



Reviews:

Reviewers give five stars

US Book Review:

[Recommended](#)

Grady Harp:

"This book is as much a scrapbook as it is a memoir of a heroic woman: it is filled with photographs of family, of furniture, maps, documents, recipes, places, and other memorabilia that help bring to light the life of the amazing Anita Ron Schorr - her life as a child of a well to do, musical family in Brno, Czechoslovakia during the 1930s and 1940s as the heinous flame of Adolph Hitler consumed Europe and threatened the world."

She talks to us about the pre-war days, the mysterious news of the rise of Hitler, the pogroms, the invasion of Czechoslovakia, the purge of Jews of her country, the admission to the death camps and her survival from these heinous events. Her heroics resulted in her eventually moving to the US where even now at age 83 and a grandmother of nine, she is a devoted advocate for the weakest members of our society. And in her words, "One of the primary lessons I took from my painful experience is that bullying in its most extreme forms leads eventually to wars and genocide. It not only kills, but also leaves profound scars in those who survive. Ultimately, these scars can render them stronger. Some may become hardened and insensitive and will want retaliation and more war, but others will advocate for peace, as I am."

Carolyn Hoyt writes:

"A happy extended family destroyed by insane evil. There are many books by Holocaust survivors, but this one is from the point of view of a young survivor still hoping she will find someone from her family. The story goes back in time to her happy childhood and the slow loss of everything and everyone dear to her. She survives because of a push from her Mother, the unexpected intervention of a female Nazi official, the kindness of an ordinary soldier and her own strength and bravery. She goes beyond the Nazi insanity to warn against all forms of hate and bullying and the tragic results that continue to this day. She also makes clear that all of the eleven million souls lost in the Holocaust should never be forgotten. An important book from an unforgettable lady - Fortunately there are two additional books that continue her message.

Great Read says:

"Anita's Piano by Marion Stahl, and narrated by Anita Ron Schorr is a deeply moving story that you won't forget in a hurry. It is a poignant and heartbreaking story, a story that unfolds during the height of Hitler's Nazi Germany. It is a story, which will leave no one untouched. Anita's Piano by Marion Stahl, and narrated by Anita Ron Schorr is a deeply moving story that you won't forget in a hurry. It is a story, which will leave no one untouched.

In summary: Anita led a charmed life as young girl. Living in Brno, in the earliest years while living in the republic of Czechoslovakia, with her family, music fills her life and even at a tender age she could play the piano. She was only nine years old when her town was overrun and captured by Hitler's military forces. Anita's beautiful world disintegrated and

her family was displaced time and again over a short period of time, leaving her an orphan at the age of fifteen. Anita's Piano follows her journey as she faces an uphill task to come to terms with her tragic fate, leaving her to look after herself all of a sudden, with her former beautiful life soon turning into a distant memory.

Steven Bouchard title his review: Excellent: Not only does this book cover atrocities and "events" on a grand scale, it also covers repugnant atrocities of a family. EVERYONE should read this well-done history.

Story Circle Book Reviews, Anita Lock says:

"The adage "Don't judge a book by its cover" comes to mind when viewing the front of Marion A. Stahl's latest novel. The picture of a child's hands gracefully moving across piano keys evokes a gentle playfulness. Yet what it actually portrays is one person's stolen childhood. Be a Hero is based on the life of Anita Ron Schorr (nee Pollakova), a Holocaust survivor. Told through the eyes of a youth, it reveals what life was like for Anita growing up in Brno, Czechoslovakia pre, during, and post World War II (WWII). As Anita recalls:

I kept those memories locked up, feeling ashamed of them, for much too long until Elie Wiesel, Nobel Peace Prize winner, inspired me. It is when I began speaking to schools. I would stop there if it wasn't for the bewilderment and fascination I see in the eyes of the young students when I share my story. When I see the expressions on their faces, I know I have to do more to keep my voice alive. I also want to honor those who did not survive and ensure that history does not repeat itself.

Stahl's first person narrative opens with fifteen-year-old Anita, who is living in a Czech orphanage and awaiting word on surviving family members. Although the latest information indicates that there are "absolutely no traces" of her family, Anita hopes for a miracle. Stahl quickly shifts the story to Anita's life before Hitler's regime transforms "the largest Eastern European country outside of Russia" into a place of destitution and hopelessness. While Anita's memories are filled with the wonderful sights and smells of her childhood, Stahl keeps readers connected to Anita's recollections by incorporating apt historical information about Czechoslovakia and its impending tragic events.

Stahl emphasizes that the key to Anita's upbringing is the music that fills her home. By the age of seven she not only begins to learn how to play the family's beautiful Steinway piano, but also witnesses a miracle when her two-year-brother effortlessly corrects Anita on a difficult piece. She is unaware of the powerful effect that event will have on her life. Reflecting on the moment, Anita makes this comment:

The memory of that moment still brightens every dark space of my present life. I feel his presence there helping me play those notes; helping me resolve whatever difficult task I try to carry out.

