

Why Do They Hate Me? Young Lives Caught in War and Conflict

By Laurel Holliday

True stories...

Real voices...

"The day for deportation arrived. We knew our end was near." -- Janina Hesse, Poland

From the centuries-old enmities of Northern Ireland, to the Holocaust and World War II, to the Israel-Palestine conflict, young people share their innermost secrets of growing up.

"I'm not allowed to go out with Neil, but the attraction is there between us. I realise that here in Northern Ireland relationships between Catholics and Protestants are strained. But should religion affect how you view a person?" -- Lisa Burrows, Northern Ireland

Unable to talk openly, these young people took refuge in writing. Often they had to hide their journals and set down their thoughts in secret.

"The Intifada -- that was the start of my grown-up life....The echoes, the ghosts, and the voices make me wonder: Will I ever be able to forgive and forget? Will time ever bury such a tragedy and help me to start over again as a normal human being?" -- Ghareeb, the West Bank

On these pages they vividly record their experiences and offer eyewitness accounts of fear and courage, tragedy and triumph.

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Grade 7 Up-In a compilation of excerpts from three of her previous books, Holliday offers a cross-section of moving, thought-provoking, and sometimes heart-wrenching first-person narratives. They are reminiscences and diary entries of teens who endured persecution, war, and civil conflict. Each piece is introduced by a brief biographical sketch and, in cases where the author actually interviewed the person, her own thoughts and commentary. The conflicts included vary greatly in time and location: World War II and the Holocaust, the sectarian violence between Protestants and Catholics in Northern Ireland beginning in 1969, and the Arab-Israeli conflicts beginning in 1948. Readers will be caught up by the immediacy of these narratives and impressed by the courage and emotional strength of youth coping with dangers over which they have no control. A simple black-and-white map shows where the writers lived during their experiences.

Remembrances of Holocaust survivors and victims exist in abundance but this collection's value lies in its inclusion of voices and experiences from other conflicts as well. The entries in the "In Their Own Voices" series (Rosen) are briefer and tend to focus on the adjustment to life in the U.S.

Douglas Wooley, Brooklyn Public Library, NY

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From [Booklist](#)

Holliday has edited three adult books in which children speak of growing up in a war zone: one about children during the Holocaust and World War II; one about "The Troubles" in Northern Ireland; one about Israel and Palestine. In this paperback, she includes excerpts from those books, in three separate sections. Each section is complete in itself, with a thoughtful introduction to the history, politics, and moral issues of the region. The children speak in secret diaries, letters, essays, and memoirs. They are anguished, sometimes raging, sometimes hopeful, but there's no easy, upbeat solution. Of course, there's always the danger of calling every racial problem a holocaust, but having children's experiences from several places in one book opens connections for the Holocaust curriculum as well as for group discussion about tolerance in the neighborhood and on the international front. *Hazel Rochman*

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Why Do They Hate Me? Young Lives Caught in War and Conflict by By Laurel Holliday Reader Review Online

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