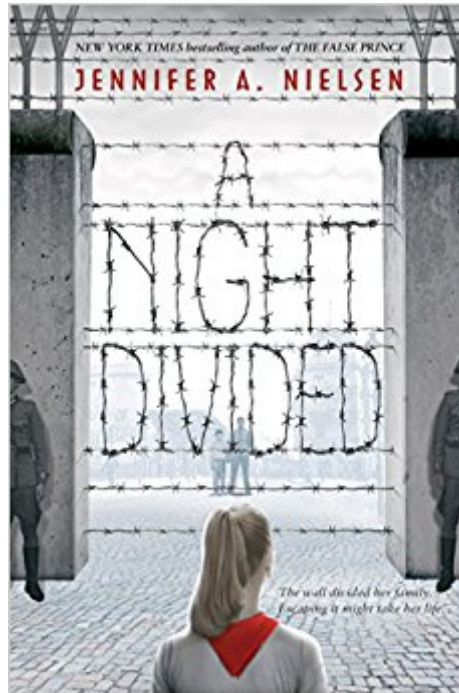




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A Night Divided



Synopsis

From NYT bestselling author Jennifer A. Nielsen comes a stunning thriller about a girl who must escape to freedom after the Berlin Wall divides her family between east and west. With the rise of the Berlin Wall, twelve-year-old Gerta finds her family suddenly divided. She, her mother, and her brother Fritz live on the eastern side, controlled by the Soviets. Her father and middle brother, who had gone west in search of work, cannot return home. Gerta knows it is dangerous to watch the wall, to think forbidden thoughts of freedom, yet she can't help herself. She sees the East German soldiers with their guns trained on their own citizens; she, her family, her neighbors and friends are prisoners in their own city. But one day, while on her way to school, Gerta spots her father on a viewing platform on the western side, pantomiming a peculiar dance. Then, when she receives a mysterious drawing, Gerta puts two and two together and concludes that her father wants Gerta and Fritz to tunnel beneath the wall, out of East Berlin. However, if they are caught, the consequences will be deadly. No one can be trusted. Will Gerta and her family find their way to freedom?

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 188 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #4,021 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Europe #31 in Books > Children's Books > Mysteries & Detectives #234 in Books > Children's Books > Action & Adventure

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Gr 5â8âIt's August 13, 1961. Young Gerta wakes up to see that the Berlin Wall has been built overnight, dividing not only her city but her family. Her father and brother Dominic went looking for work on the west side of the city and now they cannot return home. Gerta, her mother, and brother Fritz are trapped in East Berlin. Years pass and resentment of Russian oppression and her family's

separation make the now 12-year-old more than ready to take a dangerous chance when her father's smuggled clues encourage her to dig a tunnel to freedom. Nielsen, best known for her fantasy novels, proves she is equally skilled at historical fiction in this solidly structured, balanced account of the origins of an infamous historical landmark. Gerta is a sassy, determined heroine with realistic fears and frustrationsâlike her longing for a banana. Distinct supporting characters each react differently to Russian rule and demonstrate the harrowing choices people made to survive, encouraging readers to consider what they would have done if fate and history had cast them into the story. The novel is also an intriguing history of the Berlin Wall itself, detailing how and why it was built and citizens' first reactions. Opening each chapter is an inspirational quote about freedom and bravery juxtaposed with barbed-wire illustrations; the book's final quote ominously warns "History repeats itself." VERDICT The novel's strong setting and tense climax will keep readers engrossed and holding their breath until the last page.âMarybeth Kozikowski, Sachem Public Library, Holbrook, NY

Praise for the Ascendance Trilogy
A New York Times Notable Children's Book
A Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year
A Chicago Public Library "Best of the Best" Children's Book
A Cybils Award Winner
"A page-turner." -- The New York Times Book Review
"Sage proves to be a compelling character whose sharp mind and shrewd self-possession will make readers eager to follow him into a sequel." -- Wall Street Journal
"A swashbuckling origin story . . . chock-full of alluring details for adventure-loving boys." -- Los Angeles Times
"An impressive, promising story." -- Publishers Weekly, starred review
"A fast-paced and thrilling read with twists and turns that never let up." -- School Library Journal
"Gripping." -- Kirkus Reviews
"Should appeal to fans of . . . Suzanne Collins. . . A sure-fire mix of adventure, mystery, and suspense." -- The Horn Book

Wow! I love when a book leaves me breathless and overwhelmed by its powerful message. This YA book is perfect for adults. I loved the historical content about the Berlin wall built in the 1960s and how it affected families. In this book, the wall goes up overnight while the father and brother are over in West Berlin trying to find an apartment for their family to live in when they leave. Overnight a family is divided, and years go by without a word between them. The government is in control of their lives now. The easterners have no freedom, and are taught that freedom and individuality is evil, and those who want it are evil as well. Gerta is the 12-year-old heroine in this story. I absolutely loved that girl. What she goes through day by day is horrific, and her plan to get out courageous. This perfect is perfect, in my opinion. It has a great theme, deep characters who

struggle and struggle, a intriguing and terrifying setting in Communist East Berlin. I can't say enough good about it. It's definitely one of my new favorites. My son and I couldn't put it down once we started and finished in two days.

I didn't know this was a book for children but I did enjoy it. This is a story about life for the East Germans once the Berlin Wall was build. It stars Gerta, a young German, who wakes up to find a barbed wire fence erected around East Berlin. Two days earlier, her father and older brother had gone to look for work in West Berlin and now they are trapped there, separated from the rest of the family. The author does a great job of painting what life was like living in East Berlin. The food shortages, the paranoia that people are spying on you and the Stasi is always watching you and keeping notes. It is a story of the family trying to escape to West Berlin. I won't tell you of their plans but it is an intriguing one that they try to carry out. The ending is a little bit over the top.

Purchased this for my 16 yr old daughter who doesn't enjoy reading. Although it's described as being ideal for a slightly younger group, I think it works well for those a bit older as well. Clearly the description-- fast paced, keeps the reader engaged-- is accurate, as my daughter has hardly put the book down! In her words, "There was one section that literally had my heart pounding." In the world of screens, it's great to find a book that grabs one's attention!

I read this aloud with my son, and we both thought it was the most exciting book we had read in a long time. Its a wonderful story for those who are interested in this part of history, with many details included that made this an excellent choice for an extra read with a history lesson about the Berlin Wall. Glad we bought this one for a permanent spot on our bookshelf.

Jennifer Nielsen has delivered another delightful book. I wondered at first if I would enjoy it as much as her other books because it is a different genre. I should have known I would not be disappointed. I will encourage all my grandchildren to read this book so that they can appreciate this part of our world's history from a young woman's view and not from the graphic portrayals so often used. Well done!

The title of this review is nothing special, it's just what popped into my after I finish this book. At first I wasn't sure that this would be a good book but boy was I wrong. I don't know if any of the characters in this book were real but I think Jennifer A. Nielsen did a marvelous job on this book.

Young Gerta wakes up one morning to find her city and her family divided in two by the Berlin Wall. Her father and one brother on the west. Her mother, and another brother left with her on the east. How could this happen overnight? Author Jennifer Nielsen is a master of edge-of-your-seat, nail-biting, twisty-turny plots. She'll have your heart beating along with Gerta and her brother as they risk their lives attempting an unlikely escape to reunite their family. You will learn so much about life in eastern Berlin during the "Cold War" as you live there vicariously and see how fear can make people act in ways you'd never expect.

He loved the book. Read while he was here visiting and let me know he really enjoyed it after he finished it. So glad he loves to read and has read a trilogy by this author previously. Thanks to this author from a loving grandma!

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