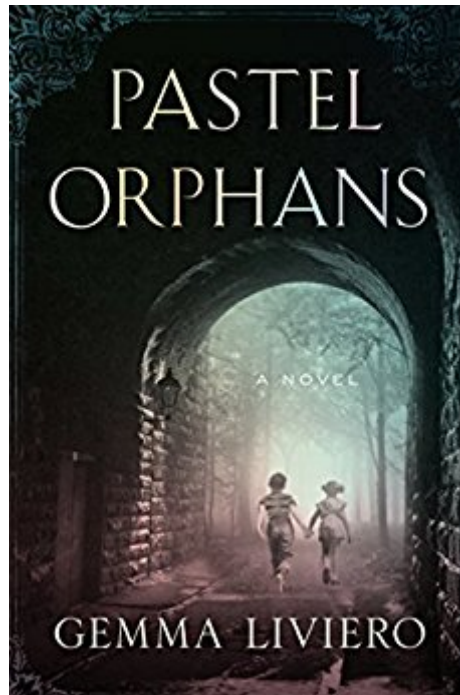




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# Pastel Orphans



## Synopsis

In 1930s Berlin, young Henrik, the son of a Jewish father and Aryan mother, watches the world around him crumbling: people are rioting in the streets, a strange yellow star begins appearing in shop windows, and friends are forced to move—or they simply disappear. After his father becomes gravely ill, Henrik and his little sister, Greta, are taken by their mother to Poland for safety. However, not even the pastoral surroundings of their new home can protect them from the terrors of war. When the Nazis invade and Greta is kidnapped, Henrik must shed his youthful innocence and search for his lost sister, a quest that will further reveal a harrowing landscape of violence and struggle—but also unexpected connections. Uniquely told from the perspective of youth plunged into adult chaos, *Pastel Orphans* is a coming-of-age story that explores profound lessons in self-belief, kindness, and human endurance. Revised edition: This edition of *Pastel Orphans* includes editorial revisions.

## Book Information

File Size: 3741 KB

Print Length: 353 pages

Publisher: Lake Union Publishing (June 2, 2015)

Publication Date: June 2, 2015

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00QXROA5A

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #1,826 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #5 in Kindle Store > Prime Reading > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction #5 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Historical > Jewish #6 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > German

## Customer Reviews

An amazing story of a terrible time, showing the true power of family. Gemma Liviero has brought to

life characters that you will feel drawn to. She paints you a picture of the life of a young boy growing up during the holocaust and his trials and loss during this time. It is an excellent read and so well written, it will make you laugh and cry, be prepared to lose yourself in this story.

My husband was a young child during the war and reading this and asking him if he remembers some of this he said yes and More. This book was well written, one story with maybe a thousand more to be told.

Having read much about World War II and the holocaust this book sounded authentic. Also about the fair haired and blue eyed children taken from their families to make a superior Aryan race; in this case seven year old Greta. Just had to keep reading to know how her brother, Henrik, would attempt the impossible task of finding the SS officer who took her, whilst avoiding vigilant German soldiers, a trigger-happy partisan and treachery. There are many suspenseful moments and a devastating event which leads to a surprise ending.

I did not expect that I would love this book. Reading what the book was about did not give me any inkling what happened in this book. I knew basic facts but never the length this boy would go in search of his sister. What happens in his quest is powerful. The author skillfully weaves seemingly unimportant events in the beginning of the book to important parts later in the book. One small example was learning to shoot a rifle. Very interesting read.

An insightful story, gripping and interesting. Great characters that you can relate to, an unusual angle to look at the war. A great read.

Very well written. It is so important that people keep alive the history of these events and the atrocities that occurred. In every situation, there are more sides to an event than is reported in history books and good and bad people in all situations. This story gave that perspective. I recommend it for everyone to read.

Pastel Orphans takes place in Germany and Poland during the period of ethnic cleansing by the Nazis. The story of a boy whose family leaves Berlin for the "safety" of Poland at the beginning of the story as the mother is a non-Jewish Pole married to a German Jew whose illness requires him to stay in Berlin. The mother and children pass themselves as Aryan but still undergo the atrocities

of Nazi occupation which did not limit itself only to Jews. The beautiful 10-year old daughter is stolen by a childless German officer and the 16-year old brother searches for her, putting his own life in jeopardy. While a rather "dark" story, it is a very good and very well written.

Read this book several months ago and forgot to give review. Many of the books I read are forgotten shortly after I have read them, but this one has stuck with me. I remember having a discussion with someone recently about the Jews and their treatment by the Nazis and this book came to mind in regards to blonde haired and blue eyed children that were wanted and therefore spared from the death camps.

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