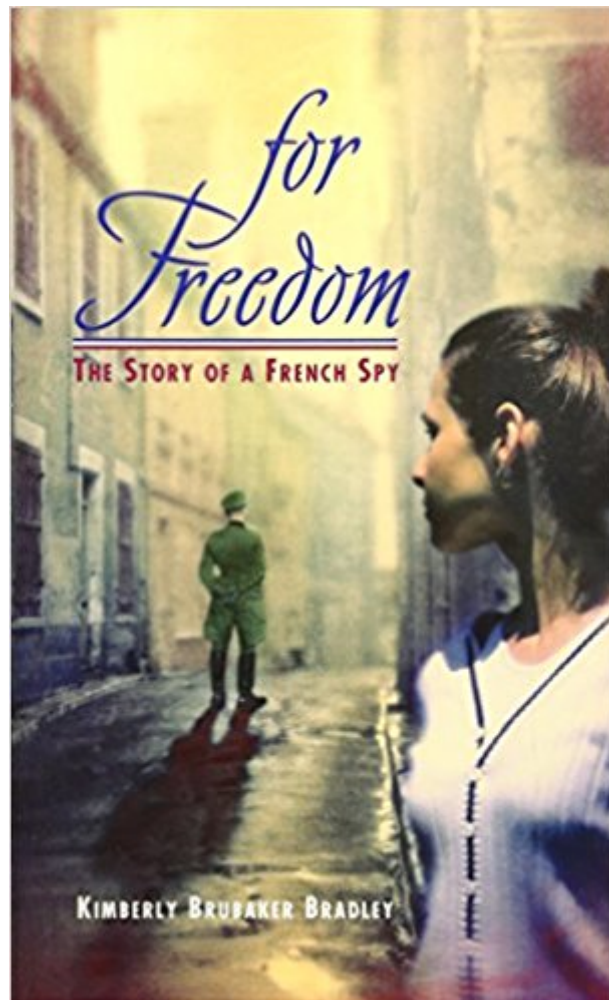




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For Freedom: The Story Of A French Spy



Synopsis

From the Newbery Honor and Schneider Award-winning author of *The War that Saved My Life* comes *For Freedom*, the thrilling true story of one of France's youngest spies during World War II and perfect for fans of *Code Name Verity* and *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Suzanne David's everyday life is suddenly shattered in 1940 when a bomb drops on the main square of her hometown, the city of Cherbourg, France, killing a pregnant neighbor right in front of her. Until then the war had seemed far away, not something that would touch her or her teenage friends. Now Suzanne's family is kicked out onto the street as German soldiers take over their house as a barracks. Suzanne clings to the one thing she really loves--singing. Her voice is so amazing that she is training to become an opera singer. As Suzanne travels around for rehearsals, costume fittings, or lessons, she learns more about what the Nazis are doing and about the people who are "disappearing." Her travels are noticed by someone else, an organizer of the French Resistance. Soon Suzanne is a secret courier, a spy fighting for France and risking her own life for freedom.

[STAR] "This taut, engrossing World War II novel instantly immerses readers,...[but] the real focus, however, is the skin-crawling suspense story about one of France's youngest spies. Each chapter brings new intrigue and often shocking revelations...resonat[ing] with authenticity, excitement, and heart."

-Booklist, Starred [STAR] "This suspenseful novel,...based on a true story, moves swiftly into action...Filled, but not laden, with the events of the war, and peppered with French language and the culture of music, this novel will appeal to readers who enjoy history and espionage."

-SLJ, Starred [STAR] "Based on Bradley's interviews with the real Suzanne, this is an exciting account of a girl's coming of age in a scary time. The historical context is neatly woven into the story."

-Kirkus Reviews, Starred "The action will have readers on the edge through the tense conclusion, and the epilogue is not to be missed."

-The Bulletin "A highly compelling look at the covert battle for freedom."

