

THE GERMAN GIRL Read Free

The German Girl by Armando Lucas Correa - Book. THE GERMAN GIRL. The German Girl.



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Armando Lucas Correa
369 pages
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London, United Kingdom

' & 'The Departed' Producer Acquires Novel 'The German Girl' For TV – Deadline

Community Reviews. Showing Average rating 3. Rating details. More filters. Sort order. Start your review of The German Girl. Nov 19, Chelsea Humphrey rated it really liked it Shelves: from-publisher , giveaways. Wow, talk about a heart wrenching read! This is the most involved in a historical fiction novel I have ever been. The first sentence gripped me and I found myself clenched throughout the entire read. The most moving factor for me was the complete list at the end of the book that stated the names of all the passengers on board the St. I found myself choking back tears while reading the horrible history described in the author's note; reflection on such torture seemed not important enough a Wow, talk about a heart wrenching read!

I found myself choking back tears while reading the horrible history described in the author's note; reflection on such torture seemed not important enough an action to take, yet it's all we can do. I'm hoping books such as this one can help us remember the injustices done in our world history as to not repeat them again. Highly recommended to fans of WWII historical fiction; this stated it was recommended to fans of The Nightingale which makes me eager to pick it up and read it as well. View all 26 comments. Oct 25, Angela M rated it really liked it Shelves: netgalley-reviews. This is a heartbreaking story about an incident that occurred in that only some may know about and that is precisely why this book is one that should be read.

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But the situation turns and only 28 people are allowed to embark in Cuba and while Hannah and her mother are among them, her father, Leo and his father are not. She's never met her father. An envelope arrives from Cuba with negatives to be developed, a German magazine with a cover photo of a young girl who looks like Anna- a mystery to be pieced together with these things sent from Hannah, a woman who says she is the aunt who raised Anna's missing father. A link between these two who have both lost fathers becomes a bond of hope.

This is a heartbreaking story which felt somewhat simplistic in the writing ; it is understandable since the bulk of the narratives are from the perspective of two young girls. It's a little light on the treatment of the holocaust and I would have thought that this should have been described as geared to a YA audience. Yet it is impactful. It's about horrific things that happened to people, represented by these two voices and about the resilience of the human spirit. View all 29 comments. Feb 04, Jen rated it really liked it Shelves: europe-war. A life of pain and suffering. Of loss. Told in parallel stories with decades between them, this story spans from to and is the story of Hannah and Anna. Both lost a parent due to war - one during the holocaust; the other to Anna is the namesake of Hannah- a great aunt who immigrated to Cuba from Nazi invaded Germany. The stories draw out the journeys each girl makes.

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I recommend this book to fans of historical fiction, lovers of beautiful writing, and ww2 buffs. I also recommend learning about the real St. Louis and especially its hero captain Gustav Schroder. Thank you to the publisher and NetGalley for giving me a copy of this book. Jun 21, Cheri rated it really liked it Shelves: , arc , holocaust , netgalley , cuba. Hannah, an eleven-year old girl, was used to a life wrapped in loveliness. Together, they must find a future together. The one chance they have is a ship, the Saint Louis. They need to get all their papers signed, all the arrangements made, and then they will, hopefully, be able to join the other families going to Cuba.

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This leads them to the fateful voyage on the St Louis. The family is torn apart by their decision to travel on the St Louis, a decision that echoes across the decades, impacting on the descendants of the Rosenthal family. The German Girl is a touching and ambitious novel. It is expansive, crossing the continents, as the setting moves effortlessly from Europe, to Cuba and finally the US. It also spans time, covering an era of over seventy years. The German Girl employs the use of two young narrators to unfurl the main events of the story. The two stories are separate but eventually they become intertwined, as the tale of the St Louis is revealed. This monotony of the past, the constant feeling of lost hope, defines the story. Louis , the ship that Hannah and her family board in it was famously turned away amid a growing crisis in Europe.

