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LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of **A Berlin love Song** by Sarah Matthias

Below are the complete reviews, written by the LoveReading4kids members.



Talia Jacobs, age 15

A soon to be bestseller, there are no words to describe how much I adored this beautiful novel. A haunting, bittersweet story about forbidden love, set in the harsh reality of the Second World War.

'A Berlin Love Song' is an utterly beautiful, thought-provoking, and heart-breaking novel about a forbidden love set in the harsh reality of the Second World War. Unlike anything I've ever read before and a soon to be best-seller, this book is something that everyone should read; you experience the war through ordinary Germans, through the Romani community, and through two teenagers

going against what they have been taught.

The language in this book is utterly stunning and the plot is at just the right pace. This book is shocking at some parts, even more horrific considering it was based something that really did happen, and lovely at others.

In this book you experienced the ways of the Romani life, the persecution of so many, and how even Germans who did not agree with what was going on were forced and bullied until they gave in.

Through all the darkness, there were scenes and relationships that were like beacons of light- the relationship between one of the two main characters, Max and his older sister and how they went against the rules and the funny teasing of their younger sister.

There is not one bit of this book I would change.

This book left me sleepless. This book left me sobbing. This book left me at a loss for words. I don't think a short review or a 10 page essay could do this unforgettable book justice and there are no words to describe how much I adored this beautiful story. I became so attached with the characters in this story, it will stay with me forever. A bittersweet, both exquisite and haunting, ending, this book is one I will re-read over and over again.

Humaira Kauser, age 19

'A Berlin Love Song' is a sweet, heartfelt story that pulls on your heartstrings. It's a slow burner but the best books always are. I liked the style of writing- it reminded me a little of The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak, especially the parts where a German phrase was said and then explained. Max and Lili's love story is one I won't be forgetting anytime soon.

Amy Laws, age 15

A beautiful story- I flew through the pages.

I loved every page of this book- from the very first line to the very last I fell in love with the setting, story and characters. This book had a bit of everything and was the perfect blend of a historical and romance novel. All the characters were magically brought to life and I became so engrossed in their stories that I could effortlessly empathise and connect with them. I would rate this book highly as I thoroughly enjoyed this book.

Izzy Read, age 16

Story's like this remind me that war is a tragedy; tearing family's and lives apart. I recommend this to lovers of Anne Frank's Diary.

Tale of forbidden love between a Romani gypsy girl and German boy during the Second World War.

Every time I read a book set in any war I end up crying my eyes out, and as I never learn, this was the same. It was fascinating to learn about the Romani Gypsy culture and how they were horrifically treated, and killed by the Nazis. Story's like this remind me that war is a tragedy; tearing family's and lives apart.

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Lucy Minton, age 13

‘A Berlin Love Song’ by Sarah Matthias is a beautiful read, its compelling story intertwined with intrigue and danger and, of course, a bewitching romance. It draws you in from the get-go, almost preparing you for the events that are to follow. I read this in short spurts between my daily activities and found that I could pick it back up again and immediately remember what was going on, a sure sign that the storyline is memorable.

Max and Lili, the protagonists, are very different to me, mainly because of the setting and context of the book (it is set in Nazi Germany). However, despite the fact that their situation is not very relatable, I was definitely rooting for them both and got to know them very well. Whilst both very different, I loved the way their stories intertwined, something which was emphasised by the way the author switched between their different points of view.

This book was very moving and nearly made me cry. However, whether it makes you cry or not, it will definitely play with your emotions and completely change your point of view from the start to the end of the book. I would definitely recommend this book to anyone who likes a book that could make them cry, or a good romance novel!

Megan Chambers, age 16

This book was absolutely wonderful from the start to the end! An amazing love story set within the war I would definitely recommend.

I really enjoyed this book and the story was very well told, using the two different viewpoints. It was occasionally hard to distinguish between which view you were reading from at times, but it was still a great read. The romance was absolutely heartbreaking, however it was slightly predictable considering the setting of the second world war. It was extremely informative and I loved the interweaving of the other languages. In some parts, I felt as though there were too many characters for us to be able to relate to all of them and get to know them, however the main characters were very well written and very soon in the book I felt as though I knew Max and Lilli along with their close family personally. All in all, I really enjoyed this read.

Aimee Sweet

*'A Berlin Love Song' is told through the eyes of Max, a German school boy, who is facing very different issues compare to the other protagonist, Lili. The story follows their growing love for each other in Berlin at the time of WW2. I really enjoyed seeing the characters develop throughout the novel especially because of how Matthias uses a lot of descriptive techniques to set the scene. **It was interesting seeing very different views of the situation and it was nothing like I had read before. I would recommend this to anyone who enjoys reading historical fiction.***

Jess Anderson

'A Berlin Love Song' was an absolutely amazing read that I would definitely recommend.

At first I wasn't so sure about the story because it looked a bit trashy, but it wasn't when I started reading it.

I liked the way how the author didn't shy away from the hard subjects and topics written about in this book, and gave accurate detail about what happened in the concentration camps.

The only part of this book that I wasn't sure about and didn't enjoy was when Max was older, looking back. It infuriated me that the older Max seemed to know do much about Lili and her life, but when the younger Max was with Lili they never seemed to talk about things like that at all! I think the book would have been written better in the moment, rather than as flashbacks.

However, this book was great and eye opening, and made me think about things like child brain washing. This book reminded me of another great book, the boy on the top of the mountain.

I was completely hooked on this book and the characters where very realistic.

Rosie Watch

***A very unexpected and rather lovely read.** Although incredibly sad on so many fronts, the development of the characters and the relationships that are formed before and during the story are touching and thought provoking. I liked the way the main story of what happened to Kacey, and the attribution of guilt and blame is mirrored by the relationship Ethan has with the other characters; his brother, his grandfather and Coralee.*

Beneath the sad story of relationship and loss are the mysteries surrounding the other characters and how it affects them. Who haunts the empty house, why is Kacey's mother's relationship with her father so strained and what really did happen to Kacey after the accident? The way the plots unfolds is both cleverly and subtly written and makes you want to read just one more page each time you pick up the book.