-Publishers Weekly An IRA Teachers' Choice An ALA Amelia Bloomer Selection A VOYA Top Shelf Fiction Selection A New York Public Library Book Pick A Bank Street College Best Book of the Year From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 580 (What's this?)

Mass Market Paperback: 192 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 46 customer reviews

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[Historical Fiction > Holocaust](#) #70 in [Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Military](#) #83

in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Europe](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Grade 6-8-Life for Suzanne David, a 13-year-old French schoolgirl and music apprentice, dramatically changes in May, 1940, when she and her best friend witness the brutal death of a neighbor when a bomb drops directly in front of them. Soon the Germans take over Cherbourg, and the Davids are forced from their home into poverty. Then Suzanne is given the opportunity to help the Allies. Bravely, she risks her life, family, and singing career in order to spy for the Resistance. The pace of this suspenseful novel, told in first person and based on a true story, moves swiftly into action within the first chapter, showing the young heroine as strong, courageous, and clever. Filled, but not laden, with the events of the war, and peppered with French language and the culture of music, this novel will appeal to readers who enjoy history and espionage. Kimberly Monaghan, Vernon Area Public Library, IL Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 6-12. Teenage Suzanne David is so focused on her dreams of becoming an opera star that she barely notices the growing Nazi presence in her French hometown of Cherbourg, until an air raid in 1940 literally puts the death and devastation at her feet. Her innocent appearance, iron will, and schedule as a singer-performer attract the attention of a local Resistance leader, who recruits her to become a spy and entrusts her to transport encoded Allied messages. Based on interviews with the real Suzanne David (who married an American soldier in 1945 and moved to Tennessee), this taut, engrossing World War II novel instantly immerses readers in the horrors faced by everyday citizens during the Nazi Occupation. The real focus, however, is the skin-crawling suspense story about one of France's youngest spies. Each chapter brings new intrigue and often shocking revelations, made all the more intense by the facts about codes and disguises and the fast-paced, first-person

narration. There aren't many accounts for young readers about the French Resistance, and from setup to conclusion, this one resonates with authenticity, excitement, and heart. The teenage hero who must keep her spying a secret, even from her parents, will thrill historical fiction fans. Roger Leslie

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This book was so good. It starts out with a climactic scene, where Suzanne and her best friend witness the first bombing of their French town, Cherbourg. As the story goes on, Suzanne relies more and more on her opera singing and training. She joins the French resistance and delivers messages through Cherbourg. I love this story! Kimberly Brubaker Bradley has outdone herself again. 6 stars!!!!

Was compared to "Code Name Verity" by Elizabeth Wein which this book doesn't touch in terms of depth, but it was a good, quick read. Other books by this author that are very good are: "Jefferson's Sons" and "The War that Saved My Life."

Kimberly Brubaker Bradley pulled me in with her book, The War that saved my life. So I tried this one out. I have to say, she is a good writer. Her ability to bring to life her characters in history is an amazing talent. She makes the emotional fragility of youth and horrific situations accessible. You are with the story, with the character back in time in a way that is magical. I look forward to reading more of her work.

My 12 year-old tore through this book in two days. She said it is exciting and suspenseful. My daughter is an avid reader, but this one kept her up until the wee hours of the morning. She wants me to read it soon so we can discuss the story line.

For Freedom was a good book, but it was a bit too long at parts. I kept waiting for the spying to start, but it didn't happen until late in the book. Overall, I thought it was boring at first, but it got more interesting once the spy stuff started. (Reviewed by: Thomas P.)

Well-written and interesting story. I would have liked an additional chapter or two in order to complete the story in a less rushed manner, but I enjoyed it.

another gripping story of people caught in world war 2 with a heroine who one has to be hoping will escape...all of the authors books are good reads.

I first got this book as a battle book i started to read more of it it was awesome. This is one of the books were u need to read more than the front page. I was surprised because the beginning was not "slow" like most books are it get right too the topic i like that in a book but it still u get tho know the characters

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