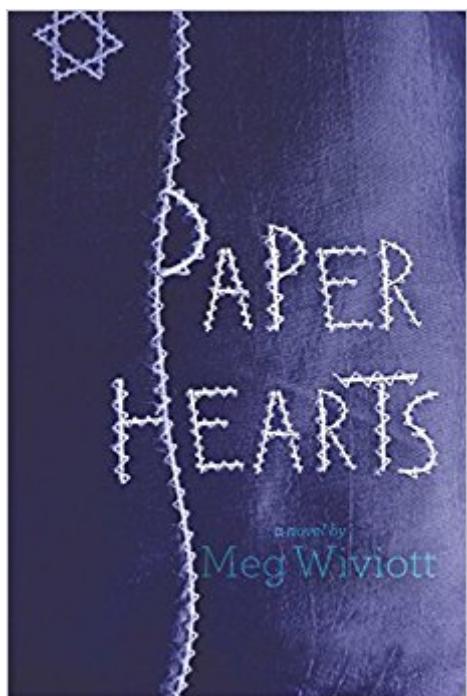


The book was found

# Paper Hearts



## Synopsis

Amid the brutality of Auschwitz during the Holocaust, a forbidden gift helps two teenage girls find hope, friendship, and the will to live in this novel in verse that is based on a true story. An act of defiance. A statement of hope. A crime punishable by death. Making a birthday card in Auschwitz was all of those things. But that is what Zlatka did, in 1944, for her best friend, Fania. She stole and bartered for paper and scissors, secretly creating an origami heart. Then she passed it to every girl at the work tables to sign with their hopes and wishes for happiness, for love, and most of all for freedom. Fania knew what that heart meant, for herself and all the other girls. And she kept it hidden, through the bitter days in the camp and through the death marches. She kept it always. This novel is based on the true story of Fania and Zlatka, the story of the bond that helped them both to hope for the best in the face of the worst. Their heart is one of the few objects created in Auschwitz, and can be seen today in the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 600 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 352 pages

Publisher: Margaret K. McElderry Books (September 1, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1481439839

ISBN-13: 978-1481439831

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.1 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 26 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #104,182 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Religious > Jewish #25 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Jewish #32 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Holocaust

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Gr 6-8 •Wiviott begins this affecting novel in verse at the gates of the Auschwitz death camp. The fictionalized story is based upon true events and focuses on a group of young women who were forced to work at the munitions factory at the camp. Readers meet Zlatka and

Fania, the two main characters, who become best friends. Along with them are many other young girls caught in this dehumanizing web. It is a small but incredibly courageous act of kindness and defiance that gives the book its title; Zlatka and the girls create a card for Fania's 20th birthday. Though the girls lose their families, identities, dreams, and youth, each finds through the others comfort and the will to survive. Along with the depiction of the daily horrors of the camp, there are memories of a past, rich Jewish life filled with caring families, religious traditions, words from scripture, and other reminders of a time when normal life was joyful. In a postscript, the author details what is historical fact and what is fictionalized. A glossary gives the meanings of Yiddish and Jewish words. A beautifully told true story about brave young women who refused to be victims and walked out of Auschwitz with their heads unbowed. VERDICT A strong addition to all YA collections. —Lillian Hecker, Town of Pelham Public Library, NY

"A beautifully told true story about brave young women who refused to be victims and walked out of Auschwitz with their heads unbowed. A strong addition to all YA collections." (School Library Journal)  
"An incredible story, told with respect and love, this deserves a wide readership. Just have the tissue box handy." (Kirkus Reviews)

This book just about broke my heart as books like this too. As stated in the blurb, it's based on the true story of Zlatka and Fania, there are other girls in their group. The author got information from family, etc. The paper heart that was given to Fania by Zlatka is in the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre. I really feel for these girls and all of the people that were stuck in Auschwitz, never knowing if they were going to be alive from minute to minute. I have photo's and links in my full reviews. MY FULL REVIEWS:[...][...]

This story unsettlingly placed me in the heart of the holocaust. At first the placement of the words on the page left me feeling disjointed and disoriented only to realize that it was all part of allowing me to submerge myself into their world! It made me stumble as they stumbled to share their tale. I believe everyone should read this book, it gave knowledge and personality to these horrific events in history. It is beautifully written, allowing the reader to fill in their own emotion with such simple statements on each page. I could not put this book away. I became six girls, six souls, six broken survivors through their words. It reminded me to cherish humanity, look for it at all times and never forget that if you carry it in your heart, it will always exist!

Lovely. If you like to read fiction in verse (poetry-like) this is a book for you.

I read Paper Hearts for my young adult literature class last semester. I found the book very well written and enjoyable to read. This was my first experience with what is "termed" a verse novel. I highly recommend that you read this novel if you are interested in World War 2 Holocaust history.

A very easy read. A great book about friendship and survival.

Wow! Using spare, gorgeous and accessible verse, Meg Wiviott crafts a wonderful and true story about the friendship and survival of two young women held at Auschwitz during WW2. Really, really fine book!

Well written. Love the verse format as it creates strong images, both beautiful and ugly . i intend on suggesting this read to many others of all ages.

Kudos to Ms Wiviott for her sensitivity telling this incredibly sad story. She has shown great love and respect for the real women of Paper Hearts.

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