

LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of My Brother's Secret by Dan Smith

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading4kids members.

Eloise Mae Clarkson, age 11

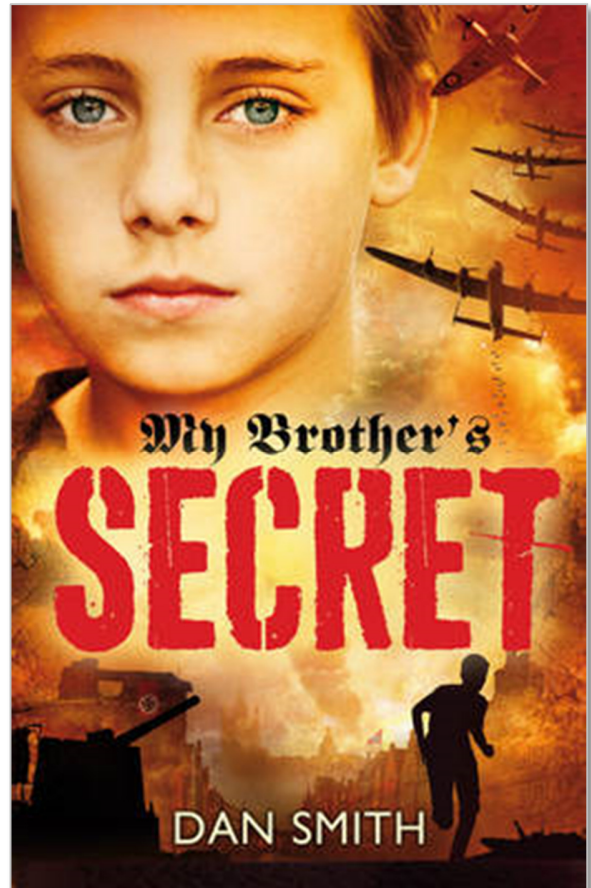
I would rate this book 5/5 stars

I loved this book and I learned a lot about how Germans thought during World War Two and that they weren't all horrible people like some people think they were. They cared about their country and their friends and family. This book is about Karl's big brother's huge secret which everyone knows but him. In time Karl finally uncovers the whole entire truth and why his brother is acting so strangely.

Rose Heathcote, age 15

GREAT READ – you won't be disappointed. I have read a Dan Smith book before and his detailed writing style continues into this book, this detail enables you to imagine that you are right at the side of Karl.

*I really enjoyed this book and I would highly recommend it to a wide range of readers, particularly those who are studying World War Two, as it gives you an insight into the personal experiences of war. The heart-warming relationship which exists between Stefan and Karl is a prominent feature of the book and as a brother should be Stefan shows his bravery by sticking up for Karl. Another good book written by Dan Smith to which I would recommend to friends. I would give this book 5 *****.*



Traviss Chaytors, age 11

A gripping book full of adventure and sadness.

‘My brother’s Secret’ is a sad but brilliant book about a young Nazi boy during WWII. He thinks Hitler will win the war but when a letter comes through saying that his dad is dead his life changes forever.

I liked this book as it’s full of shocking moments and my favourite moment is when Karl (the boy) gets into a fight as he disturbed a whole parade. The worst part in my opinion is when he gets hit by a car!

Alice East, age 9

My Brother's Secret by Dan Smith is set in Germany during World War II. It is about a boy who finds out his father has been killed in action.

He thought he would be proud of his father, and want to fight as well, but instead he decides that the war and Hitler are bad and he is incredibly sad.

The text contains German words which are sometimes hard to read. **The book is interesting as it tells you lots about the war from the view of Germans rather than the British.** This made it different from other stories I have read about the war.

I really enjoyed reading this book although it was sad in places. I would recommend this book if you like stories about history and the war.

Amie Coffman, age 10

I really enjoyed this book and became fascinated by WWII. You learn that not all Germans behaved the same and I was surprised how I ended up feeling about the German boys. I highly recommend it!

