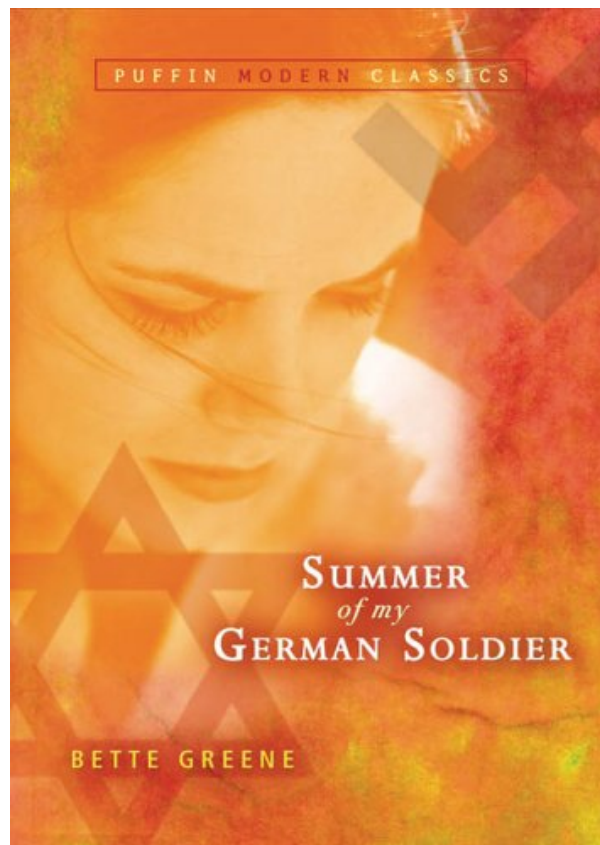
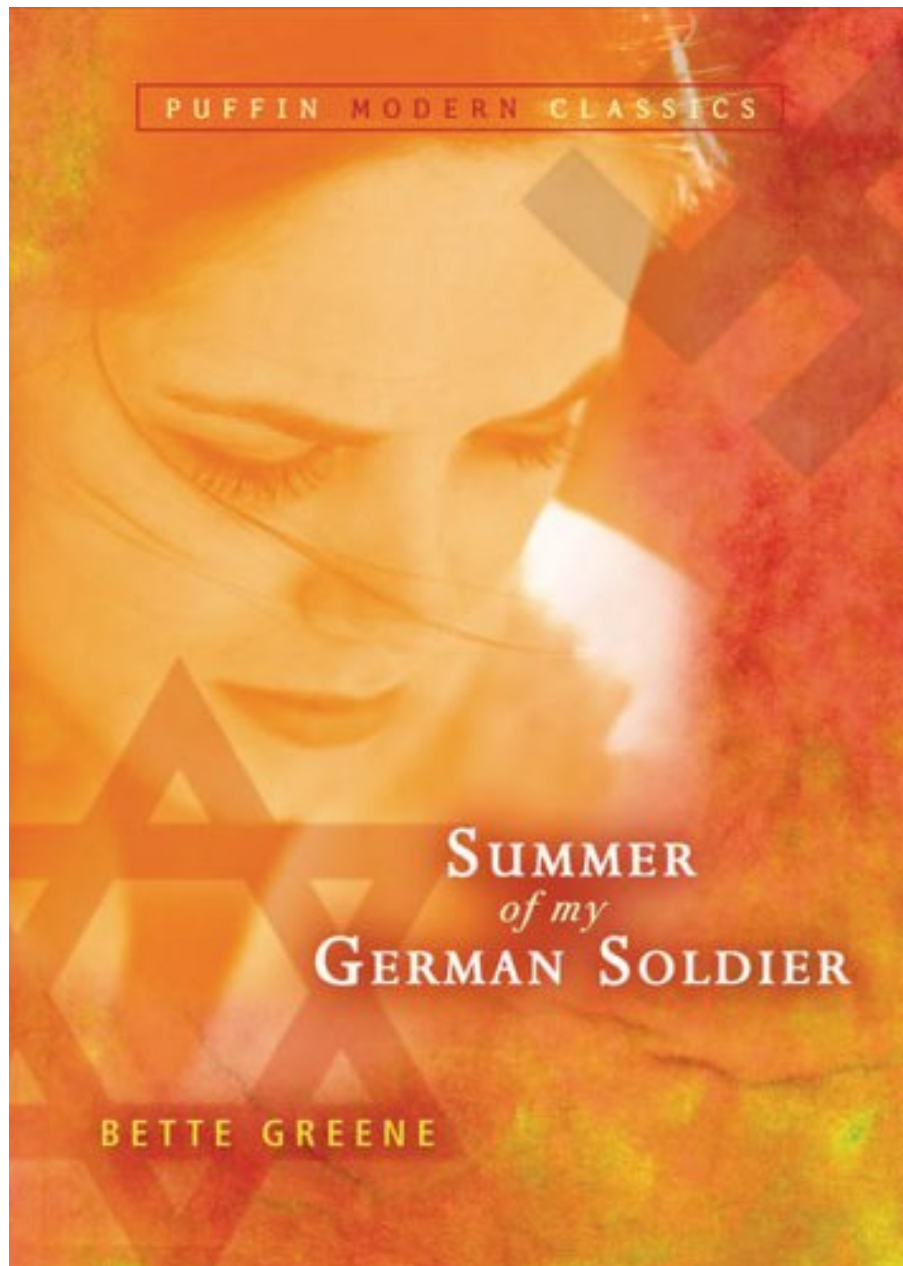


