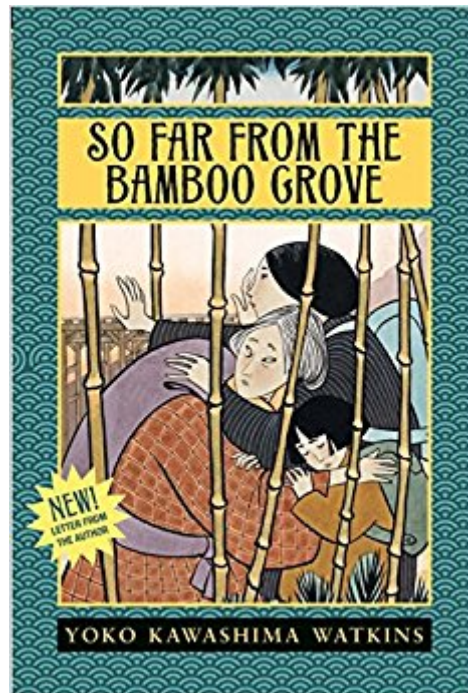




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So Far From The Bamboo Grove



Synopsis

In the final days of World War II, Koreans were determined to take back control of their country from the Japanese and end the suffering caused by the Japanese occupation. As an eleven-year-old girl living with her Japanese family in northern Korea, Yoko is suddenly fleeing for her life with her mother and older sister, Ko, trying to escape to Japan, a country Yoko hardly knows. Their journey is terrifying and remarkable. It's a true story of courage and survival that highlights the plight of individual people in wartime. In the midst of suffering, acts of kindness, as exemplified by a family of Koreans who risk their own lives to help Yoko's brother, are inspiring reminders of the strength and resilience of the human spirit.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 730L (What's this?)

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; 1st Beech Tree ed edition (August 12, 2008)

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Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 5.2 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 158 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #48,334 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Violence #47 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Asia #56 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Military & Wars

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

Customer Reviews

This riveting novel, based on the author's own experiences, describes a Japanese family forced to flee their home in Korea at the end of WW II. Ages 10-up. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 6 Up A true account that is filled with violence and death, yet one that is ultimately a story of family love and life. Eleven-year-old Yoko Kawashima had led a peaceful and secure life as the

daughter of a Japanese government official stationed in North Korea near the end of World War II. Abruptly, all is changed as she, her older sister Ko, and their mother flee the vengeance-seeking North Korean Communists and eventually make their way to an unwelcoming and war-ravaged Japan. Yoko's story is spellbinding. She often escapes death by mere chance; her brother, Hideyo, separated from the family, has an equally harrowing escape. The longed-for arrival in Japan proves to be an almost greater trial, as their mother, defeated by the discovery that all their Japanese relatives are dead, dies. Together, Yoko and Ko create a home in which to await the return of Hideyo. Watkins writes clearly and movingly, with a straightforward style through which the story unfolds quickly. She skillfully alternates her account of the girls' journey with that of their brother, maintaining readers' interest in both. Watkins is able to describe scenes of death, rape, and other atrocities with a simple directness which has no trace of sensationalism yet in no way diminishes their horror. Readers will be riveted by the events of the escape and struggle for survival, and enriched and inspired by the personalities of the family. Especially well drawn is Yoko's gradual emergence from a frightened, whining child to a strong and courageous young girl. Parallels can be drawn to Holocaust survival stories such as Aranka Siegal's *Upon the Head of the Goat* (Farrar, 1981) and Esther Hautzig's *The Endless Steppe* (Crowell, 1968). *So Far from the Bamboo Grove* should have a place among the finest of them. Louise L. Sherman, Anna C. Scott School, Leonia, N.J. Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

This is a GREAT book. I really loved because I read it for school. I usually do not like my school books, but this time I did. I really enjoyed t'his title

fast and expedient

This book taught me so many things, such as the factual history, the racial difference, survival ways, the importance of peace. There are a few comments in the notes from publisher, which many historians cannot agree with because, I assume, they have not updated some historical facts, and the book is a lack of a literary touch for adults, but it is well worth reading.

This is a very detailed, true account of what one family endured during World War II, and it opened my eyes to the types of hardships civilians (particularly women and children) suffer during wartime...and beyond. Despite the suffering, there are also beautiful moments of love, dignity, generosity, courage, and resilience.

I love this book. As you read you can imagine your self in the character's shoes and feel her struggle and heartache. The used copy I received was in good condition too with very little wear and tear.

What a gripping, amazing TRUE story of survival. Highly recommend it for teens and adults.

great story

This book just tells one of family's history. I don't know why never published this book in Japan before. I felt misery of the war. It is another side of view of the end of the War.

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