Once Hannah and her mother are safe, they build an isolated, bitter life in their new country, and I found that I was angry with her for not trying, for losing hope instead of attempting to build a better life. But I think the past, in this story, is both very much the point and not the point at all. The emotional impact comes from a slow, poignant realization that nothing that is done can be undone, and moving forward can often be impossible. For a list of excluded items please visit our Free delivery

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Review: THE GERMAN GIRL by Armando Lucas Correa | Off the Shelf

Coming of Age. Earn money by sharing your favorite books through our Affiliate program. Become an affiliate. About the Author Armando Lucas Correa is an award-winning journalist, editor, author, and the recipient of several awards from the National Association of Hispanic Publications and the Society of Professional Journalism. He is the author of the international bestseller *The German Girl*, which is now being published in thirteen languages. He lives in New York City with his partner and their three children.

Visit ArmandoLucasCorrea. Reviews "I found myself unable to put the book down. I was able to identify with what my parents must have experienced first in Germany and later the St. I found it unbelievable on many levels. Not on the historical details, though. Just in how the charac ...more That's the least of the worries about this book. Just in how the characters found ways to cope, or not cope.

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Of loss. Told in parallel stories with decades between them, this story spans from to and is the story of Hannah and Anna. Both lost a parent due to war - one during the holocaust; the other to Anna is the namesake of Hannah- a great aunt who immigrated to Cuba from Nazi invaded Germany. The stories draw out the journeys each girl makes. Hannah's is the focus from Germany to Cuba on a ship that poses it's own challenges for the 'impure'. Just when escape was almost a victory, only 36 of passengers were able to disembark. The irony. The bitterness. The bleakness. I had no idea of Cuba's role and the exile The Jews faced from countries abroad trying to escape the land that was once home. The countries that denied them asylum in addition to Cuba were Canada and the U.

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Many were in search of freedom from persecution of the Third Reich in a new world, Havana. However, a tragic turn of events occurred and when the St Louis reached the waters of Havana, the ship was refused entry, unable to dock. The ship was forced to sail on, hoping to find sanction elsewhere but this is an impossible task. We follow Hannah and her family as they take a huge fall from grace.

In the opening of the novel, the reader learns that the Rosenthals are a wealthy Jewish family. The increasing dominance of the Nazi regime and their hatred for the Jewish people forces this family to flee their home. This leads them to the fateful voyage on the St Louis. The family is torn apart by their decision to travel on the St Louis, a decision that echoes across the decades, impacting on the descendants of the Rosenthal family. The German Girl is a touching and ambitious novel. It is expansive, crossing the continents, as the setting moves effortlessly from Europe, to Cuba and finally the US. It also spans time, covering an era of over seventy years. The German Girl employs the use of two young narrators to unfurl the main events of the story.

The two stories are separate but eventually they become intertwined, as the tale of the St Louis is revealed. I am always on the hunt for stories to come out of an era that fascinates me and Correa seemed to fill this void. Prior to reading The German Girl, I am ashamed to say I had not heard of the fate of the St Louis, so I am grateful to the author for raising my awareness to this shameful event in world history. Correa certainly drew my attention to the fate of these refugees and perhaps a message could be taken away from this terrible event in the past, regarding our treatment of refugees seeking asylum in the present day. My final word on The German Girl are the detailed historical facts and the appendix which lists the passengers aboard the St Louis, contained at the back of the novel. These additions worked to deepen my respect for this novel. The German Girl is a moving piece of literature that serves to remind of us of the sorrowful incidents that occurred during the Holocaust.

Armando Lucas Correa expertly ties together true life events, within an affective narrative. The German Girl is a novel that I imagine will stay with me and you for some time, long after the final page is turned. View all 8 comments. This is a fictionalized account of an event that really happened. She has lived a happy life with many adventures shared with her best friend, Leo. They are a wealthy and influential family and their father secures passage on the St. Louis, a luxury liner, that will take them to Cuba where they have been promised a new life after buying papers from the government that they are told will grant them asylum in Havana. After a rather wonderful and exciting trip upon the St. Louis for Hannah and Leo they finally arrive in the port of Havana only to be told that their papers are no longer valid with the new government.

Out of the passengers only 28 are allowed into Havana. This included Hannah and her mother Alma but her father and Leo and his family are turned away. Her mother feels that Anna should be introduced to this aunt and they visit Cuba. There were many things that I loved about this book. First off the writing is wonderful, beautiful prose which flows at a steady and increasingly quicker pace. I had never known about the St. Louis and the Jews who tried to flee to Havana and this was a great insight into that event. Sadly, most of the people were turned away and ended up back in the Europe that they fled.

