

The Faithful Spy: A True Story, Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Plot to Kill Hitler

John Hendrix

Reviewed by: Senou 16

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The Faithful Spy is a colorful narration of a true historical battle against fascism and prejudice. The story follows Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a young German theologian who became a double agent during World War II. Dietrich lived through Hitler's rise to power and Germany's descent into a nation led by fear and hate. As a Lutheran theologian who was taught to love and serve others, he faced a dilemma of loyalty: would he remain loyal to his now Nazi-led country or revolt against these new ideas for the sake of humanity and morality?

Dietrich chose to revolt, in the name of God and goodness, and thus began his quest to help bring down Hitler's regime. Through vivid illustrations, author John Hendrix builds a story that is both a historical and literary adventure. Not many true stories are as suspenseful and world-altering as this one.

As a lover of history, I thoroughly enjoyed how Hendrix's intricate sketches gave Dietrich's story another dimension. The color and detail made what could have been a colorless history book into a vibrant adventure. Hendrix intentionally built his dialogue in the story around direct quotations, so his creative illustrations follow an authentic story. This is not only a book for history lovers, but for anyone seeking an inspiring, vivid story.

As a point of note, the story does revolve primarily around World War II, so blood, death, and war are all elements of both the visuals and the story. Also, Dietrich's occupation as a theologian leads to a few deeper discussions of the Christian faith, which some audiences may not find appropriate. Fortunately, these discussions are authentically from Dietrich's letters, writings, and diaries and are not from the speculation or opinion of the author.

Given the book's heavier subject matter, I would recommend this book for teens. For anyone seeking to learn how Germany fell into Nazi rule, and the little-known struggles of Germans against the Nazi regime, this book is a fascinating read.

Recommended Titles:

The Unwanted: Stories of the Syrian Refugees by Jon Brown

Nurse, Soldier, Spy: The Story of Sarah Edmonds, a Civil War Hero by Marissa Moss

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak