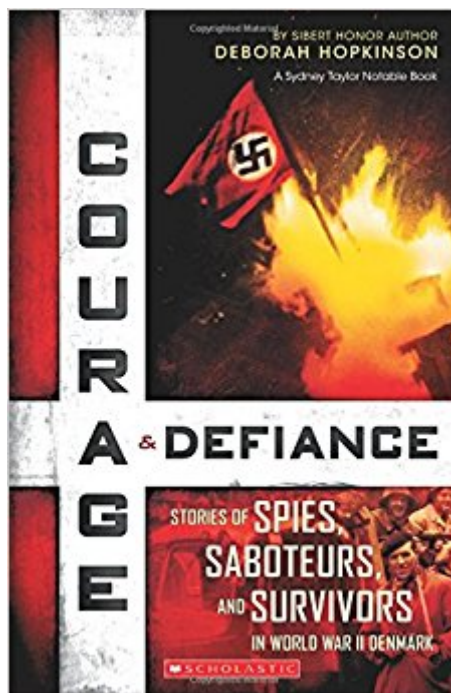




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# Courage & Defiance: Spies, Saboteurs, And Survivors In WWII Denmark



## Synopsis

When the Nazis invaded Denmark on Tuesday, April 9, 1940, the people of this tiny country to the north of Germany awoke to a devastating surprise. The government of Denmark surrendered quietly, and the Danes were ordered to go about their daily lives as if nothing had changed. But everything had changed. Award-winning author Deborah Hopkinson traces the stories of the heroic young men and women who would not stand by as their country was occupied by a dangerous enemy. Rather, they fought back. Some were spies, passing tactical information to the British; some were saboteurs, who aimed to hamper and impede Nazi operations in Denmark; and 95% of the Jewish population of Denmark were survivors, rescued by their fellow countrymen, who had the courage and conscience that drove them to act. With her talent for digging deep in her research and weaving real voices into her narratives, Hopkinson reveals the thrilling truth behind one of WWII's most daring resistance movements.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Praise for *Courage & Defiance: Stories of Spies, Saboteurs, and Survivors in World War II*

Denmark: A Sydney Taylor Notable Book  
An NCTE Orbis Pictus Recommended Book  
A Cybils Award Finalist  
"With numerous pictures and illustrations accompanying the text, this is a fascinating look at a little-known corner of WWII." -- Publishers Weekly  
[A] spirited, inspiring, and extremely

well-researched book... ideal for both classroom use and independent reading." -- Booklist  
 Praise for Titanic: Voices from the Disaster: A Sibert Honor Book A YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction Finalist  
 An ALA Notable Children's Book An IRA Teacher's Choice A Kirkus Reviews Best Young Adult Book of the Year  
 A Horn Book Fanfare Book A Cybils Award Finalist "An affecting portrait of human ambition, folly and almost unbearable nobility in the face of death." -- The Wall Street Journal  
 "A meticulous recounting of the disaster... Hopkinson's reporting is so rich with information that it will be equally fascinating to young readers and adults alike." -- Los Angeles Times  
 "Hopkinson knows precisely what's she doing in her coverage of the Titanic disaster... [A] fine book." -- The Horn Book, starred review  
 "Fascinating... A thorough and absorbing re-creation of the ill-fated voyage." -- Kirkus Reviews, starred review  
 "Riveting." -- Publishers Weekly, starred review  
 "An absorbing and richly satisfying read." -- School Library Journal, starred review  
 Praise for Up Before Daybreak: "Rarely have the links between northern industry, southern agriculture, slavery, war, child labor, and poverty been so skillfully distilled for this audience." -- Booklist, starred review  
 "Superb nonfiction writing." -- Kirkus Reviews, starred review  
 "Excellent." -- School Library Journal, starred review  
 Praise for Shutting Out the Sky: "Nonfiction at its best." -- Kirkus Reviews, starred review  
 "[A] fascinating read." -- School Library Journal, starred review

Deborah Hopkinson is the acclaimed author of over forty award-winning books, including Shutting Out the Sky, an NCTE Orbis Pictus Honor Book and a Jane Addams Peace Award Honor book; Up Before Daybreak, a Carter G. Woodson Honor Award winner; Titanic: Voices from the Disaster, a YALSA Excellence in Nonfiction Finalist and Sibert Honor book; Courage & Defiance, Stories of Spies, Saboteurs, and Survivors in World War II Denmark, a Sydney Taylor Notable book and Orbis Pictus Recommended title; and Dive! World War II Stories of Sailors & Submarines in the Pacific. Deborah lives with her family near Portland, Oregon.

