

**CYRM Resource Book  
Young Adult Nominees  
(Grades 9-12)  
2008-2009**

***Daniel Half Human : and the Good Nazi***

by David Chotjewitz

Translated by Doris Orgel

a Richard Jackson Book, Atheneum, 2004

***Life as We Knew It***

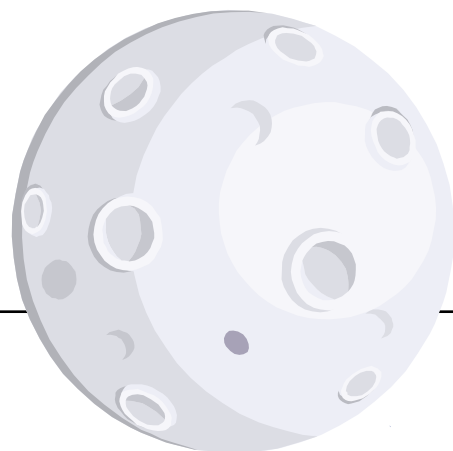
by Susan Pfeffer

Harcourt, 2006

***Sold***

by Patricia McCormick

Hyperion, 2006



California Young Reader Medal  
**Young Adult  
Ballot**  
**2008-2009**

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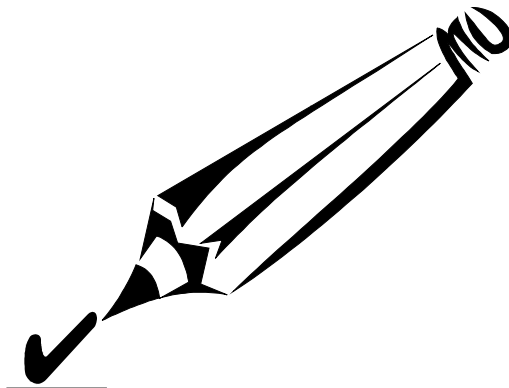
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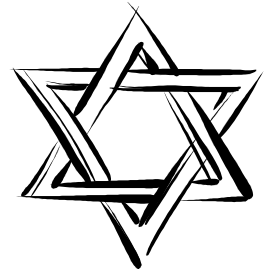
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# ***Daniel Half Human : and the Good Nazi***



by David Chotjewitz

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## **Synopsis**

At the end of World War II a U.S. soldier working as a translator returns to the German neighborhood where he grew-up and recalls the events of his early teen years. In 1933 thirteen-year-old Daniel and his best friend, Armin, are excited about the rise of Hitler and his National Socialist (Nazi) party. Both are eager to join the Hitler Youth to be part of a great movement. But as the Nazis begin to crack down on the Jews Daniel discovers that his mother is Jewish. Now Daniel can never be in the Hitler Youth and he can never reveal his secret to anyone, not even Armin. Daniel's father refuses to believe that he and his family are in danger and is sure that sanity will return to Germany. But as the awful truth becomes evident will there be enough time to escape and will friendship triumph over duty?

## **Hooks**

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- Daniel has an awful secret: he is not fully human. His mother is Jewish so Daniel is only half-human, only half-German. He must hide his secret from everyone: his teachers, his classmates, his teammates, even his best friend Armin. If anyone finds out his life will be ruined and maybe over. Can Daniel keep his secret? Can a "half-human" boy survive the brutality of the Nazi regime?
- Daniel escapes the horrors of the Holocaust but now he returns to his childhood home town in Germany as a U.S soldier. He must confront the ghosts of his past and decide whether friendship is more important than duty and justice.
- How far would you go to help a friend? Would you lie for them? Would you protect them from the law? Would you help them escape justice? Daniel and Armin are best friends and each will have to decide how much that friendship is worth.
- What do you know about life in Germany under the Nazis? Why did Hitler single out the Jews? How did they define 'Jewishness'?
- How much do you know about your parents' backgrounds? Where did they come from? What religious or cultural traditions did they grow up with?

## ***Daniel Half Human : and the Good Nazi***

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### **Meet the Author—David Chotjewitz**

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Born in Berlin, Germany in 1964, David Chotjewitz is a teacher and a playwright. He started his career in publishing and in 1984 published his first book. In the 1990's, Mr. Chotjewitz studied dance in Java before returning to Germany and founding a youth theatre project called Theatre Play Station. He is presently living in Hamburg, Germany with his daughter.

