



NORWAY WASN'T TOO SMALL

A FACT-BASED NOVEL ABOUT DARKNESS AND SURVIVAL

In 1940, Norway wasn't too small for Hitler. By the end of the war, Norway had lost a higher percentage of its Jews than almost any other country in Europe. This story, inspired by and based on the author's own experience as a Holocaust survivor and growing up Jewish in 1940s Norway, brings readers both young and old into the courageous struggles of one family to survive.

Budding artist Rebekka Davidson sketches the soldiers filling the school and streets, while her cousin Harald Rosenberg learns that he'd rather read about Hitler's politics than experience them. Talented musician Ingrid Rosenberg prepares to go to her dream school while experiencing the wonders of first love—with the nephew of the leader of the local Nazis. Together, the family will do whatever it takes to return to normal life...but will it be enough?

Hamilton Books, Publication April 2016

“A story of courage, loss, and dignity in the midst of Norway's holocaust – told by one who survived it. Norway's little-known story is an essential one for us to learn from, to record, to remember.”

—**Rebecca Makkai, author of *Music for Wartime***

“Irene Levin Berman’s riveting debut novel, *Norway Wasn’t Too Small*, is a coming of age tale about a budding young artist caught in the midst of a unique and tragic moment in history. Based on true events, this is the untold story of the Holocaust... It is a moving testament to the courage and resilience of those young people who, despite all odds, held fast to their hope and humanity in the Nazi era. This book will linger in the hearts of readers for years to come.”

—**Mira Bartók, *The Memory Palace***

“A superb and chilling accounting of the domestic details of two Norwegian families coping with the Nazi invasion. You grow and mature with the teenagers as they recognize the horror they face. Nothing like it! A must read.”

—**Gerry Bamman, actor and writer,
"Uncle Frank" in the *Home Alone* movies.**

“This fact-based story of the Holocaust is a compelling educational and literary experience for young readers and adults alike! The vivid reality of daily life in Nazi-occupied Norway, the escapes to Sweden aided by resistance workers, the hospital ploys to save Jewish patients, and the ultimate round up and deportation of Norwegian Jews to death camps are all thrilling and heartbreaking as seen from the perspective of two teens.”

—**Karin Stahl, Writer**

A Note from the Author

Irene L. Berman

My first book, a memoir, was “*We Are Going to Pick Potatoes*”, *Norway and the Holocaust, the Untold Story*. It consolidates my childhood experiences of the Holocaust in Norway and escape to neutral Sweden along with the merging of my new awareness of Hitler’s attack on the Norwegian Jews. The book covers my exile in Sweden from November 26, 1942 until the liberation on May 8, 1945.

But I feel that familiarizing readers with the story of Norway's past is insufficient. I wanted to provide a second, engaging and productive book, which will continue to spread knowledge and help disseminate the story of Norway's commonality with the rest of Europe's Holocaust experience. Our next generations need this knowledge.

The remembrance of six million people, those who have been annihilated in the worst human disaster ever, deserves to be made known and passed on to the next generations. In addition, I have an obligation to my family's own role to make certain that Norway doesn't vanish into the shadows due to its relatively minimal size and lack of familiarity.

My dream is to attract readers in a compelling way to experience what these times were like. *Norway Wasn't Too Small* is fact-based fiction, a true story that evolves from my own family's experiences and my creation of fictitious young people representing Norwegians of their age.

All the historical events and dates included in *NORWAY WASN'T TOO SMALL* are accurate and authentic. It blends realism with ordinary events, shares details of a number of others who experience the same horrors, yet who succeed in escaping, either by luck or help, or not.

This novel is created for young adults and the generations that came before them. It combines a thrilling story with the underlying principle that we must never forget the real stories of millions of people who failed to escape the darkness; they remain in our memories forever.

Irene Levin Berman, 2016

Author Biography



Irene Levin Berman was born and raised in Norway. As a young child in 1942 she escaped to Sweden, a neutral country during World War II, to avoid annihilation. Nazi Germany had invaded Norway and the deportation of two thousand Norwegian Jews had begun. Seven members of her father's immediate family were among the 771 victims who were unable to escape and were murdered in Auschwitz.

In 2005 Irene was forced to begin to examine the label of being a Holocaust survivor. Her strong dual identity as a Norwegian and a Jew led her to explore previously unopened doors in her mind. "*We Are Going to Pick Potatoes,*" *Norway and the Holocaust, The Untold Story* is not a narrative of the Holocaust alone, but the remembrance of growing up Jewish in Norway during and after WWII.

Irene Levin Berman, has lived in the United States most of her adult life. She is a professional translator of Scandinavian languages and has co-translated seven plays by Henrik Ibsen, Norway's renowned playwright. *Norway Wasn't Too Small* is Ms. Berman's second novel. To learn more, please visit the author's website www.norwayandtheholocaust.com. For a personally autographed copy of the book (\$19.00 including tax and free shipping) please contact Ms. Berman at IreneLberman@aol.com or call 860-242-5330. The book is also available from the publisher at www.rowman.com.

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