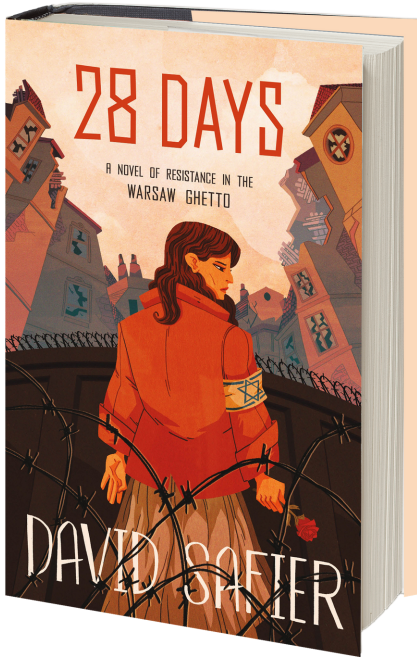


28 DAYS: A NOVEL OF RESISTANCE IN THE WARSAW GHETTO

Discussion Guide



ABOUT THE BOOK:

Inspired by true events, David Safier's *28 Days: A Novel of Resistance in the Warsaw Ghetto* is a harrowing historical YA that chronicles the brutality of the Holocaust.

Warsaw, 1942. Sixteen-year old Mira smuggles food into the Ghetto to keep herself and her family alive. When she discovers that the entire Ghetto is to be “liquidated”—killed or “resettled” to concentration camps—she desperately tries to find a way to save her family. She meets a group of young people who are planning the unthinkable: an uprising against the occupying forces. Mira joins the resistance fighters who, with minimal supplies and weapons, end up holding out for twenty-eight days, longer than anyone had thought possible.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

David Safier is a bestselling German novelist and television writer whose credits include the TV series *Berlin, Berlin*, for which he was awarded the Adolf Grimme Award and an International Emmy Award for best comedy. He has written nine adult novels published in Germany. *28 Days* is his first young adult novel, and his first novel published in the United States. He lives in Berlin.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Out of all the characters in the book, why do you think the author chose to tell the story from Mira's perspective? If you could've read the story from another character's point of view, who would you choose?
- Mira's father spent the last of their money to get Simon into the Jewish police. Do you agree with her father's decision? By the end of the book, do you think Mira forgave her brother?
- Throughout the book, Hannah tells a story set in the world of the 777 islands. Discuss the characters of Captain Carrot, the werewolf, and the Mirror King. Who was the Mirror King supposed to symbolize?
- Hannah was often upset when Mira tried to shield her from the realities of what was happening around them. Do you think Hannah deserved to know, or did Mira make the right decision?
- A recurring question Mira poses to herself is, “What kind of person do I want to be?” How does her answer to this question change through the course of the book?
- On why she said yes to Michal's proposal, Miriam says, “I can spend the rest of my life alone, or marry a man I don't really love but who loves me.” Discuss how her view compares to or contrasts with Mira's relationships with Daniel and Amos. Do you think Mira would've been happy in a relationship like Miriam's?
- Daniel and Amos have very different views about the uprising. Which side would you have chosen if you were in Mira's shoes?
- The book includes many different types of heroes and extraordinary examples of courage. Out of all the heroic acts, which one were you most moved by and why?
- Although the novel is based on historic facts, the characters are works of fiction. Why do you think it's important to read historical fiction? How did Safier's writing elevate this story?
- In the earlier chapters of the book Mira says, “The ghetto had not managed to break all of us yet. There were still good people. I was not one of them.” Why did she not consider herself a good person? Do you agree with her opinion of who was “good”? Do you think her view has changed by the end of the book?

