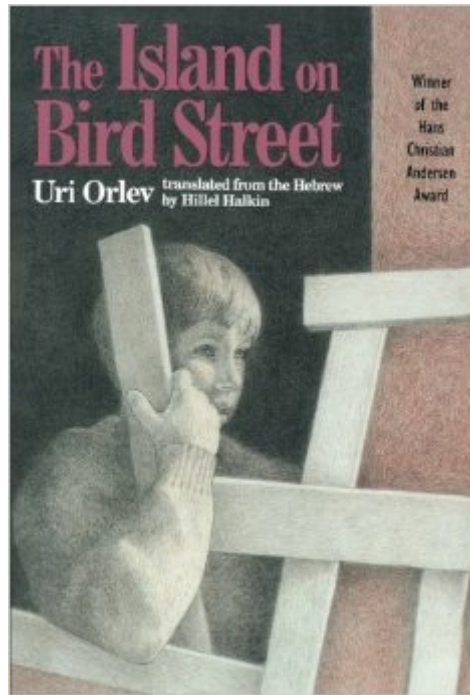


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# The Island On Bird Street



## Synopsis

During World War II a Jewish boy is left on his own for months in a ruined house in the Warsaw Ghetto, where he must learn all the tricks of survival under constantly life-threatening conditions.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 690L (What's this?)

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; Reissue edition (January 20, 1992)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0395616239

ISBN-13: 978-0395616239

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.4 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (48 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #72,637 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #28 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Holocaust](#) #3470 in [Books > Education & Teaching > Schools & Teaching](#)

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

## Customer Reviews

I saw the movie "The Island on Bird Street" with my son and husband recently. It was such a touching film that we saw it again. I cried and will never forget the film. It should get an Academy award. After we saw the film, I ordered the book from [Amazon](#) because I wanted to know more about what happened to Alex. The first part of the book moves a little slow, but it needs to to describe all the characters and what is happening. The last half of the book is so moving I couldn't put the book down. I think it would be a great book for all kids to read in school when they are studying about WWII. But even without the historical backdrop, it is a powerful book showing how a young boy can overcome such awful odds and still survive. Alex struggles to survive by finding food in the ghetto with his pet mouse, Snow, and by making a hidden home in the ghetto. His loneliness is overcome by reading and meeting a few friends along the way. He waits for months for his father to return not knowing if his father is alive or not. His faith that his father will come back for him sustains him. I think the book gives hope that we can overcome great adversity with faith and resourcefulness. I would definitely recommend the book and movie.

This is an interesting book that really brings you into the mind of a Jewish child living during the Holocaust. It tells the story of an 11 year old boy named Alex who lives with his father in the Warsaw Ghetto. One horrible day, Alex's father leaves and Alex is forced to live in a bombed out house on 78 Bird Street. There he must learn how to survive in the always threatening conditions. Until his father returns, Alex must always be on alert. The main character's bravery and courage is inspiring to all who read this book. At times it could be a bit dull, but over all this book was wonderful. Anyone who loves to sit down with a good book should read *The Island on Bird Street*.

I happened upon this book in our school library. It is an easy and incredible read. Growing up we have heard of the horrors but this book puts a real human spin on it all. The young boy learns independence and resourcefulness in an amazing short amount of time. Though there is tragedy it has a happy ending. Its kind of a sad, feel good story for just about 10 years old and up.

Highly recommended and little-known book of the war and Holocaust years told from a child's perspective. Left alone in the ghetto, a young boy struggles to survive, showing enormous courage, resilience and willpower. I also recommend the video if and when you can get a copy (some video stores have previewed copies on sale or 's zhops and auctions occasionally have some) as it is an incredibly well-acted and moving story. The book and video do have some differences but would make a nice addition to any collection of Jewish literature and/or movies. I'd recommend the book for a teenage reader or for a Jewish reading group. Best for more mature readers able to handle difficult, complex topics.

I think *The Island on Bird Street* was a good book. It tied in with the Holocaust, and World War Two. The book was about a boy named Alex whose mother and father were both taken by the Germans, Alex's father told him to hide out and wait for him in a bombed out house even if it took years Alex was to wait for him. Alex was to originally wait in a bunker under the house, but one night he heard a noise, so he moved to the top floor using a rope ladder that he cleverly made himself. The next day a truck pulled up in front of the house and police officers went into his bunker to look around. They made a hole in the ground and there was a real bunker under his. The police hauled out all of the people. Alex thought he was lucky for moving out. I think the book was very interesting. I couldn't guess what was going to come next in the book. It was a thriller. You felt like you were there with Alex. When someone was close to finding him, your heart would start pounding. I suggest

the book to anyone who likes to read about adventures.

This story of struggle for survival in the Warsaw Ghetto does not dwell on the horrors and detail the sufferings of the Ghetto. Instead it presents a kind of Robinson Crusoe-like adventure tale in which young Alex, his mother having died, and his father having been taken away, must learn to fend for himself. He goes through a series of adventures in which his mettle is tested, and in the end the longed-for reunion with his father takes place. The resourcefulness and resilience of the major character are exemplary. It is possible to question the authenticity of having such a buoyant spirit in such difficult circumstances. But the work is well told, and credible on that level.

Alex is left alone to hide in an abandoned building after his parents and most of his friends and other relatives are carted off by the Nazis. It's a suspenseful story, a story where you don't know who is good and who is bad, where you worry that friends may deceive you, where you never know when the Nazis will find you and cart you off, too.

Alex awoke to find his dad sitting on the floor facing the front door with a gun in his hands. Alex knew his dad was going through some tough times because Alex's mom went to a different ghetto to visit some friends and hasn't come back for a whole week. Alex went over to his dad to tell his dad to go to sleep but once he saw the pistol he asked his dad if he is going to shoot the Germans and his dad replied "if I must I will." I really liked this book. It was very interesting because it explained how Jewish people were treated during the Holocaust and how they had to hide and risk the things they loved. It had parts that were sad and other parts that made you feel glad. It also showed what the Germans did to the Jewish people, like making them sleep in bunks together with three or more people, and treated them with disrespect by breaking into people's houses and taking them away.

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