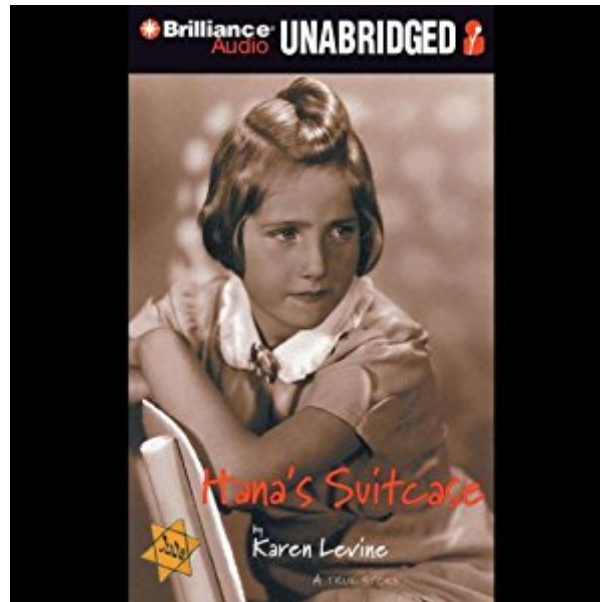




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Hana's Suitcase: A True Story



Synopsis

In March 2000, a suitcase arrived at a children's Holocaust education center in Tokyo, Japan. On the outside, in white paint, were these words: Hana Brady, May 16, 1931, and Waisenkind – the German word for orphan. Children who saw the suitcase on display were full of questions. Who was Hana Brady? What happened to her? They wanted Fumiko Ishioka, the center's curator, to find the answers. In a suspenseful journey, Fumiko searches for clues across Europe and North America. The mystery of the suitcase takes her back through seventy years, to a young Hana and her family, whose happy life in a small Czech town was turned upside down by the invasion of the Nazis. Like the very best of museum exhibits, Hana's Suitcase shows how facts and objects can be put together to honour its subject in a very personal and loving way. Highly recommended.

• "The Toronto Star" Skillfully, and with great sensitivity, Levine weaves together the two stories, alternating that of a young life shattered in increments and that of Fumiko Ishioka's relentless search for answers.

• "The Globe and Mail" --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a children's book, but it is a well done children's book. In March of 2000, a suitcase arrived at a children's Holocaust education center in Tokyo, Japan. There was the name of a young girl painted on it, and from there the mystery progressed. The children in the center wanted answers about the suitcase. Where had it come from? Whose name was on it? This prompted the director of the center, Fumiko Ishioka to set out on a search across Europe, a search for information that was

almost 70 years old. I thought this was a great book, I never really thought about how to teach Japanese children about the Holocaust. Seeing as they are physically so far removed from Europe would present real challenges. A good book for children to learn about the horrors of the Holocaust, but, in an age appropriate way.

I'm always interested in reading about the Holocaust!

An intriguing true story. I loved the photos along with the narrative about Hana and her experiences. Fumiko is a special teacher who directed the Japanese children to find answers about Hana's suitcase. I would recommend this book for older children to learn about the lives of Jewish children in the 1930-1940 time period. Even as an older adult, I could not lay the book down until it was done.

This was a forced purchased for mandatory summer reading last summer. Both my 10 year old daughter and I enjoyed the book. Instead of reading it in order we read the chapters from the past first and then the chapters from present day...chronological order. That made it easier for her to understand. I would recommend this book to any 4-6 grade child. Tells a good story and teaches life lessons. No wonder it was a mandatory assignment.

I didn't dislike anything about this book. I would recommend this book to anyone who is interested in the Holocaust and my cousin. I choose the rating because it really touches my heart.

Wonderful for children 10-12

I want my children to learn about the Holocaust, but not in a way that would overwhelm them. I found Hana's Suitcase to be perfect for my elementary-age children. We discover Hana in a way that makes her real, especially since there are photographs of her throughout the story. This true story of a Japanese woman who tries to find out more about Hana was in itself a story; she showed great perseverance to achieve her goal of helping bring Hana's story to the children there as the Holocaust hasn't been a regularly-discussed subject in Japan. An easy read, but long enough to spend some quality time with the subject. I recommend this book.

Wonderful story. I enjoyed reading it (as an adult) very much. I did feel like it is more geared

towards kids, but an amazing book still the same.

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