Contact David Chotjewitz:  
[www.simonsays.com](http://www.simonsays.com)



### **Meet the Translator—Doris Orgel**

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Born in Vienna, Austria, Doris Orgel came with her family to the United States as a child. Ms. Orgel is also an author who spends her time writing children's books in addition to her translations. She lives in New York with her family.

Contact Doris Orgel:  
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# **Connections for *Daniel Half Human : and the Good Nazi***

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## **World War II**

- Giblin, James Cross. *The Life and Death of Adolf Hitler*. Clarion Books, 2002.
- Goldston, Robert C. *Sinister Touches: The Secret War Against Hitler*. Dial Press, 1982.
- Spinelli, Jerry. *Milkweed*. Alfred A. Knopf, 2003.
- Zusak, Markus. *The Book Thief*. Alfred A. Knopf, 2006.

## **Holocaust Savivors**

- Meltzer, Milton. *Rescue: The Story of How Gentiles Saved Jews in the Holocaust*. Harper & Row, 1988.
- Opdyke, Irene Gut. *In My Hands: Memories of a Holocaust Rescuer*. Knopf, 1999.

## **Hitler Youth**

- Ayer, Eleanor, Helen Waterford, and Alfons Heck. *Parallel Journeys*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 1995.
- Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. *Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow*. Scholastic Nonfiction, 2005.
- Williams, Laura E. *Behind the Bedroom Wall*. Milkweed Editions, 1996.

## **Multicultural Identity**

- Bell, William. *Zack*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1999.
- Koehn, Ilse. *Mischling, Second Degree: My Childhood in Nazi Germany*. Greenwillow Books, 1977.
- Mochizuki, Ken. *Beacon Hill Boys*. Scholastic Press, 2002.
- Namioka, Lensey. *Half and Half*. Delacorte Press, 2003.
- Woodson, Jacqueline. *Behind You*. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2004.
- Zar, Rose. *In the Mouth of the Wolf*. Jewish Publication Society of America, 1983.

## **Writing Prompts / Discussion Questions for *Daniel Half Human : and the Good Nazi***

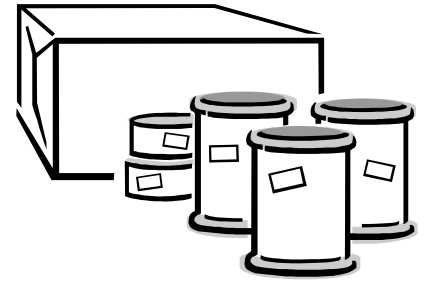
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- In *Daniel Half Human : and the Good Nazi* Daniel and Armin both have to choose between friendship and duty. Write about a time you had to choose between loyalty to a friend or a group and doing what is right. What choice did you have to make? What did you decide to do? Looking back, do you think you did the right thing?
- At the end of *Daniel Half Human: and the Good Nazi* Daniel chooses justice over friendship and loyalty. Write a letter to Daniel telling him whether you think he did the right thing and why you think that.
- Have you ever kept a secret from your friends? What was it? Why didn't you want your friends to know? What would have happened if they found out?
- Armin's relationship with Daniel's cousin is forbidden because they are of different "races" (Arian and Jewish). Should race matter in a relationship? Why or why not?
- The Nazi treatment of Jews and other groups is an extreme form of racism. Describe an experience you or someone you know has had with racism. What happened? How did you handle the situation? Would you handle it differently if it happened today? Why or why not?
- The Nazi Holocaust of the Jews is an example of genocide. Research some other instances of genocide. What groups were involved? When did it occur? How many people were killed? How did it end?
- Using resources in your school library read about one of the Nazi's concentration camps. Where was it located? How many people were sent there? When was the camp liberated? How is that place used now?

# ***Life as We Knew It***

by Susan Pfeffer



## **Synopsis**

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At the end of Miranda's sophomore year in high school, a meteor hits the moon and knocks into a closer orbit with devastating consequences. Earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis, and world-wide weather changes wreak havoc on the Earth and kill hundreds of millions of people. In her journal Miranda recounts day by day how her life changes. Things we take for granted, like water, food, and heat, are suddenly matters of life and death. With no prospect of help from outside, Miranda, her mother, and her brothers struggle to stay alive. Without resorting to blood and gore Susan Beth Pfeffer tells what happens when life as we know it ends.

