My Mother's Secret

By J. L. Witterick

Reviewed by Connie Bennett, Vinton Public Library Clerk

A novel based on a true

Holocaust story

Once again, I have wandered out of my comfort zone to read a book that is non-fiction. Coworker Kellie Roberts ordered this book for herself, using interlibrary loan, but it was unfortunately left unguarded on her desk while I was sitting there. I confess that I was fifty pages in before Kellie returned and affectionately confiscated it.

In the 1940s, when Hitler's program was just coming into play, a young girl named Helena was living in a not-so-happy household in Germany. Her mother was originally from Poland, and returned to her homeland with her two children when the father began to fall into Hitler's insidious plan.

A second story is then told, of a young family in Poland, and the trials they face during this same time period. Next, the storyline goes to one of the Nazi soldiers, and how he meets and become friends with Helena's family. You MUST read this book if possible. The intricate story of the intertwined lives of the people in a small Polish town in the 1040s is so interesting and inspiring that it simply HAS to be read! Mother really did have a secret, and it could have cost her her life.

This book is an international bestseller, and was a finalist for the International Jewish Book Award. It can be borrowed from several Iowa libraries at no charge, for your reading enjoyment. It is well worth the effort!

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