**SUMMER OF MY GERMAN SOLDIER
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Review

Courageous and compelling! -- Publishers Weekly

About the Author

Bette Greene's first novel, *Summer of My German Soldier*, hailed as "an exceptionally fine novel" by the *New York Times*, has become a modern classic. Published in 1973, this beloved book has inspired an Emmy Award-winning television film and a recent stage musical. The first book in the Philip Hall series, *Philip Hall Likes Me. I Reckon Maybe.*, was a 1975 Newbery Honor Book and a 1974 *New York Times* Outstanding Book of the Year. Born in a small Arkansas town, Bette Greene has lived in Memphis, Tennessee, Paris, France, and New York City. She now lives in Boston, Massachusetts.

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SUMMER OF MY GERMAN SOLDIER (PUFFIN MODERN CLASSICS) BY BETTE GREENE PDF

An emotional, thought-provoking book from multi-award-winning author Bette Greene.

The summer that Patty Bergen turns twelve is a summer that will haunt her forever. When her small hometown in Arkansas becomes the site of a camp housing German prisoners during World War II, Patty learns what it means to open her heart. Even though she's Jewish, she begins to see a prison escapee, Anton, not as a Nazi, but as a lonely, frightened young man with feelings not unlike her own.

In Anton, Patty finds someone who softens the pain of her own father's rejection and who appreciates her in a way her mother never will. While patriotic feelings run high, Patty risks losing family, friends — even her freedom — for this dangerous friendship. It is a risk she has to take and one she will have to pay a price to keep.

"An exceptionally fine novel." —The New York Times

"Courageous and compelling!" —Publishers Weekly

A National Book Award Finalist

An ALA Notable Book

A New York Times Outstanding Book of the Year

- Sales Rank: #49121 in Books
- Brand: Puffin
- Published on: 2006-04-20
- Released on: 2006-04-20
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.00" h x .63" w x 5.00" l, .42 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 240 pages

Features

- Great product!

Review

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Most helpful customer reviews

27 of 27 people found the following review helpful.

It's so worth reading again.

By Gift Card

I read this book when I was in the 7th grade. I must have read it a dozen times. Then one day I was sitting down thinking of books that have made an impact on my life. I tried to describe the book to anyone who would listen, but no one could help me remember the name. Finally, I sat back and thought about it, I said to self, well it was about a little girl and a German boy. Finally it came to me. Summer of My German Soldier. I could not download fast enough. For some reason I thought the book was longer and much more intense, but then I was only 11 when I first read it, and everything seems more dramatic when you are young.

I am so glad I downloaded and read it again. I have so many highlights in this short novel. I will keep this on my kindle forever and will revisit Patti, Ruth and her horrible parents again in a few years. This is in my opinion a wonderful book to give to a young person, no matter their gender. And now at 52 it might not be the book I remember as a child but the message is still the same. 4 stars!

14 of 15 people found the following review helpful.