## **Hooks**

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- No electricity, no running water, no grocery stores, no heat, no phones, no gasoline. Everything that makes our modern life work is suddenly gone. Imagine what that would be like. How would you survive? Predict some of the problems the main character, Miranda, might encounter when all these everyday things are missing.
- In one moment a meteor changes everything. Suddenly food and heat become more important than prom dates and fights with mom. Can Miranda and her family survive in this new world? Will there be a future worth fighting for?
- Time is running out for Miranda's family. Their food supply is dwindling and every day is colder than the one before. It looks like they won't all survive, but who will make the ultimate sacrifice? To find out, read *Life as We Knew It* by Susan Beth Pfeffer.

**Meet the Author—Susan Beth Pfeffer**

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“I decided to be a writer when I was in the first grade and I’ve been fortunate to have lived my dream.” In addition to writing, she has interests in figure skating, movies, baseball, and reading nonfiction. Ms. Pfeffer enjoys hearing from her readers.

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### Survival

- Calabro, Marian. *The Perilous Journey of the Donner Party*. Clarion Books, 1999.
- Carter, Alden R. *Between a Rock and a Hard Place*. Scholastic, 1995.
- Ellis, Deborah. *Parvana's Journey*. Groundwood Books, 2002.
- Fama, Elizabeth. *Overboard*. Cricket Books, 2002.
- Farmer, Nancy. *A Girl Named Disaster*. Orchard Books, 1996.
- Hobbs, Will. *Far North*. Morrow Junior Books, 1996.
- Holtwijk, Ineke. Translated by Boeke, Wanda. *Asphalt Angels*. Front Street, 1999.
- Key, Watt. *Alabama Moon*. Farrar Straus Giroux, 2006.
- Philbrick, Nathaniel. *Revenge of the Whale: The True Story of the Whaleship Essex*. G.P. Putnam, 2002.
- Tullson, Diane. *Red Sea*. Orca Book Publishers, 2005.

### Apocalypse/Post Apocalypse

- Butler, Octavia E. *Parable of the Sower*. Four Walls Eight Windows, 1993.
- McCaughrean, Geraldine. *Not the End of the World*. HarperTempest, 2004.
- Nix, Garth. *Shade's Children*. HarperCollins, 1997.
- O'Brien, Robert C. *Z for Zachariah*. Atheneum, 1974.
- Reeve, Philip. *Mortal Engines*. Scholastic Children's Books, 2001.
- Stevermer, Caroline. *River Rats*. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Publishers, 1992.
- Whedon, Joss. *Fray*. Dark Horse Comics, 2003.

## Writing Prompts / Discussion Questions for *Life as We Knew It*

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- If you experienced what Miranda did in *Life as We Knew It*, what modern convenience would you miss most? Why? How would you adjust to your life without it?
- You are about to go through what Miranda and her family experienced in *Life as We Knew It*. You have time to go to one store to get supplies. Make a list of the supplies you would buy. Explain why any five of these items is important to survival.
- In *Life as We Knew It*, extreme weather caused by climate change caused most of the problems Miranda faced. We frequently hear about extreme weather (heat, cold, storms) caused, in part, by global warming. How does the weather affect people? What needs to be done to deal with the weather? If you had to face similar conditions how would you prepare?
- What skills or knowledge do you have that would help you survive in a situation like Miranda's? What things do you think you would have to learn? Why is each skill important to survival? How could you go about learning these things?
- California is known for its natural disasters (earthquakes, wildfires, landslides, floods, etc.) What should people have in their homes to be prepared for the next big disaster? Explain why each item is important.
- Pretend you had to survive on canned food for several months. What canned foods would you choose to eat day after day? Then, when you have access to all of your favorites, plan your first real meal. What things would you most want to eat? Create a menu and explain your choices. Who would you invite to your meal?
- Research a famous natural disaster (for example, the Indonesian tsunami, Hurricane Katrina, floods in Bangladesh, Mt. Saint Helens volcano). What happened? When did it occur? How many people were affected? Were there any lasting effects?
- The extinction of the dinosaurs is now believed to have been caused by a gigantic meteor hitting the Earth and changing the weather. In this novel, a meteor knocks the moon into a different orbit. How could the moon cause enough destruction to affect the Earth like that?
- Climate change is frequently in the news and is even mentioned in political debates. Do some research on global climate change. Summarize the issues. What are the major arguments about the issues? What do you think?

