



The Silver Sword

By Ian Serraillier

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"If you meet Ruth or Edek or Bronia, you must tell them I'm going to Switzerland to find their mother. Tell them to follow as soon as they can."

Having lost their parents in the chaos of war, Ruth, Edek and Bronia are left alone to fend for themselves and hide from the Nazis amid the rubble and ruins of their city. They meet a ragged orphan boy, Jan, who treasures a paperknife -- a silver sword -- which was entrusted to him by an escaped prisoner of war. The three children realise that the escapee was their father, the silver sword a message that he is alive and searching for them. Together with Jan they begin a dangerous journey across the battlefields of Europe to find their parents.

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The Silver Sword By Ian Serraillier Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #192708 in Books
- Brand: Vintage Children s Classics
- Published on: 2012-09-10
- Released on: 2012-09-10
- Format: International Edition
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.41" h x .66" w x 5.12" l, .44 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 256 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

"One of the great and enduring tales of survival, courage and hope. Ian Serrailier tells this extraordinary wartime story simply and directly, so that we feel the full force of its truth" -- Michael Morpurgo "As a child I was tremendously moved by Ian Serrailier's *The Silver Sword*; the combination of childhood heroism in a bleak and horrific environment left me with many questions about the dichotomy of good and evil, as well as the importance of loyal friendship" -- John Boyne "One of the most exciting books I've read for a long while" Daily Telegraph "Old-fashioned storytelling about courage at its best" The Times "One of the most remarkable children's books since 1945" -- Oxford Companion to Children's Literature

About the Author

IAN SERRAILIER was born in London in 1912, the eldest of four children. When he was only six years old, Ian's father died, and as his mother was often not very well, he looked after his younger siblings, especially during their long summer holidays in Switzerland. After university, he became a teacher and a writer. When the Second World War broke out, Ian refused to fight, because he believed it is wrong ever to kill another person. Many people who believed this were sent to prison, but fortunately Ian was allowed to continue to teach. After the war, the newspapers were full of pictures of the ruined cities of Europe, and the children who had been orphaned or made homeless by the war. Ian was determined to tell their story. Ruth, Edek, Jan and Bronia are all based on real children, and even the silver sword paper knife was real. Ian Serrailier wrote many children's books but *The Silver Sword* is his most famous and most beloved, and it has never been out of print.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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Playing with family in the park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with pals is thing that usually you will have done when you have spare time, in that case why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. Just one activity that make you not experiencing tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love *The Silver Sword*, you may enjoy both. It is great combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout men. What? Still don't obtain it, oh come on its known as reading friends.

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