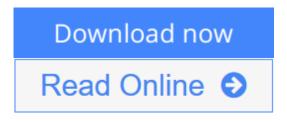
The girl with the white flag



By Tomiko Higa



The girl with the white flag By Tomiko Higa

New York Newsday called this memoir of a warhood childhood in Japan "one of the saddest and yet most uplifting books about childhood you will ever encounter."

Separated from her family in the confusion and horror of World War II, sevenyear-old Tomiko Higa struggles to survive on the battlefield of Okinawa, Japan. There, as some of the fiercest fighting of the war rages around her, she must live alone, with nothing to fall back on but her own wits and daring. Fleeing from encroaching enemy forces, searching desperately for her lost sisters, taking scraps of food from the knapsacks of dead soldiers, risking death at every turn, Tomiko somehow finds the strength and courage to survive.

Many years later she decided to tell this story. Originally intended for juvenile readers, it is sure to move adults as well, because it is such a vivid portrait of the unintended civilian casualties of any war.

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The girl with the white flag By Tomiko Higa Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

YA-- Higa tells of her experiences as a seven year old wandering for seven weeks in battle-torn Okinawa in 1945. Her nine-year-old brother was killed beside her as they slept. Separated from her sisters, she survived on her own and then with an elderly, handicapped couple. Although bloody corpses are a common sight, the book is not depressing. Aspects of Oriental culture and religion, such as the importance of family and the relationship of man to nature, can be seen. Sentences are usually short, but they don't detract from the effectiveness of this moving, autobiographical memoir. Recent immigrants from countries ravaged by war will find it particularly meaningful. All will be touched by Higa's tenacity under impossible circumstances and will be reminded that children continue to be the worst victims of war. --Claudia Moore, W. T. Woodson High School, Fairfax, VA

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From Library Journal

Iwo Jima, Saipan, Okinawa. The names of Pacific War battlegrounds conjure up vaguely similar memories to Americans above a certain age. But there was a difference. On Okinawa for the first time U.S. forces encountered a large civilian population. Estimates are that at least 75,000 Okinawan men, women, and children perished, many of them committing suicide rather than surrender. This book tells the story of the climax of this battle from the perspective of a seven-year-old girl, the author, who struggled against the odds to survive and to lead others to survival. Some rare photographs illuminate the ending to this simply told story, as the girl in the title comes into camera range of an American soldier. A charming story, a quick read for young and old alike.

- John H. Boyle, California State Univ., Chico Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Review

"One of the saddest yet most uplifting books about childhood you will ever encounter. ... A powerful document as well as a completely engrossing adventure." -Newsday

"[A] moving memoir... All will be touched by Higa's tenacity under impossible circumstances and will be reminded that children continue to be the worst victims of war." -School Library Journal

." .. her unaffected memoir serves as a reminder that in any war, 'noncombatants' suffer grievously." -Los Angeles Times Book Review

"A gripping story." -Mainichi Daily News

"A testimony to the resilience of the human spirit. [It] is a short book that you will not be able to put down once you start to read it." -City life News

..".an original, candid, and attention gripping autobiographical narrative which is superbly written and

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Robert Riggio:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important behave, like looking for your favorite book and reading a reserve. Beside you can solve your condition; you can add your knowledge by the publication entitled The girl with the white flag. Try to face the book The girl with the white flag as your good friend. It means that it can for being your friend when you feel alone and beside regarding course make you smarter than before. Yeah, it is very fortuned for you. The book makes you more confidence because you can know almost everything by the book. So , let us make new experience and knowledge with this book.

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