



# Journey Through the Night

*Anne de Vries*

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## **Journey Through the Night** Anne de Vries

Reis door de nacht is het meeslepende verhaal over de familie De Boer, die vanaf het uitbreken van de Tweede Wereldoorlog betrokken is bij het verzet. Jan, de oudste zoon, wordt door de Duitsgezinde overbuurman verraden, waarna het gezin naar een andere plaats vlucht en onderduikt. Jan keert terug in het verzet en ook zijn vader toont zich een moedig man, maar het lukt hem niet om uit de handen van de vijand te blijven... In deze omnibus zijn gebundeld de delen Ochtend gloren, De Duisternis in, De Storm steekt op en De Nieuwe dag

## **Journey Through the Night Details**

Date : Published January 1st 2001 by Inheritance Publications (first published 1960)

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Author : Anne de Vries

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# From Reader Review Journey Through the Night for online ebook

## Creghtonm says

*Journey Through the Night* by Anne De Vries is a great book and taught me tons about a horrible time for all of the Netherlands and the world. The book follows the De Boers from just before the war to the end. With a daring father, the family is up to their necks with the Underground. They help the Jews and others persecuted by the Nazis, until they find themselves in the same situation.

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## Mary says

I found these books in our church library and had to add them to Goodreads in the English translation. It was actually four volumes and it was wonderful. I read all four in one week because it was so compelling. John De Boer is the main character and you follow him from age 16 to age 21 through the five awful years of German occupation in the Netherlands. This book was commissioned by Dutch authorities as a record for children. It would be too grim a tale for most children with terrible imprisonments and tales of survival in hiding. Tales of torture and death are not dwelt upon. It's knowing that these terrible events really happened and de Vries makes them very real.

I have heard tales of some of my Dutch relatives hiding folks in their homes--an act of great bravery.

I would like to read more about the Dutch resistance. I wish I could find out more about Anne de Vries.

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## Karen deVries says

I read this book when I was in junior high in the 1980's. Actually, it was four different books that have been compiled into one. I read it in English at the school with mostly Dutch immigrants where I attended from K-12. I loved it then for the insights it gave into the Dutch resistance during WWII and the Dutch experience of living through WWII. My father's family had lived through it and immigrated to the US shortly after the war ended. I also love the metaphor of life being a journey, and this book might have been my first exposure to this idea. I'd be curious to revisit it now that I'm in my 40's and see if it still resonates. I loaned my copy to my grandmother, and she's passed it around to other family members, and I no longer know where it is. Time to buy a new one?

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## Nicole says

Wow. I read these books because they were recommended to me by my grandmother, and there has always been something striking about WWII fiction.

The first book was rather slow, and some of the dialogue and character action didn't feel believable (and Fritz is one of the most annoying characters ever). But I got hooked on the second book and raced to finish the rest. An absolutely fascinating glimpse into WWII Netherlands--I just want to learn more. Most of the

WWII fiction I've read has been about the Jews, so it was good to read about another part of the war. I was particularly interested to read so much about the Dutch resistance, which I had heard lots about but don't know much about.

Makes me want to visit the Netherlands to see all the places this story played out over. I love how much travelling all the characters did, and how much of the country we got to see.

Favourite characters: Everett De Boer, John De Boer, Uncle Gerritt, Josh Vander May, Tricia De Boer

(view spoiler)

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### **Leniw says**

This is THE most boring book I have read in 2013. I am surprised to see so many good ratings.

I like reading books that concern world war II and this is why I chose to read this one. Unfortunately, it was quite disappointing.

The characters were non-realistic and too good to be true. They almost annoyed me at some parts of the story. They also had too much luck. I understand that this is a young adult book but still I expected to read something close to reality. Moreover the writing style was too abrupt.

Anyone could have written this book. The only thing that he had to do was to read some historical facts.

The only thing that I liked about this book was the title. That's all.

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### **Monique says**

When the World War II begins, Jan de Boer, his parents and sister tries to get the other children out of burning Rotterdam. With luck they succeed. In their new home in Drente most members of Jan's family, inclusive Jan himself, become members of the resistance against the Nazi's. The risks they take will put the whole family in danger but that's price they want to pay for a free Holland. A very good book. One of my favourites.

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### **Harriette says**

Somehow I never picked up this classic Dutch book in translation until this year. Once you account for the fact it was first written in the 1960's when the moral virtue of characters was highlighted and that its language is dated and affected by translation, it is possible to appreciate the struggle of characters living at a time of crisis. Despite the risks to themselves and their families, would they take part in resisting the occupation by a foreign regime? My people lived through World War II, and I gained a new and personal appreciation for that era by reading the series.

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### **Lara Lleverino says**

I read this book back in the early 80's when I was about 11 or 12. I am now 41 and reunited with some friends I knew back then. Separately we have both been looking for the series again remembering how much we loved it! Time for at LEAST a digital edition if not a reprint! It would be a great book for Beautiful Feet Books [www.bfbbooks.com](http://www.bfbbooks.com) to pick up!

