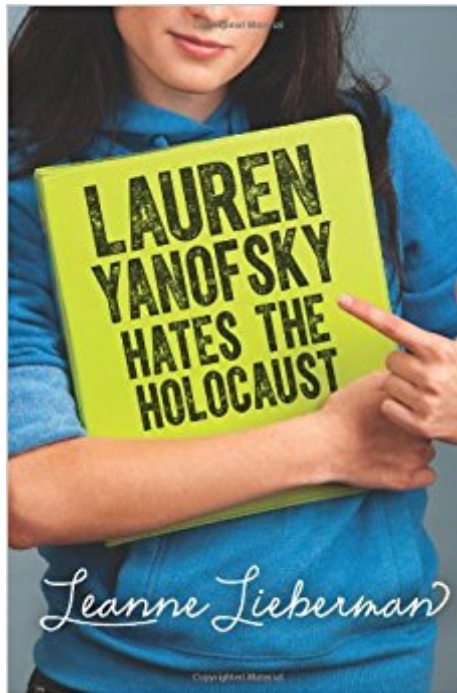




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Lauren Yanofsky Hates The Holocaust



Synopsis

Lauren Yanofsky doesn't want to be Jewish anymore. Her father, a noted Holocaust historian, keeps giving her Holocaust memoirs to read, and her mother doesn't understand why Lauren hates the idea of Jewish youth camps and family vacations to Holocaust memorials. But when Lauren sees some of her friendsâincluding Jesse, a cute boy she likesâplaying Nazi war games, she is faced with a terrible choice: betray her friends or betray her heritage. Told with engaging humor, *Lauren Yanofsky Hates the Holocaust* isn't simply about making tough moral choices. It's about a smart, funny, passionate girl caught up in the turmoil of bad-hair days, family friction, changing friendships, loveâand, yes, the Holocaust.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Heavy topics get a lighthearted treatment in this smart, observant story of a girl who has had it with being Jewish. A recent "non-Jew by choice," 16-year-old Lauren is numb to the tragic history always being brought up by her Holocaust historian father. "At my house," she says, "every day was Holocaust Remembrance Day." While trying to distance herself from her family's traditions, she comes up against a related moral dilemma. The cute boy who is finally paying attention to her plays a squirt-gun war game with friends in which he wears Nazi insignia. He doesn't mean to offend, but can she forgive such offensive stupidity? Lauren senses hypocrisy everywhereâwhy, for example, do other genocides she learns about in school get none of the same attention? Lieberman draws a strong portrait of a girl who can't find comforting answers, and that is the strength of this book: despite an overly tidy conclusion, satisfaction eludes Lauren,

and life remains as messy and conflicting as ever. Grades 7-10. --Daniel Kraus

"The Nazi war games juxtaposed with Lauren's Jewish background and the way she must come to terms with the problem and her emotions are thought-provoking themes which allow Lauren to develop throughout the book. Her maturing process literally goes through a 'trial by fire,' and a different Lauren emerges in the final pages of the novel. Recommended." (CM Magazine 2013-02-08)"Lieberman, known for her edgy, provocative Jewish-themed novels,...creates another strong female protagonist, whose characterization of Judaism as a religion 'about loss, grief and persecution' will raise eyebrows with both Jewish and non-Jewish readers. A thought-provoking exploration of a teen's evolving ideals." (Kirkus Reviews 2013-03-15)"[Lieberman] smoothly weaves humor and knowledge about Judaism through Lauren's story. Lauren's narration is contemplative and from the heart, and readers should relate to her attempts to identify her beliefs and tackle life's big questions." (Publishers Weekly 2013-02-25)"Heavy topics get a lighthearted treatment in this smart, observant story of a girl who has had it with being Jewish...Lieberman draws a strong portrait of a girl who can't find comforting answers, and that is the strength of this book." (Booklist 2013-03-15)"Lieberman explores not only a teenager's journey of personal identity, but likewise how she incorporates her interpretations of Judaism into the mix...Thought provoking." (Shalom Life 2013-05-22)"Lieberman touches [on] moral and ethical issues in a simple, direct novel. Teens will relate to the realistic dialogue and teen angst...Lieberman gives the reader a lot to think about, in a very compact style filled with humor, reality, and drama. The book will appeal to teens looking for a realistic, teen drama about morality and ethics." (VOYA 2013-06-01)"Lieberman provides a realistic, satisfying ending that doesn't tie things up too neatly. Teen issues of changing friendships, first kisses, family friction, and drinking are combined with fully developed characters, spot-on contemporary dialogue, and a unique plot that will give readers of all backgrounds plenty to think about." (School Library Journal 2013-07-01)"Lauren Yanofsky is a lively teen learning to come to terms with her Jewish identity." (Resource Links 2013-06-01)"Lauren is very funny and the novel contains a great deal of humor...Religious schools and/or youth groups will find it a great way to stimulate discussion." (The Reporter (Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton) 2013-07-19)"Lieberman, known for her focus on Jewish issues, deftly explores a teenager's struggle with her religious identity...Major issues such as the perpetration of hate, loss, grief and the quest for identity are handled with sensitivity and humour in this novel, and readers will be left with lots to consider and discuss." (Canadian Children's Book News 2013-08-01)"Starting with an edgy title, this is a realistic, yet entertaining coming of age story. Lauren, a fairly intuitive

seventeen-year-old, is faced with many of the typical issues of growing up such as bullying and racism. How she manages to find a place in which she feels comfortable as a teenager and how she learns to accept her Jewish identity make this a thought provoking read...The plot resonates with the universal theme of belonging." (Jewish Book World 2013-12-01)"Funny, smart, and thoughtful. Teenage readers will relate to Lauren's obsession with hypocrisy, as well as her worries about popularity and boys and her autistic brother. My 12-year-old loved this book, as did I, and it spurred some really great conversation. Highly recommended." (Tablet Magazine 2013-11-21)