This is an intense and complex report of the resistance and sabotage efforts by citizen Danes during the long German occupation of WWII. Hopkinson does a masterful job of handling complex forces, including the Germans, the British Allied spy organizations (that spent the first few years in conflicting and failed efforts), locals who lacked training or even the mindset to handle secrecy and explosives), and a national government that chose compliance rather than protest or active resistance. She manages to individualize and humanize a cavalcade of locations, players, and problems. Because the history is itself so complex (and I say that as someone who has researched this history extensively) I recommend this as intense nonfiction for strong readers, with special

emphasis on Hopkinson's skill at pointing out areas that continue to be disputed and her detailed back matter to document sources. In addition I'd pair it with the Phillip Hoose non-fiction about the earliest resistance efforts in Denmark: *The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and the Churchill Club*. Hoose does extensive research, too, but relies heavily on primary sources, namely the actual individual on whom the story is based. Comparing these with Lois Lowry's Newbery-winning *NUMBER THE STARS* is a trifecta of excellent reading sources on this topic.

“Only a drop in the ocean, that’s what they say. Well now, the ocean consists of drops.” Mogens Fog An emotionally affecting story based on a collection of survivors’ memoirs, this WWII account focuses on the resistance efforts in Denmark during the five years of German occupation. Readers are immediately drawn in with riveting action from the Danish spies and saboteurs—ordinary men and women who, instead of meekly surrendering their freedom and watching their fellow countrymen in danger, chose to covertly help the official resistance organizations by destroying German machinery and weaponry, disrupting their supply lines and secretly transporting the Jewish population to nearby neutral Sweden. At a great risk to their own lives—and in fact many of the Danes featured were eventually sent to concentration camps—these men and women were brave, admirable heroes of WWII and humbly represent the spirit of the Danish people in a time of great deprivation and strife. *Courage & Defiance* easily garners interest in its subject, giving supporting information on the causes of the war succinctly, and age appropriate descriptions of Hitler’s rise without overwhelming details. Headings include a date, relevant quote or newspaper headline, and there are captioned photos throughout. A vocabulary list for young readers is included, as well as a prologue that is both informative and personal while anticipating any qualms readers may have, such as the timeline that skips around. The author’s enthusiasm for these brave men and women shines with each new chapter, encouraging readers to further independent research. While recommended for ages 8 -12 years, it is suitable for both young adults and older readers as an indispensable reference for those interested specifically in the history of Denmark during World War II.

Wish I had noticed that this book was meant for youth. Probably more entertaining and better suited for elementary or middle school kids rather than adults.

This book was suggested to me by my 12-yo grandson. I downloaded it so he could read it on his Kindle and find myself totally engrossed in this wonderful compilation of bravery in the face of Nazi

tyranny in Denmark! My grandson is enjoying it as well and gives us a wonderful topic of conversation when we're together. I Love that he is enjoying history as much as I.

I am a student of the history of Denmark in WWII, its rescue of Denmark's 7200 citizens of Jewish faith, and its ultimate resistance to German occupation. I have a large library of books, including some textbooks, and others written in Danish that describe Denmark's history from its occupation in April 1940 to its liberation in May 1945. Of all the books I have read this one, meant (I believe) as a good fit for high school libraries is by far the clearest. The author traces how the Danes lived under German occupation, why they did not begin resisting German domination until late in 1942, or early in 43. It contains a clear description of the rescue of the Danish Jews, but also a description of those Danes who chose to join a German sponsored unit and why. It is an easy read, includes a time line, and well worth the purchase.

Excellent account, written for a teen audience, of the Danish resistance in WW2. A very undertold story of some real heroes. Adults will gain much from reading it as well as teens.

My 6th grader read this book and loved it.

Exactly what was required for 8th grade reading...

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Countrymen: The Untold Story of How Denmark's Jews Escaped the Nazis, of the Courage of Their Fellow Danes--and of the Extraordinary Role of the SS

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