



## The Whispering Town (Holocaust)

By Jennifer Elvgren

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The dramatic story of neighbors in a small Danish fishing village who, during the Holocaust, shelter a Jewish family waiting to be ferried to safety in Sweden. It is 1943 in Nazi-occupied Denmark. Anett and her parents are hiding a Jewish woman and her son, Carl, in their cellar until a fishing boat can take them across the sound to neutral Sweden. The soldiers patrolling their street are growing superstitious, so Carl and his mama must make their way to the harbor despite a cloudy sky with no moon to guide them. Worried about their safety, Anett devises a clever and unusual plan for their safe passage to the harbor. Based on a true story.

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### Editorial Review

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**\*Starred Review\*** Based on a true incident, this is the story of two families, one Danish, the other Jewish. Young Anett is told by her mother, there are new friends in the cellar. This is no surprise to the girl; the cellar is where Danish Jews are hidden from the Nazis. The new boy, Carl, and his mother are to remain hidden for two nights, until a boat can take them to Sweden. Until then the other villagers provide bread and eggs and even books. The moonless nights make it difficult to evacuate the duo, yet as the Nazis come closer, it becomes clear that they must somehow make their way to the harbor. Then Anett has an idea. That night, the villagers stand in the doorways of their houses, each whispering, this way, and forming a chain that leads Carl and his mother to the first step toward safety. The illustrations have the bold look of a graphic novel and use oversize figures to command attention. Both author and illustrator do an excellent job of bringing both the horror and humanity of this story to a level younger children can understand, and there is much of both: Nazis pounding on doors; Carl giving Anett his most prized possession, a heart-shaped stone, a last gift from his father. An unusual and strong addition to Holocaust literature. Grades 2-4. --Ilene Cooper

Review

"Urgent and refreshingly unsentimental." - Publishers Weekly

"The direct simplicity of the story's telling serves well as an introduction for younger children to the Holocaust. This uncomplicated narrative of Danish resistance will facilitate teaching and discussion of a difficult yet necessary subject." - Kirkus Reviews

About the Author

Jennifer Elvgren, a former journalist, finds her story ideas in real life, present and past. Her fiction has appeared in Highlights for Children, Spider, and Ladybug magazines. Her books include Josias, Hold the Book, a Bank Street College of Education Best Children's Books of the Year selection. Jennifer lives in Albemarle County, Virginia, with her husband, three children, Caspian the border collie, Copperfield the foxhound, and Goodnight Moon the American quarter horse.

Fabio Santomauro was born in Rome. He's been drawing since he was very young he once ingested a whole inkpot so ink is literally in his blood! He would like to become an inventor or a detective, but in the meantime he loves working as an illustrator. He studied animation cinema at Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia, the national school for cinema in Italy. On sunny days he likes to stroll around the villas of Rome juggling with clubs.

### Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**Elizabeth Murphy:**

Often the book The Whispering Town (Holocaust) has a lot of information on it. So when you check out this book you can get a lot of benefit. The book was written by the very famous author. McDougal makes some research ahead of write this book. That book very easy to read you can get the point easily after reading this article book.

**Ann Wren:**

Is it an individual who having spare time subsequently spend it whole day by means of watching television programs or just telling lies on the bed? Do you need something new? This The Whispering Town (Holocaust) can be the solution, oh how comes? It's a book you know. You are therefore out of date, spending your free time by reading in this new era is common not a nerd activity. So what these publications have than the others?

**Linda Amato:**

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**Tyler Emery:**

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