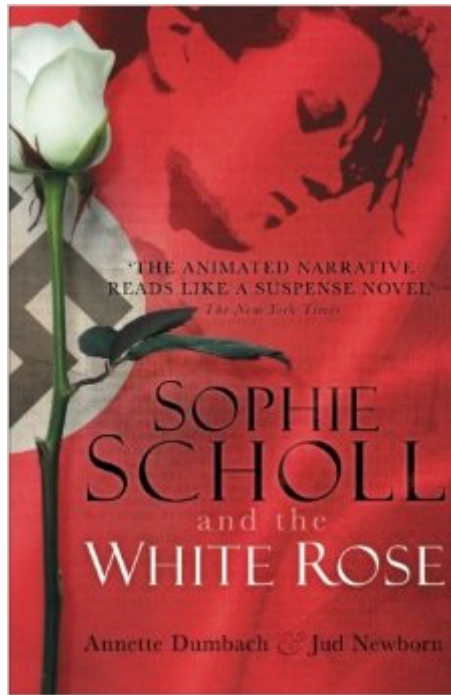


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Sophie Scholl And The White Rose



Synopsis

In the spring and summer of 1942, five young German students and one professor at the University of Munich crossed the threshold of toleration to enter the realms of resistance, danger and death. Protesting in the name of principles Hitler thought he had killed forever, Sophie Scholl and other members of the White Rose realized that the 'Germanization' Hitler sought to enforce was cruel and inhuman, and that they could not be content to remain silent in its midst. From its inception to its end, the captivating story of Sophie Scholl and the White Rose is an uplifting and enlightening account of German resistance to the Third Reich. With detailed chronicles of Scholl's arrest and trial before Hitler's Hanging Judge, Roland Freisler, as well as appendices containing all of the leaflets the White Rose wrote and circulated exhorting Germans to stand up and fight back, this volume is an invaluable addition to World War II literature and a fascinating window into human resilience in the face of dictatorship.

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Customer Reviews

This is a very moving and detailed account of the White Rose resistance movement of 1940s Germany. It is an amazing story, and really renews your faith in humanity. These students, with everything to live for, risked it all to warn their fellow countrymen about the persecution of the Jews, and to try to encourage them to rise up against Hitler and his oppressive regime. I have also read Inge Scholl's slim book on the same subject, which is good, but this is by far the better read, and a much more substantial account. It includes over 20 photographs as well as new and more readable translations of all 7 of the leaflets that the White Rose sent all over Germany to try to rouse the

German people to sabotage the war effort and fight for freedom. The last leaflet was never published, but the text turned up in the Gestapo archives in East Germany after the fall of the Berlin Wall, and this is the only book to include it so far, I think. I recommend it to all students and people interested in the triumph of the human spirit in the face of adversity. A very good read.

I missed the German film on Sophie Scholl that was nominated for an Oscar last week, but came across this book and decided to read it instead. It covers the whole story from the beginnings of the White Rose resistance movement that began at Munich University in 1942, and takes you right up to their capture by the Gestapo, interrogation, trial and execution, which are covered in the film. The film focuses on the last few days, so if you've seen the film, read this for all the background on the different members, who they were, why they came together to take on the Nazi regime, and how they went about trying to stir up the German people to oppose Hitler. At the time they were accused of being traitors, but with the benefit of hindsight they were clearly high principled and committed human beings who put the greater good above personal safety and their own lives. This book is a very good read, combining the historical detail to help you understand the situation the students found themselves in with a fast-paced story that sweeps you along. You definitely feel for the characters as they plan and carry out their activities, and stand up to very tough interrogation. I particularly liked reading the actual leaflets they wrote and tried to circulate round Germany and Austria. A very moving and inspiring story, and one that renews your faith in humanity.

SOPHIE SCHOLL & THE WHITE ROSE is, essentially, about the finest aspects of human nature. The White Rose members' integrity and their compassion for their fellow Germans and, more surprisingly, for the Jewish population who had endured years of prejudice and oppression followed by vicious persecution is very impressive. To mount a secret campaign against the Third Reich, a totalitarian regime of insidious oppression and unbelievable brutality against both the German people and its conquered populations, takes amazing courage. But to face up to that regime on an intensely personal level, without hesitation or - apparently - regret, fully aware of the consequences, is simply awesome. And it awes me that most of the White Rose members were students like myself! This is a very memorable book with a powerful message.

It is quite impossible to do an adequate job of reviewing this book. Knowing that these young German students really lived, daring to risk their young lives and, indeed, losing them, for their distribution of their printed words challenging German people to act against Hitler, is unbelievably

humbling and cause for great hope for mankind. Passive resistance worked. Life triumphed over death. Good was stronger than evil. The authors, Annette Dumbach and Jud Newborn, became accomplished talents with the publication of this book alone. Their ability to combine the biographies of Sophie, her brother and their compatriots in the making and distribution of the White Rose and the requisite history and analysis of the political climate in Germany during The Holocaust is masterful. The book reads like a suspense thriller one could read in a few hours. However, their thoughtful, detailed insights into the minds and hearts of the protagonists, compel the reader to read and then reread many passages before being emotionally able to read on. This is a must read for young and old students of the human condition, a truly unforgettable book.

The book ought to be labeled "Hans Scholl" and "The White Rose". The author makes it abundantly clear that it was Hans, not Sophie, who was the driving force behind the activities of The White Rose. In reading this book one will get the sense that it was Hans, Willi Graf, Christoph Probst, and Alexander Schmorell who did the heavy lifting. Sophie is a peripheral character in the telling of the story of this remarkable group of young Germans. A second flaw is the poor editing of the book itself. The very first sentence of the book misspells "setting" as "seting". They cannot spell "Dostoevsky" correctly either, giving us "Dostoevski". It even is spelled thusly in the index! They also mislabel Sophie's birthday in the photographic section, giving her the same birthday as Hans. She was in fact, three years his junior. People may chalk these up as quibbling concerns, but one wonders how such a short book (238 pages) can suffer from such glaring editorial errors. It makes one wonder what else is wrong with the book. The writing is clear and concise. The authors do not burden the reader with the use of academic vernacular. It is a book that can easily be assigned for high school students and expect to be understood. I hesitated to give this book such a middling rating because it is an important story that needs to be told. But the incongruity between the title and what is actually written in the book and the numerous editorial gaffes hindered my enjoyment of this book. It is not a bad book, but it also is not a great one either.

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