The anti-Semitic Nuremberg Laws spell doom and gloom for the Jews, and Anita's peaceful life—including playing the piano—comes to a halt. Anita's family is visibly upset and begins to disperse their prized belongings, including the piano, to close friends. In the meantime, Anita decides that she is going to give Mr. Hitler a piece of her mind. Amid this cruel moment in time, Stahl offers a bit of comedic relief by including Anita's opinionated handwritten letter to Hitler.

While Stahl continues to unfold Schorr's harrowing tale from the ghettos to Auschwitz, she veers off in another direction. Anita's life suddenly transitions when workers are needed in Germany and her mother forces her to go, in the hope that this will be Anita's ticket to freedom. Now that Anita is separated from her family and placed in appalling

circumstances, miracles occur when she is shown compassion by none other than German soldiers.

The youth version “Be a Hero”’s version includes group discussion questions, a brief Czech glossary, and chronological WWII highlights. Stahl and Schorr's purpose for this novel is to raise awareness that bullying in its most extreme forms leads eventually to wars and genocide, but also to show that victims of this form of cruelty can become advocates for peace—as Schorr has chosen—rather than instruments of retaliation. Closing with a cliffhanger, Be a Hero leaves readers earnestly anticipating the next chapter in Schorr's life.”

Paige Duke:

“Marion A. Stahl writes with rare vision and inspiration, bringing readers the story of the Holocaust through the lens of family. We meet Anita as a young child, amidst her idyllic life of home, family, and community. But as Hitler's influence grows, the very fabric of their lives begins to unravel, as one by one, the family is pulled apart. Anita finds the courage to navigate her changing world and is determined to find her family, to reunite the pieces she has lost.

Marion manages to write with such a fresh and authentic voice, that I felt completely transported, as if I were viewing the Holocaust's infamous events for the first time. Anita, now as an adult speaking to the next generation, says she wants to share her story so that people will stand up and speak out against oppression and bullying of all kinds. Marion has captured that spirit through this book. It's an intimate and vital call to remember the past and carry its lessons into our future.

[More reviews](#)

Ref.

(1) <http://anitaspiano.com>

(2) <http://marionstahl.com>

(3) <http://anitaschorr.com>

Author Marion Stahl Receives Montaigne Finalist Award for New Book "Anita's Piano"

Ms. Stahl's writes about challenging subjects, such as the criminalization of medicine, the ravaging long-term effects of despotic wars and bullying in world history. The US Book Review recommended and reviewers have much to share about the book and give it five stars.

The Montaigne Medal is awarded to the most thought-provoking titles in honor of the great French philosopher Montaigne. The award for Stahl's paperback marks perhaps a renewed interest in a very present issue and long-term repercussion of bullying. Reviewers have much to share about the book and give it five stars and comments such as Well Written – Moving – Powerful-Touching-Excellent-Page Turning Memoir-Heart Breaking.

Ms. Stahl's writes about challenging subjects. In "Anita's Piano," she shares the experience of a young girl and the ravaging long-term effects of despotic wars. Anita's Piano also published for High School as: "Be a Hero," is read in schools for lessons on bullying in history. Stahl's style remains light yet 'her characters stay with you and borrow in your heart'. What makes this last book so special? Is it because young Anita tells the story? Or is it because, by a fortunate turn of events, she is still alive? This third book for Australian born Marion A. Stahl was recommended by the US Book Review and received excellent marks from professional reviews and readers at large as well.

Anita, now 84, bestows her time to schools and young children attempting to impress the ravage of bullying. She has accumulated much recognition, including 'Movers and Shakers.' More recently, she was awarded the 'Exceptional Leader Award' by Senator Richard Blumenthal, the 'Distinguished Community Leadership Award' by Governor Nancy Wyman, and the State of Connecticut General Assembly Official Citation. Young students love her, and it isn't unusual for her to receive standing ovations. To make it more palpable and reader friendly, the author translated Anita current narration and brought back the unraveling situation and views from a child's perspective. Her intention was to share Anita's message in a manner that may reach young readers. Anita is a youthful girl, and juvenile readers can identify more readily. The author describes the historical context with simplicity yet hoping to hoist a novel interest to gain knowledge of history, social injustice and the consequence of out of control behavior.

Adult	High School	Middle School
ISBN: 978-0692288955 Marion A Stahl 262 pp "Anita's Piano." BISAC/Genre: Family & Relationships/Prejudice Paperback and digital CorpWell Publishing	ISBN: 978-1492124122 Marion A Stahl 262 pp "Be a Hero, Anita's Piano." BISAC/Genre: Juvenile Nonfiction / School & Educat. Paperback and digital CorpWell Publishing	ISBN: 978-1495456237 Marion A Stahl 186 pp "Anita's Piano" BISAC/Genre: Juvenile Nonfiction / School & Educat. Paperback and digital CorpWell Publishing

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