the rough and rowdy streets of New York, they must part company as she joins an austere, wealthy family to live in an upscale apartment building near Central Park. In a less-affluent area, Werner can find comfort only in the hope that his handicapped sponsor, Esther, a polio-stricken woman in a wheelchair, will be a good substitute mother. Caring for her daily needs is his responsibility, but fitting into this new, sophisticated city will be difficult, even with a loyal friend named Sam at his side. *Forced Journey* is the second book in Zibart's series about displaced and relocated children and teens. The book is a collection of heartwarming yet painful accounts of youth struggling to adapt to foreign environments from 1939 to 1945, a tumultuous period in world history. Loosely based on true events, these fictionalized characters are imbued with a realism that helps create vivid personality portraits, as seen in children like Werner Berlinger, a curious, resilient boy on the cusp of puberty. Few adults would exhibit the courage and stamina evident in his psyche as he explores his surroundings with enthusiasm and trepidation. Zibart offers readers a vivid glimpse of the sheer will to live that must control burgeoning fear and anxiety in a strange, somewhat hostile, environment: All morning his stomach had been tossed by a jumble of emotions excitement, worry, joy and sadness. Leaving the ship meant taking one more step away from everything he knew away from Father and Bettina and toward an unknown future. Already he could hear the jabber of that strange language, English. And he couldn't understand a single word. Rosemary Zibart is an award-winning playwright and inspirational author known for her support of children's rights. Informative without resorting to a pedantic delivery, this professionally packaged book is a well-edited adventure that will appeal to young readers wanting entertainment as well as teachers seeking quality literature for the classroom. Zibart emphasizes unfair practices and insensitive resistance to immigrants in an era when no one could afford to let anyone, not even a child, have a discounted ticket to freedom. --Foreword Review

Rosemary Zibart is a storyteller who's worked on film scripts, magazine articles, picture books, young adult novels, essays, plays, and screenplays. Her newspaper and magazine articles tackled issues such as how art can transform the lives of at-risk teens and the Heart Gallery that promotes the adoption of children and teens. As a playwright, she has written award-winning plays for adults and children like *All Too Human*, *The Jewel in the Manuscript*, and *My Dear Doctor*. In 2004, she received an Angel in Adoption award from the National Coalition on Adoption Institute. Rosemary lives in Santa Fe. Learn more about her at [rosemaryzibart.com](http://rosemaryzibart.com).

I think this book is well written, entertaining and timely. I recommend it for all family members and teachers with middle school age children. The book deals with a timely subject that has not been learned yet. Our children must lead the way. Read it in your homes and schools.P.S. I read the book to my Mother (93 years old) and she loved it!Sondra Highfill - Tulsa, Oklahoma

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