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### **Annie Kate says**

When I started to read *Journey Through the Night* to my teen daughters, they expected to be bored. However, by the third paragraph one of them jumped up. “What! John does judo?” The other one was interested by the next page. As the story moved on, they begged for chapter after chapter. Once, when I could not read aloud any longer, I stayed behind in the lawn chair and, forgetting all my duties, finished the entire book even though I had read it many times before! When I talk to others who have read this book, they invariably tell me how wonderful it was.

So, what is this amazing book? *Journey Through the Night* follows John and his family through the five years of Nazi occupation of the Netherlands. Written by one of the country’s most popular novelists, this commissioned book became one of the country’s favorite war stories.

John and his family, shocked by the Nazi invasion of the Netherlands, drive across the country to pick up his little sister. They encounter their first German soldier, have their first crisis of conscience, and inevitably become deeply involved in the resistance as the war drags on.

You can read my complete review here: <http://www.thecurriculumchoice.com/20...>

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### **Carol Bakker says**

Ahem. The Dutch writer Anne de Vries is a male. (Rainer Maria Rilke comes to mind as another writer with a conventionally female name.)

Judging by the cover, this looks self-published; my expectations were minimal. I was pleasantly surprised by the writing, and found the story of Everett De Boer's family's work with the Dutch Resistance compelling. *Journey Through the Night* is four volumes (written in Dutch 1951-1958, translated in 1960) published as one.

The De Boer family is likeable. The architect father has pluck, the mother is kind-hearted, oldest son John is capable but inclined to hesitate, and impetuous Fritz can't keep out of trouble. There are other children, but these are the main characters. They are Christian — the winsome kind whose faith is more acted on than spoken of, not off-putting.

What impressed me most in a world of checkpoints, false IDs, and fascist occupation was the advantage of being relaxed and calm, casual and nonchalant. Terror is perilous.

The De Boers had recently read Isaiah 16:3 *Hide the outcast, don't betray the fugitive*, when a young man knocks on their door, seeking refuge. A procession of Jewish families and resistance fighters are hidden and helped. Such a small thing, and yet it changed the course of war: simple courageous people opening their homes and risking their lives for all kinds of strangers.

What I discovered:

DKW cars (Dampf-Kraft-Wagen = steam-driven car)

The Dutch National Anthem (worth a YouTube watch)

OSO (Orange Shall Overcome) the slogan of the Dutch Resistance

Favorite quotes:

*No one could stop the course of the sun, and no one could stop the course of God's justice - not even Hitler.*

*Don't let impatience make life miserable for you.*

I highly recommend this to readers who liked Corrie ten Boom's *The Hiding Place* and Anne Frank's Diary.

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### **Andrea says**

Journey Through the Night is about a Dutch family during WWII who tries to stay out of the war but starts doing resistance work and is split up towards the end of the war. The main character is a teenager named John who has three brothers, two sisters, and an uncle. One of the most exciting parts is when John's resistance group raids a distribution center. I liked this book because there was a lot of suspense and action.  
-by Wesley, age 10

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### **Mazzou B says**

I am so glad I chose this book to read during my recent days of illness. It was amazing, and from the first few chapters I knew it would become one of my very favourite historical fiction books. It captures the danger, excitement and struggles of the Dutch people during World War 2. One of those books which the reader finds hard to put down. I do believe that if my family had chosen to watch a movie during the days that I was reading it, I would have been loathe to leave this exciting story. I definitely recommend!

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### **Frances Driessen says**

Bevat: De duisternis in - De storm steekt op - Ochtendgloren - De nieuwe dag

Vier boeken in een band die je gelezen moet hebben. Het is het verhaal van de familie De Boer die heel kort voor het uitbreken van de Tweede Wereldoorlog verhuist van de provincie Utrecht naar Drenthe. Dan breekt de oorlog uit en komen alle familieleden in mindere of meerdere mate in aanraking met het verzet. Overleven ze de oorlog?

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## **Gloria says**

### Summary:

The De Boer family has just moved to their country home when the news arrives that Germany has invaded the Netherlands. The nation is thrown into turmoil and the De Boers with it. The family must decide how deeply they should involve themselves in resistance work. It won't be long before their little country town is crawling with Nazis.

### Pro's:

This was quite the fascinating book! Once I picked it up, it was hard to put down. The author put me into that time period and really made me think about the moral struggles those participating in the resistance had to work through.

### Con's:

The book is rather light on Christianity. There are several references to Bible passages and there is one mention of the family going to church. But what really killed it for me was one scene where the oldest De Boer son kissed a fellow resistance worker whom he also happened to have a crush on. Granted, it was done to convince a German soldier they were on a date, but I still take issue with any physical contact outside of marriage.

There was also a lot of violence and deception. While I do understand the nature of war, only so many things can be excused in the name of defending the country.

While the book was interesting and well-written, I wouldn't recommend it due to the lack of Christian doctrine and abundance of violence and romance.

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## **Marjet Manenschijn says**

Heb het boek voor het eerst gelezen toen ik een jaar of 12/13 was. Het was een boek van mijn vader. Was er destijds erg van onder de indruk ondanks het ouderwetse taalgebruik. Sindsdien heb ik het boek ingepikt en meegenomen toen ik uit huis ging. Nu jaren en jaren later is het nog steeds een goed boek om te lezen. Geeft direct inzicht in de manier van leven en taalgebruik in de jaren 1940/1950.

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