Underwhelming For Me

By Kat

Patty Bergen is the eldest daughter of the Bergen family, who run the department store in the small town of Jenkinsville, Arkansas. For reasons known only to themselves, the Bergen's' treat Patty as more of a nuisance than a daughter, bestowing all their love and affection on their younger daughter, Sharon. Patty isn't the most popular girl in town, and being Jewish sets her even further apart from her peers. After watching German prisoners of war being transported to the nearby POW camp, a chance meeting with one young soldier sets the scene for Patty's story.

Summer of My German Soldier explores themes of 1940's America and the effect of the war on ordinary Americans who, naturally, view the Germans as the enemy and have no tolerance, nor understanding for young soldiers who have ended up in a country where they do not speak the language, far from their homes.

Although I enjoyed the story, I was slightly disappointed with the ending, which was quite abrupt. I would also have liked to know more about what happened to Patty and some more insight into her family and the reasons behind their behaviour.

Written simplistically, yet emotionally it is hard not to feel sympathy for Patty and the situations in which she finds herself. It is also hard not to like Patty, who despite her difficult family life dreams of a future where she can be free and independent, at a time when children were expected to be seen and not heard. Shocking in parts and touching in others, Summer of My German Soldier is a book in which most of us could find things in common with our younger selves.

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful.

The Summer Patty Bergen Would Remember that One Special German Soldier

By A Customer

The most exiting event in the history of Jenkinsville occurred that summer day when a Prisoner of War camp was set up just outside the city. The Nazi's that had been depicted as evil people that would kill someone as

soon as they looked at them turned out to be young, kind-faced men with blond hair. Patty Bergen was Jewish and her father owned a department store on the main street of the town. One day she was in the store when the prisoners with money in hand came to buy hats for work in the field. Patty went to help one of the prisoners whose name was Frederick Anton Reiker and discovered that instead of wanting to buy a hat with his money he wanted to buy a pen with fake diamonds on it. Not long after their first meeting, Anton escaped from the prison camp and fled but before he caught the back of a departing train, Patty saw him and invited him to stay in the room over the garage until the war was over. But, one day Anton saw Patty being beaten and he ran out to stop the attack, but Ruth, the housekeeper saw him rush out from the garage. Even though Ruth would not tell a soul about it Anton decided it was too much of a risk on Patty's part and he left that same night. After Anton had been gone for months a man named Mr. Pierce asked Patty a fair amount of questions and after hearing that Anton had died she let everything out. After that she had to go and live with her grandmother for a while until the time of the trial. The judge sentenced her to no less than four months in a reformatory for girls and there she stayed for the time. I enjoyed this book because of how the story of how it was depicted.

I thought this novel was quite engaging because of how Patty changed over time. At the beginning of the story Patty is reckless and had low self-esteem. Her sister was always getting compliments on how pretty she looked, and Patty was always being told that she should try to look and act more like her sister. After Patty started hiding Anton she took baths and started to care more about how she looked. Also Patty started getting beaten by her father often and she sometimes thought that she was always wrong. Then after Anton died and she was sent off to the reformatory school she developed a new perspective on life and people. After Ruth went to see her she discovered that she was not wrong, but did things for the right reason in a way that other people could not see.

The way that Anton acted throughout the entire story was completely unexpected for what most people associated with Nazis. Anton, unlike most of his colleagues spoke virtually flawless English and was a very polite young man. Even after he found out that Patty was a Jew he continued to treat her with respect and he cared for her deeply. Also, Anton did not join the Nazis because he wanted to he joined it to escape punishment and imprisonment by his own country.

I also enjoyed this book because it showed the level of tolerance between the Caucasian Americans and the people that surrounded them. Ruth was the African American housekeeper for the Bergens and if any food was missing Patty's mother always assumed that it was Ruth without using any logical reasoning to see if one of her own children had eaten the food. Even though the German prisoners were not mean or unruly they were usually treated fairly but once they were out of earshot news about them spread quickly. One of the things that the townspeople said about the prisoners was that they were being treated too kindly and that they should have cruel punishments.

Through reading this book I gained an appreciation for Patty because of how she gained confidence through the story. The imagery of this wonderful novel created an amazing story with brilliant characters. This book was also wonderful because of how Anton was shown in the story. The novel was especially good because of how racial and cultural differences play into each other.

R. Roston

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