What a wonderful book! It was exciting and very frightening in parts but I really enjoyed the adventure. As you progress into the depths of the book you learn about World War II from the perspective of a German boy and you begin to feel almost sorry for them despite knowing what the Germans did to us. The boy tried to cope as best he could during the war as his father has left them to go to fight and his brother is always in trouble. As his brother's secret emerges you begin to realise what the boys are really like and I enjoyed learning about their characters.

Ellie Frost - adult

World War Two from another perspective. Karl is in the Junior Hitler Youth, but his older brother Stefan is a pacifist. Their father is killed at war, and things start to change.

I loved this book. Karl is a leading light in his local branch of the junior Hitler Youth and very idealistic. He is ashamed of his older brother Stefan, who is a pacifist and has been arrested for spreading anti-Nazi propaganda. When their father is killed fighting in Russia, Karl knows he should feel proud, but actually feels sad and angry. The boys and their mother go to live with their mother's parents, and Karl starts to realise that Hitler isn't the wonderful person he thought, neither are the people who serve him.

The sense of tension, of fear of doing or saying the wrong thing are very evident, as amidst the deprivation of war, neighbour turns on neighbour. This is a far more realistic view of war than 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas', which I found a little twee. You feel both boys are real and so is their fear and concern for each other and for their family.

Benjy Randall, age 10

A brilliant book full of breath taking moments. I couldn't put it down!

This a brilliant book about a German boy called Karl who is living during WW2. He wants Germany to win but soon he finds out that his brother got into trouble he realises why and then he gets caught in a rebellion in which he could get into lots of trouble for.

Stuart Philpot, age 10

'My Brothers Secret' is a gripping novel that will make you want to stay up late and finish it. It was a cracking read and I would really enjoy another book like it. ***Ten out of ten*** for this book because ***it was as though the book had sprouted arms and was never letting me put it down.*** I loved learning about German life during World War Two.

Ellen Faulkner, age 12

'My Brother's Secret' was riveting, and I did not want to put it down, and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

'My Brother's Secret' gripped me from the start. It was extremely interesting how the Germans supported Hitler as much as we did Churchill, even though Hitler did some terrible things.

The descriptions were very accurate, and I felt like I was there. The brother's protected each other, like they are supposed to (but not all brother's do), and that brought a tear to my eye. I enjoyed 'My Brother's Secret', and would definitely recommend it to anyone aged 9-14.

Rory Faulkner, age 9

*I loved Dan Smith's book 'My Brother's Secret', it was **a mixture of exciting and at times scary and it really gripped me.** I liked the book as it was set in Germany in 1941, most of the books I have read about the Second World War are set in England or from our view point.*

*The book is about twelve year old Karl who was a trainee soldier for the Hitler Youth, one day he gets the horrible news that his father has been killed in the war. Karl's older brother Stefan is a pacifist, he is against what Hitler is doing, and tries to get others to follow him, which gets him in trouble. My favourite part of the book is was when Carl, Stefan and Stefan's friend were being chased by the soldiers, as it was really exciting. 'My Brother's Secret' has sad parts like when the dad dies, however the ending is happy.... I won't give it all away but **I definitely recommend you read this book.***

Morgan Steigmann, age 15

Karl is a good German boy; he attends the Deutsches Jungvolk and frequently salutes the Führer with the utmost sincerity. Like any other Nazi, he desperately wants Germany to win the war- after all; his father has gone away to fight. But when his brother gets caught up in one of the biggest rebel groups, and the family are forced to move away, Karl realises that perhaps the Nazi Party isn't all what it seems to be...

This novel gives a detailed yet interesting account of what life was like in Second World War Germany, for both those devoted to the Nazis and the rebels who did everything in their power to restore their freedom. The engaging

storyline enabled me to learn more about what we were studying in our GCSE History course, and I would definitely recommend this book to anyone in a similar position.

*Don't let the perhaps younger-than-you-are protagonist put you off- the naïve age of Karl makes for a raw, truthful account- at some points it was hard to believe I was reading fiction! It is utterly compelling how you witness Karl's character developing, his opinions constantly change as he learns more and more about what the Nazis tried to hide from young people. **I would urge you to give this book a try- just wait until you discover you can't put it down!***