



The Nazi Hunters: How a Team of Spies and Survivors Captured the World's Most Notorious Nazis: How a Team of Spies and Survivors Captured the World's Most Notorious Nazi

Neal Bascomb

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The story of Eichmann's capture is now a major motion picture starring Oscar Isaac and Ben Kingsley, *Operation Finale*!

In 1945, at the end of World War II, Adolf Eichmann, the head of operations for the Nazis' Final Solution, walked into the mountains of Germany and vanished from view. Sixteen years later, an elite team of spies captured him at a bus stop in Argentina and smuggled him to Israel, resulting in one of the century's most important trials -- one that cemented the Holocaust in the public imagination.

This is the thrilling and fascinating story of what happened between these two events. Illustrated with powerful photos throughout, impeccably researched, and told with powerful precision, THE NAZI HUNTERS is a can't-miss work of narrative nonfiction for middle-grade and YA readers.

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From Reader Review The Nazi Hunters: How a Team of Spies and Survivors Captured the World's Most Notorious Nazis: How a Team of Spies and Survivors Captured the World's Most Notorious Nazi for online ebook

Sara says

Absolutely excellent piece of narrative non-fiction. This book was full of facts but told in a way that made it read like a spy novel thriller. I had never heard of Eichmann, which shames me since WWII and Holocaust history is the time period I know the most about and have spent the most time studying. I don't know how I missed his name in every thing I learned. This book was not as focused on the horrible atrocities of the Holocaust as much as it was about the aftermath, which is something I knew little about. I knew many Nazis escaped to Argentina, but I did not realize that the country was brimming with them. The entire time I was reading the book was surreal; I could not believe these events, sometimes just pure strokes of luck, truly happened, which is one of the many things that makes this book so cool. I had trouble keeping names straight, and a few times had to go back and reread passages to remember who was who, but it otherwise was a read I'd have no problem giving to a middle schooler. Excellent book and I hope a contender for the Excellence in Non-fiction for Young Adults Award.

Speesh says

A straightforward re-telling account of what happened, where, when and how. It doesn't need any dressing up. It's important enough to stand on its own. The details are retold in a clear and concise manner, with time taken to include some of the background both to Eichmann and his thought process throughout and that of the people who found him and were sent to bring him back to Israel. Along with a little of the historical context of the post-war years and where the world was heading going into the 1960s.

The why Israel is dealt with as well. Why not just shoot him where they found him? He needed to be brought to Israel to serve as a reminder to the world that was trying to move on from the Second World War, less interested in old Nazis and more worried about dealing with new Communists. Interestingly, they actually managed to get Eichmann to sign a statement that he came to Israel willingly. Not against his will anyway. By persuading him it would be a chance to put his side of the events.

It's a naturally tense story all the way through, it doesn't need artificially ramping up. Especially the troubles they had getting him out of Argentina. If you've seen the excellent film *Argo*, you'll be in the same ball-park. In *The One From The Other* Philip Kerr has a section where Bernie travels to Palestine with Eichmann. Where Eichmann was maybe trying to find a place to send the Jews of Germany. That's true. Also true, is that nobody wanted them.

The only book blog worth reading: Speesh Reads
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Allison says

I was pretty surprised by how "blah" I thought this book was. I know that it's by the same author who just wrote Hunting Eichmann and it's actually gotten mentioned in Newbery buzz (as in, what a shame that this great book isn't eligible) but I thought that it was not great. Bascomb must have put all his effort into the adult book and then just chopped out all the writing that was too "adult" for a child audience. I thought the sentences were stilted, short, and boring. I never really came to sympathize with any of the characters because they were all portrayed so flatly with nothing supporting them. Maybe that was different in the adult version? I'm not willing to try it to see if it's better.

katie says

This book filled in some gaps in my knowledge about WWII aftermath, when high-ranking Nazis hid out in South America. After reading, I was inspired to seek out more info. An interesting angle on the Holocaust. Very poignant content, despite pretty unemotional tone.

Marre Prestigiacomo says

This is book that became a movie in 2018. Educational and enlightening how such a horrible man could disappear and live for years unnoticed. A man who was unrepentant of the horrors he committed on mankind.