# ***Sold***

by Patricia McCormick



## **Synopsis**

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Lakshmi is a 13-year-old village girl in Nepal. She and her family barely survive by farming their small mountainside plot. When monsoon floods destroy their crops Lakshmi's stepfather tells her she is being sent to work as a maid in the city. In reality she has been sold into prostitution in India. When she refuses, she is beaten, starved and drugged until she submits. Her life is one of unending brutality but Lakshmi manages to survive and to hope for a better life. Lakshmi's story is based on the real lives of thousands of Nepalese girls who are forced into prostitution in the brothels of India every year.



## **Hooks**

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- Lakshmi's dreams are simple: marry a boy from her village and maybe some day help her family get a real roof for their small house. The promise of a job in the city seems too good to be true. And it is. Her stepfather has betrayed her and sold her to a brothel. Can Lakshmi survive? If she does, can she ever go home?
- Can a 13-year-old village girl survive a brutal life of beatings, starvation, and forced prostitution? Is there any way a simple peasant girl can escape in the slums of Calcutta? Can anyone help her?
- Every year thousands of girls from Nepal are sold into forced prostitution in India. Their lives are horrible almost beyond imagination. In *Sold* Patricia McCormick tells the story of one survivor.

***Sold***

## **Meet the Author—Patricia McCormick**

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Patricia McCormick has taught in New York and has worked as a reporter. Using her training as an investigative journalist, Ms. McCormick was able to gather information while she was in India and Nepal. She interviewed many young women and took notes and photographs ensuring the authenticity of her book. She writes for young adults because she believes that “young adults want to know what’s happening to their peers on the other side of the world.”

Contact Patricia McCormick:

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### Free Verse Novels

- Corrigan, Eireann. *Splintering*. Scholastic, 2004.
- Fields, Terri. *After the Death of Anna Gonzales*. Henry Holt, 2002.
- Frost, Helen. *Keesha's House*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003.
- Glenn, Mel. *The Taking of Room 114: A Hostage Drama in Poems*. Lodestar Books, 1997.
- Glenn, Mel. *Who Killed Mr. Chippendale? A Mystery in Poems*. Lodestar Books, 1996.
- Hesse, Karen. *Out of the Dust*. Scholastic Press, 1997.
- Myers, Walter Dean. *Street Love*. Amistad, 2006.
- Sones, Sonya. *Stop Pretending: What Happened When My Big Sister Went Crazy*. HarperTempest, 1999.

### Modern India

- Perkins, Mitali. *Monsoon Summer*. Delacorte Press, 2004.
- Vijayaraghaven, Vineeta. *Motherland: The Other Side of My Heart*. Chicken House, 2001.

### Women in Slavery

- Carbone, Elisa. *Stealing Freedom*. Knopf, 1998.
- Draper, Sharon M. *Copper Sun*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2006.
- McKissack, Patricia C. and Fredrick L. McKissack, Jr. *Sojourner Truth: Ain't I a Woman?* Scholastic, 1992.
- Walter, Mildred Pitts. *Second Daughter: The Story of a Slave Girl*. Scholastic, 1996.

## Writing Prompts / Discussion Questions for *Sold*

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- In *Sold*, Lakshmi feels powerless to change her situation. Have you ever felt like you had no control over your life? What was happening at the time? Who was making decisions for you? How did it make you feel?
- Writer Patricia McCormick tells us in the author's note at the end of her novel *Sold* that Lakshmi's story is based on the lives of thousands of Nepalese girls. Write a letter to the President, your Senator, or the Secretary General of the United Nations asking them to take action to help these girls. Describe the problem. What do you want them to do? Why should they be concerned about these girls? Can you find anything else you can do to help stop this practice in other countries?
- In *Sold*, Lakshmi's father lies to her. He tells her she is being sent to work as a maid when in fact she is being sold. Describe a time when someone you trusted lied to you. How did they betray you? How did it make you feel? What would you say to that person now to make them understand what they did to you?
- In *Sold*, Lakshmi is helped by a stranger. Describe a time you helped or were helped by a stranger. What was the problem? What was done to help? What help was given? How did it make you feel?
- Do research on Nepal. What is life like there? Are girls and boys treated differently? Why do people visit Nepal?
- *Sold* is written in free verse. Using the same style, write about an important event in your life and how you felt at the time.
- In *Sold*, early in the book Lakshmi tells the reader how she deals with hunger. Write about a time you were really hungry. What did it feel like? Why couldn't you eat? What food did you want most?

