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Run, Boy, Run

By Uri Orlev



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Run, Boy, Run By Uri Orlev

“Srulik, there’s no time. I want you to remember what I’m going to tell you. You have to stay alive. You have to! Get someone to teach you how to act like a Christian, how to cross yourself and pray. . . . The most important thing, Srulik,’ he said, talking fast, ‘is to forget your name. Wipe it from your memory. . . . But even if you forget everything—even if you forget me and Mama—never forget that you’re a Jew.”

And so, at only eight years old, Srulik Frydman says goodbye to his father for the last time and becomes Jurek Staniak, an orphan on the run in the Polish countryside at the height of the Holocaust. With the danger of capture by German soldiers ever-present, Jurek must fight against starvation, the punishing Polish winters, and widespread anti-Semitism as he desperately searches for refuge. Told with the unflinching honesty and unique perspective of such a young child, Run, Boy, Run is the extraordinary account of one boy’s struggle to stay alive in the face of almost insurmountable odds—a story all the more incredible because it is true.



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Run, Boy, Run By Uri Orlev Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Reviewed with Jerry Spinelli's *Milkweed*. Holocaust survivor stories for teens run the risk of being either too brutal or too sentimental. These two novels avoid sensationalizing the violence because, in each case, the protagonist is a child too young to understand what's going on, which distances the horror. In both books the child is saved, but there's no radiant uplift about rescuers. Yes, some heroes do hide the children and help them, but as John Auerbach shows in his adult autobiographical story collection, *The Owl and Other Stories* [BKL S 15 03], which centers on escaping the Warsaw ghetto, luck and wild coincidence were a large part of what enabled a few to live.

Part survival adventure, part Holocaust history, these novels tell their story through the eyes of a Polish orphan on the run from the Nazis. Orlev is a Holocaust survivor, and his award-winning novels about being a child in the Warsaw ghetto, including *The Man from the Other Side* (1991), are widely read. This new story is not based on his own experience, but it does come from real life--the experience of an illiterate ghetto survivor who escaped into the Polish countryside, stealing, foraging, begging, working. The boy is nurtured by some and hated by many. He hides his circumcision and invents a Catholic identity; he forgets his real name, his family, and the street where he lived. In one unforgettable incident, he loses his right arm because a Polish doctor refuses to operate on a Jew. He survives, immigrating to Israel, where Orlev hears him tell his story. The narrative is simple and spare, factual about everything from hunting with a slingshot to making a fire with a piece of glass, and it's always true to the viewpoint of a boy who thinks he is "about nine."

In contrast, Spinelli's narrative is manic, fast, and scattered, authentically capturing the perspective of a young child who doesn't know if he's a Jew or a Gypsy; he has never known family or community. He lives by stealing; his name may be Stopthief. Unlike Orlev's protagonist, this boy lives in the ghetto, where the daily atrocities he witnesses-- hanging bodies, massacres, shootings, roundups, transports--are the only reality he knows. His matter-of-fact account distances the brutality without sensationalizing or lessening the truth. He first finds shelter with a gang of street kids, where one fierce older boy protects him, invents an identity for him, and teaches him survival skills. Later he lives with a Jewish family. The history is true, so although Spinelli's narrator is young, the brutal realism in the story makes this a book for older children. Both novels end with what seems to be a contrived escape, though in Orlev's story, the ending is true. Add these stirring titles to the Holocaust curriculum; the youth of the protagonists allows them to ask questions and get answers that will help readers learn the history. *Hazel Rochman*

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Review

"The novel has obvious relevance fro studies of the Holocaust." KLIATT 11/01/07 KLIATT

About the Author

Uri Orlev was born in Warsaw in 1931. In 1996, Uri Orlev received the the highest international recognition given to an author of children's books. He now lives in Jerusalem.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Charles Wilkerson:

This book untitled Run, Boy, Run to be one of several books this best seller in this year, that's because when you read this book you can get a lot of benefit on it. You will easily to buy this specific book in the book retail store or you can order it by way of online. The publisher in this book sells the e-book too. It makes you quickly to read this book, as you can read this book in your Mobile phone. So there is no reason to your account to past this e-book from your list.

Kenneth Handy:

The book Run, Boy, Run will bring someone to the new experience of reading the book. The author style to spell out the idea is very unique. When you try to find new book you just read, this book very suitable to you. The book Run, Boy, Run is much recommended to you to see. You can also get the e-book in the official web site, so you can more easily to read the book.

Mary Mohammad:

Is it a person who having spare time then spend it whole day through watching television programs or just resting on the bed? Do you need something new? This Run, Boy, Run can be the solution, oh how comes? A book you know. You are therefore out of date, spending your extra time by reading in this brand new era is common not a nerd activity. So what these publications have than the others?

Brittany Gonzalez:

Do you like reading a book? Confuse to looking for your chosen book? Or your book seemed to be rare? Why so many query for the book? But virtually any people feel that they enjoy regarding reading. Some people likes studying, not only science book but additionally novel and Run, Boy, Run as well as others sources were given expertise for you. After you know how the good a book, you feel would like to read more and more. Science publication was created for teacher as well as students especially. Those publications are helping them to bring their knowledge. In some other case, beside science guide, any other book likes Run, Boy, Run to make your spare time considerably more colorful. Many types of book like this.

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