Tanisha says

Even though I've heard plenty about World War and Hitler, I didn't really know much about either. Since I had to read a non-fiction book either way, I decided why not use the opportunity? I honestly thought this would be a dreadful read? While it wasn't the most exciting, it was definitely captivating. This book is about a survivor named Simon Wiesenthal trying to capture Adolf Eichmann after he disappeared from view. The writing was very descriptive and it had just enough action to be interesting.

This book was complete photographs and maps which actually helped me visualize it and understand it. For someone who doesn't really know much about this topic, it's actually a lot of help. This book is almost like a spy thriller, complete with plans and secret car compartments. For a non fiction it was fairly entertaining. This book doesn't just talk about the present but it also talks about the impacts that it had on the future.

I would recommend this to anyone who is interested in World War or someone who just wants a good non fiction read.

Kelly says

I heard good things about this book before reading it. This is the story of how a team of agents located and

captured Adolph Eichmann. The story was well written, with enough suspense to keep its teen audience interested.

Alex (not a dude) Baugh says

The Nazi Hunters was a book that was promoted at BEA this year, so naturally I was very curious to read this account of the capture of Adolf Eichmann in 1960. The author, Neal Bascomb, had already written a book about the group of Holocaust survivors who pulled off Eichmann's capture for adults called Hunting Eichmann and now he has revised it for younger readers.

Eichmann was the very high ranking Nazi who had been responsible first for the emigration of Jews to Palestine and later for implementing the Final Solution beginning in 1942 to meet Hitler's goal of making Europe "Jew free." But in April 1945, as the Allies attacked Berlin and with the deaths of 6 million Jews on his hands, it was time for Eichmann to get out of Europe. For 16 years, no one heard anything about him. It was as if he simply disappeared off the face of the earth.

Amazingly, despite efforts to find Eichmann and bring him to justice, he was never found until a teenage girl named Sylvia Hermann, living in Buenos Aires, South America in 1956, started dating a young man named Nick Eichmann. Invited to dinner at the Hermann home, Nick, like his father, was also anti-Semitic and couldn't resist commenting at table that his father had been a high ranking Nazi officer and it would have been better if Germany had finished what it started as respects the Jews in Europe.

It seems amazing that the capture of such a notorious criminal began with two young people dating for a brief time, but eventually a group of survivors of Eichmann's concentration camps came together based on this and additional information. But it didn't happen immediately. In fact, interest in what the Hermann's reported to Israeli intelligence died and it wasn't until a few years later that Eichmann was again identified and a group of highly trained Mossad spies and Holocaust survivors set the plan to capture him in motion.

The Nazi Hunters is a hard book to put down, but it is also a fast read, in part because it is so well researched and so excellently written. It is as exciting and tense as any spy thriller you might read with one difference - it all really happened.

Lest you forget that what you are reading is nonfiction, there is also an abundance of photographs of the people, the places involved and the documents used, some forged, to help the reader formulate a well rounded picture of the whole very clandestine operation from start to finish. And because most of the names will not be familiar to readers today, and because there were so many of them, there is also an in-depth list of all the people who participated on some level or other in the plan to capture Eichmann. Bascomb has really done such a good job of presenting the whole story factually and appropriately for young readers, without simply dumbing down his original adult work, and he includes plenty of back matter for further information and/or inquiry.

I have read Hannah Arendt's account of Eichmann's trial in Israel, Eichmann in Jerusalem, a number of times, but have never read an account of how he got there. Bascomb does cover the trial briefly, but his main focus is really the capture of Eichmann. And I can say unequivocally, that from the beginning to the end, Bascomb will keep you on the edge of your seat as Eichmann's fate unfolds. The Nazi Hunters is a book I would definitely recommend to anyone interested in the Holocaust and its perpetrators.