From the novel's first page about Lauren Yanofsky's first day at grade eleven in a public school, this gripping tale is a page turner of enthralling events, vivid character portrayals and teenage growing pains, a book that captivates young adults, as well as the not-so-young adults. Through its interesting and unusual plot, the novel smartly depicts the emotional struggles of Lauren who has regarded her Jewish upbringing and the all too frequent recounts of the Holocaust as excessive and unwarranted, until a war game among her school peers, including dream guy Jesse, strikes her as offensive and insensitive, and awakens in her a renewed sense of belonging towards her heritage, and a deepened feeling for humanity. Lauren Yanofsky Hates The Holocaust makes a great and very satisfying coming-of-age read all around. Highly recommended.

"Some kids got Disney. I got Hitler." No way could I NOT read this book after reading that line on the back cover--and the title intrigued me as well. The novel's protagonist, Lauren, doesn't want to be Jewish any more. It's not that she wants to be a different religion--she just wants to be a "non-Jew by choice." She grew up going to Jewish day school; her father's a Holocaust historian. At her house, she quips, every day was Holocaust Remembrance Day. Family vacations (instead of going to Disney World like other people) revolved around trips to Holocaust memorials. "Why would anyone want to belong to a religion that was all about loss, grief, and persecution?" she muses. Lauren manages to convince her parents to send her to the public high school. But even there--where incidentally they have a much better basketball team for Lauren to play on--she can't escape the legacy of the Holocaust, however much she might try. When she sees some of her friends--including Jesse, a boy she likes--playing Nazi war games, she is confronted with a dilemma. Should she betray her friends, and risk being a social pariah at school, or betray her heritage, by remaining silent? While in many ways this is a "typical" teen novel with boyfriend and friendship drama, Lauren's struggle with her heritage is described in an entertaining and also

thought-provoking way that make the novel highly readable for teens. Jewish young people are likely to be particularly attracted to this novel, particularly because of the intriguing title!

Praise for Lauren Yanofsky Hates the Holocaust by Leanne Lieberman
When I first learned the title of Leanne Lieberman's new novel, I was first put off and thought that I would probably not like Lauren Yanofsky Hates the Holocaust. However, after reading the novel, I have changed my opinion and think that the title is a brilliant idea and it may also attract readers who have no interest in learning about the Holocaust. There are several interesting themes in this novel - all issues that junior and senior high school students are forced to deal with on a daily basis and they are dealt with in a very engaging manner. At first Lauren struggles with how to deal with the objectionable behavior of her fellow students/friends. Young adults are faced with issues of bullying, racism, or gay bashing to name a few examples of behaviors that many young people might be forced to take a stand on. Then Lauren is confronted with the issue of what to do when she and her best friend have a romantic interest in the same person, and appropriate behavior. Through Lauren we read that young people learn that their interests, ideas and feelings change as they mature and that suddenly your best friend may seem like a stranger to you. You might find yourself rejected by your friends and as young adults go through junior and senior high they may experience similar situations. The last theme I found interesting was the issue faced by Lauren and her brother Zach; they had to learn to exert their independence in a positive way as they discovered that their wishes and desires were in conflict with what their parents wanted and expected for them. The author deals with all the above issues in a way that really holds the reader's attention and interest. The book actually gives the reader a great deal of information about the Holocaust and an awareness of other past genocides of which they might not have had any knowledge. If after reading this book, the reader wants to learn more about the holocaust, Lauren actually provides a detailed list of books to read. This is a book that should be read by all young adults and probably their parents too, so that they can get insights into the current world of their teenagers.

When seventeen year old Lauren Yanofsky decides she no longer wants to be a Jew, she thinks she's shedding years of pessimism to embrace a trouble-free adolescence. Boy, was she naive. Her friends don't seem so friendly anymore, her mother constantly pressures her to attend temple and her autistic brother decides to go on a hunger strike in the garage. The one highlight of her day is getting to know the cute neighbourhood boy Jessie who is her new science lab partner. Then a group of boys, including Jesse, begin playing Nazi games for entertainment and Lauren discovers

that she cannot hide from who she is. Lauren Yanofsky Hates the Holocaust is a story that captures the challenges, sweetness and angst of female adolescence. Sprinkled with humour and told in an appealing definite voice, readers will cheer Lauren on as she struggles to figure out the nature of friendship, family, and identity.

I thought it'd be ok book. you know the kind you read to pass the time. Then I started in. I instantly became obsessed with what I was reading.....

very good. interesting perspective

This book was mainly about religion and which one is the right one but it had too much romance for me

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