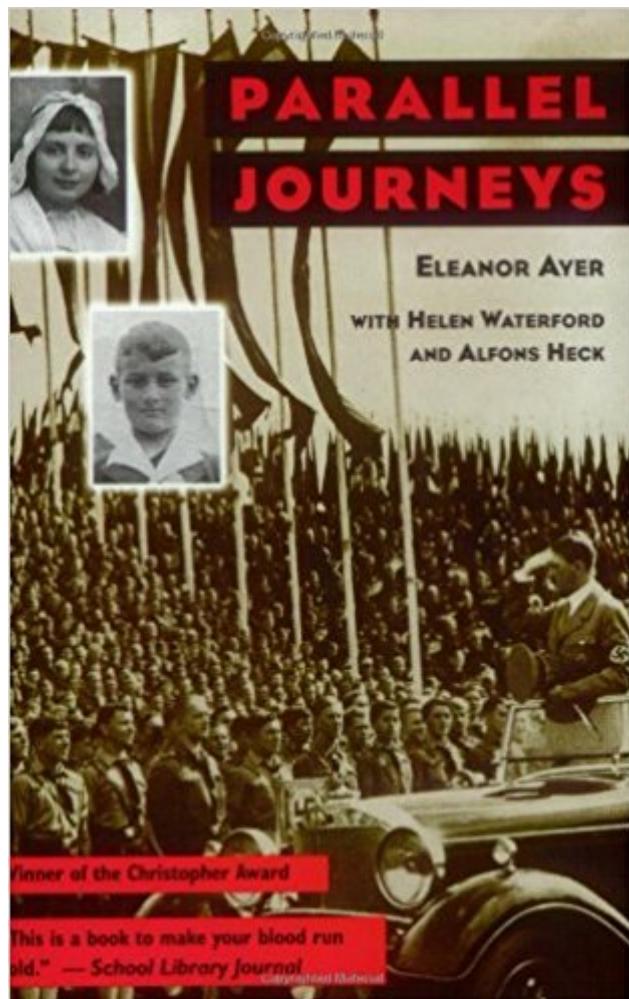


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# Parallel Journeys



## **Synopsis**

She was a young German Jew. He was an ardent member of the Hitler Youth. This is the story of their parallel journey through World War II. Helen Waterford and Alfons Heck were born just a few miles from each other in the German Rhineland. But their lives took radically different courses: Helen's to the Auschwitz extermination camp; Alfons to a high rank in the Hitler Youth. While Helen was hiding in Amsterdam, Alfons was a fanatic believer in Hitler's "master race." While she was crammed in a cattle car bound for the death camp Auschwitz, he was a teenage commander of frontline troops, ready to fight and die for the glory of Hitler and the Fatherland. This book tells both of their stories, side-by-side, in an overwhelming account of the nightmare that was WWII. The riveting stories of these two remarkable people must stand as a powerful lesson to us all.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 256 pages

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Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.7 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (79 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #17,476 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #4 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Holocaust #58 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Historical

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

Parallel JourneysBy:Eleanor Ayer This book turned out to be a very good book. The front cover features Adolf Hitler withthousands of his young supporters hailing him during World War Two. Books about the warusually depress me so usually I wouldn't read them, but this book appealed to me because of thefaces of two teenagers on the front cover. That lead me to read the back cover which simplysaid-He was an ardent member of the Hitler Youth. This is a story of the parallel journey throughWorld War II with Alfons Heck, and Helen Wohlfarth. It compares the two people who hadcompletely different experiences of the war and to let them tell their stories side by side. It

tellshow Helen was treated bad during the war, and how Alfons was training to treat people like Helen badly and get ready for the war. When I first started reading this book I noticed how different it was to some of the other novels I have read about the holocaust. It's very chilling to realize that it is non-fiction. It isn't based on a true story I learned many things that I didn't know about the Holocaust. I never realized how bad it was until I read this book. I was surprised to know how young some of the men were while in the army. It was really sick to know that if they disobeyed an order they could be put to death. For example, when Alfons thought an order he was given was a mistake and didn't follow it. He was punished but luckily not killed. After he punished he never disobeyed an order again even if it was to kill himself. I highly recommend this book to anyone who likes war books especially World War Two books. Written by: Joe Boggs Madison Middle School

While they aren't from the same family, Helen Waterford and Alfons Heck have developed similar respect for one another that siblings have for each other. In their childhoods, these two never would have dreamed that they would be traveling the country together giving lectures at high schools and colleges. Heck was a rising power in the Hitler youth; Waterford a young Jewish girl suffering through concentration camps and death marches. Eleanor H. Ayer weaves the stories of both these survivors together beautifully. She incorporates the history of the Holocaust as well as personal testimony from Waterford and Heck. This really is a must read for anyone interested in the Holocaust or the oppression of Jews from 1933-1945.

This is a great book. It contrasts the views of a Hitler Youth and follower and a Jewish Prisoner very well. If you are interested at all in the Holocaust, this book is a must read. It is filled with interesting and horrifying facts. The author arranged this book well

Excellent and important book. The story follows the journey of 2 very different Germans during WW2, a Jewish girl, and an aryan boy who grows up to become a Nazi soldier. The history and viewpoints were very insightful, and I learned some things about the war that I did not know. It is difficult to comprehend the suffering that was endured by the Jews of that time, but it is also enlightening to see that the German people suffered as well; albeit not to the degree that those who were sent to concentration camps/death camps....which not only included Jews, but Germans, Jehovah's Witnesses, gypsies and many elderly/handicapped people. I found it hard to read when the suffering was described, but I also found it impossible to put down. Well done. All students need to read this book. May we NEVER forget the horrors from WW2.

This is a good first read for people trying to wrap their minds around the Holocaust and WWII in the European theater. It follows the separate journeys of a Hitler Youth and a newlywed Jewish woman. The author ties the two journeys together with historical narration that helps the reader understand the events. At the end of the book, both the erstwhile Hitler Youth and the Jewish woman meet and work to educate the world about Hitler and his enactment of the Final Solution. The information covered in this book lays a foundation for WWII and the Holocaust.

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