This book is recommended for readers age 12+
This book was an E-ARC from NetGalley

The review was originally posted at [The Children's War](#)

Barbara says

Adolf Eichmann, the head of operations for the Nazis' Final Solution, was a man whose very name struck fear in the heart of any hearers. But as World War II came to an end in 1945, this powerful man somehow disappeared, seemingly going unpunished for his part in the Holocaust. Incredibly, he managed to escape notice for sixteen years, hiding in Argentina, until a team of spies brought him back to Israel where he faced justice. Readers will be fascinated at Eichmann's ability to hide in plain sight and the fact that a teen girl and her blind father provided information that would lead to his arrest. The involvement of an elite Israeli spy team, many of them with personal connections to the Holocaust, and lesser-known heroic figures, makes readers race through the book to see if Eichmann manages to escape and go underground once again. The book relates some of the mistakes and assumptions that could have spelled failure for the team and its mission as well as its triumphs and the dedication of its members. It's interesting to consider how close Eichmann came to getting away with his part in the genocide, and his certainty, even when he was tried, that he was simply following orders. With photos sprinkled throughout the book, this narrative nonfiction title deservedly won the YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction.

Eric Sutton says

A fast-paced, abridged version of the pursuit and capture of Adolf Eichmann in Buenos Aires. It is designed for younger readers, as Bascomb attempts to condense the genocidal atrocities committed by Eichmann during the Third Reich, the creation of Israel, the determination of select Nazi hunters in the face of apathy, neo-nazism, plus all the particulars of the operation itself, into a 150-page thriller. A tall order, yet, for a young person learning about the era, it functions as a proper introduction, and the story is certainly a fascinating one. Along with *Bomb* and *Unbroken*, *The Nazi Hunters* should make for an intriguing WWII unit and a gateway to the genre of creative non-fiction, which students don't experience enough in the middle grades.

Becky says

Fantastic how a book where you know how it all ends up can still be so suspenseful. I was reading this book in a snow storm and then the power went out and it was so creepy. Both an engrossing spy story and beautiful testament to these survivors' quest for justice.

Lela says

This was an easy read. I found this book on the "recommended reading" shelf for school kids here and so I found it simple. It contains compact descriptions and facts easily digested by students and older readers who

would want to know the details without having to endure a lengthy read. It was interesting for a very factual story but I suppose one would only read such a book if one is really interested to know. As for the story itself, I found myself feeling frustrated when the mission began due to the incidents that took place. Apart from that, it was a good spy story and I recall most of the items and tactics described in the book similar to the ones I read about or saw on display at The International Spy Museum I recently visited in Washington DC.

David says

I had read about half of this book before going to see the movie, Operation Finale that presents the same story of the hunt for and capture of Adolph Eichmann, the architect of the Nazi's Final Solution of the Jewish Question and the top Nazi in hiding after WWII. I had read a previous book by the leader of the Mossad team that brought Eichmann to Israel to stand trial for war crimes resulting in the deaths of six million Jews along with millions more non-Jews. I finished the book after watching the movie and, as usual, there were differences with the movie to add more drama. But the main points of the story are essentially correct! Makes me want to re-read the other book, The House On Garabaldi Street someday!

Aodhan says

Another good book, very suspenseful, and a really enjoyable plot with good writing.

Laila Kanon says

Had no plan to read this book but when your best friend ask you to read a particular book, you better do, particularly when she took the liberty to thrust the book into your hand! The backstory was we spent our Sunday morning walk discussing the Nazi hunters and the case of Adolf Eichman.

This book was well-written and riveting and there were few passages that took my breath away. Imagine yourself face to face with 'the evil' whom responsible for the death of 6 million of your people in which your family members were among them and yet you had to restrained yourself from avenging their death right there and then. The team to their credits kept carried out the task admirably.

There's of course, the question whether the kidnapping of Eichmann in Argentina to have the trial in Israel was a just one?

I agree with the notion that neither Germany nor Argentina would bring Eichmann to trial. The world need to hear what the Final Solution for the Jewish Question was about which was the central point of Hitler's war. Eichmann maintained his innocent of all crime right to the end and reasoned that he was only following orders. But if he was sincerely believe he was innocent why

he saw the need to disguised himself to be the person he was not and to run away to Argentina, a safe haven for former Nazis? Would it not better for him (and his family) to face the music right from the start?
