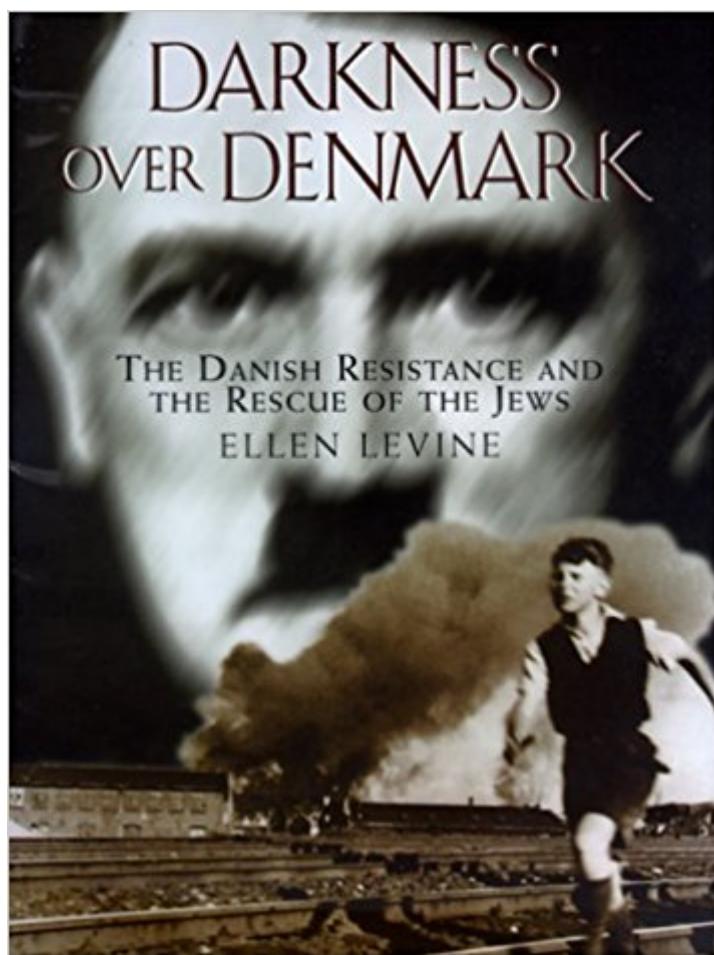


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# Darkness Over Denmark: The Danish Resistance And The Rescue Of The Jews



## **Synopsis**

The remarkable story of collective and individual acts of bravery and altruism. Photos, map, bibliography, index.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 890L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 164 pages

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Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

Readers who have thrilled to Lois Lowry's Number the Stars or Bjarne Reuter's The Boys from St. Petri will want to explore this sober volume about the Danish response to the Nazi occupation. Levine (If You Traveled on the Underground Railroad) debunks some widely believed legends about Danish resistanceAfor example, that every Dane wore a yellow Star of David when the Germans ordered the Jews to do so (in fact, the Germans never promulgated this order in Denmark). As she persuasively demonstrates, however, those legends reflect truths about the Danes in their essential solidarity and rejection of Nazi thinking. While she lists the factors that gave Denmark advantages over other Nazi-occupied countries, she also focuses on the experiences of individuals who, almost as a matter of course, risked their lives to defy the Nazis. Unlike many writers, she treats the extraordinary rescue of nearly the entire Danish Jewish population in October 1943, as only part of the story of the resistance, in fact positing that Nazi persecution of the Jews and the success of the rescue mission led to enormous popular support for the resistance. Beyond saving the Jews, Danes sabotaged munitions factories, supplied critical information to British bombers and organized devastating strikes. The author cross-cuts from a general narrative to focus on specific persons; it is

sometimes difficult to keep track of these individuals, but virtually all their stories are inspiring. Well-chosen photos add impact to this dramatic history. Ages 10-up. (June) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 5-8-This fascinating account pays homage to the remarkable efforts of the Danish people to smuggle the vast majority of their country's Jewish citizens to safety in Sweden during World War II. Interspersed with the straightforward history are first-person accounts of the war years, mainly based on the author's interviews with Danes who escaped, assisted with escapes, or joined the resistance. These accounts help make these increasingly distant events come alive. The well-chosen black-and-white period photographs and reproductions add to the text, and the cover (a montage with Hitler's face looming over a scene of a burning rail yard and running boy) is particularly striking. The brief biographies of the people interviewed, telling what they did during and after the war, make for touching reading. An excellent history and an inspired complement to Lois Lowry's Number the Stars (Houghton, 1989). Todd Morning, Schaumburg Township Public Library, IL Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

I lived through the German Occupation of Denmark From April 9,1940 to May 5,1945( when General Montgomery freed the Danes from the Germans) ending the occupation. I know several of the stories from the book to be very much accurate and brought many memories to me from personal experiences . The book is very readable and well written, I was very impressed with the fact that ordinary Danes took the chance of hiding fellow Danish jews risking being shot if caught and together helped save approximately 8000 jews from concentration camps, and certain extermination, called by Hitler ; " The Final Solution.". About 400 Jews were caught by the Gestapo because they could not believe they were going to be rounded up and like cattle shipped to concentration camps in countries under german control. The Editor for Good Housekeeping for a good number of years researched this book by interviewing people who lived through it all and could add to these stories the changes in Denmark and in their own lives to the present day and most of them are still alive today and living in Denmark. They will never forget their experiences , nor will I.

I know this book was designed for ages 10 and up but I believe it was well done and thoughtful enough for many adults as well. Providing many photos of the people involved and at the end giving descriptions of where they are now was very helpful. And it was good to know that the author had shared her writings with them for review and editing before the final draft. Many times people are

interviewed and later find their words were misrepresented somehow. It was a great read because it is important for people to see that although Hitler was an evil psychopath with a lot of power and charisma, even he would not be able to plow through a place like Denmark where the common people thought of Jews as fellow Danes. Well done, Ellen Levine. And thanks to all those who contributed their stories. We will never forget.

This is a well-written account of the remarkable thing that happened in Denmark during WWII, when a small country refused to separate a group of its people and send them on to certain death. There are many terrific individual stories in the book (many are told first-hand), among them the description of how, during the height of the war, a man in Denmark was arrested and convicted of vandalizing a synagogue in Copenhagen - right under the noses of the Nazis. It is not a fawning work; the book deals with the Danish Nazi collaborators. But above all it is a tale of a people who did not look at their neighbors and see Jews, but looked at their neighbors and saw Danes like themselves.

My Father was blocked from returning to Denmark during WWII by the Nazis. It was nice to read what his friends and family in Denmark did to resist the Nazis. An easy read that helps students understand the will and power of the Danish Resistance.

Excellent insight into the Danish Resistance during WWII. Highly recommend.

Good companion book for the novel Number the Stars. There are facts, photos and true stories of peoples lives to validate much of the historical novel.

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Interesting piece of History of Denmark.

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