The voices of the children, Hannah and Leo, were particularly well written. It is never a small feat for an author to get the thoughts and voices of children on paper. This friendship and all it encompassed was probably my favorite part of the book. The other characters from both the present and past are well described and touched me in many ways. The alternating chapters between Hannah and Anna are very cohesive and there was no disruption of the story process. I was left with some unanswered questions. Why were these particular 28 people chosen and the others turned away?

Maybe there are no answers to these questions without being able to ask some of the real people who sailed on the St. I highly recommend this book to all lovers of historical fiction. I was given an ARC of this novel to read in exchange for an honest review. Thank you to the publisher and NetGalley for this opportunity. View all 11 comments. This book was my introduction to the SS St. Louis, a transatlantic liner offering Jews safe passage out of Germany in What I enjoyed most about this novel was learning about a piece of Holocaust history that I had known nothing about.

It is obvious that a tremendous amount of research went into creating this novel. Overall, I thought the book was good, it just didn't have a "wow" factor for me. I kind of feel bad for this book because I think that part of my lack of enthusiasm b 3. I kind of feel bad for this book because I think that part of my lack of enthusiasm boils down to a "timing" issue. Like this book, "Lilac Girls" is a historical fiction novel based on true events. One thing that lacked for me in this book was that I could not connect with any of the characters. It wasn't that I didn't like them, I just didn't connect with them.

For a book to truly resonate with me, I have to feel that I have become immersed in the character's lives and storylines and I just didn't. This book couldn't keep my interest for long periods of time. Regardless of how I feel about the fictional characters in this novel, I really appreciate learning about this important piece of Holocaust history. I am happy that I read this book and feel that I would recommend it to others simply because it is an important part of history that we should never forget. View all 9 comments. The climate of their city has started to change due to the invasion of the Nazi party. Because they are of the Jewish faith, the family is no longer accepted and face humiliation daily. Friends disappear in the night, it is not safe to be outside, jobs are taken away, people arrested for no reason.

The family does not have many available options to escape. They enjoy their time on the ship and are relieved to be leaving Nazi Germany. Unfortunately, the ship is refused entry into Cuba. Ultimately, this ship only allowed 29 passengers to disembark in Cuba, and was sent back to Europe. On her twelfth birthday, Anna receives an envelope from a great aunt that she has never met. This person raised her father but is unknown by her mother. Anna is intrigued by the photos and pictures sent by her great aunt. The family travels to Cuba to learn about her father. It is in Cuba where they unravel the mysteries of their family's and their connections back to Berlin.

I felt a surge of emotion when the two stories converged. I appreciate these lessons in history. The author did a great job of weaving together an emotional story. This is a debut novel by this author. View all 17 comments. The story is told via two year-old narrators in two different eras. The first half of the book briefly introduces us to Anna but most of the page time is given to Hannah and her family's escape from

Germany just before war breaks out. Living in Ge 2. Living in Germany under the increasing power of what Hannah calls 'the Ogres' is hard. While Hannah has the unique experience of being a Jew yet looking more Aryan in complexion, this does not make her life easier and causes discord within her Jewish community.

As Jews they are constantly denigrated by their neighbours and fear that their lives are in danger. This abuse, as well as the mood in Berlin at the time, is vividly portrayed to the reader. Surprisingly I didn't find myself invested in Hannah's or Anna's hardships. The setting and the plot were screaming for an emotional connection but it felt like Correa didn't delve deep enough into the emotions of his characters. Add in the very slowly paced plot and unfortunately I didn't feel like I had much of a connection to either of the girls whose personalities were so similar that they seemed to blend together.

Personally, I would have preferred for Anna's story line to be omitted entirely with more focus on Hannah's family. After reading this book I questioned whether or not this is supposed to be a Historical Fiction for young teens instead of adults. The writing itself, while descriptive to a point, felt geared to a younger audience. It felt like the effects of this horrific war were toned down for the reader. If this book is written for a younger audience and I could find no mention of it being specifically a YA read I suppose it could be said that Correa was making his book age appropriate.

Personally, if this is written for adults I don't think the devastation of WWII and the horror that was inflicted on Jews by the Nazis is something that should be glossed over. I also don't understand why, except for one instance I can recall, the author chose to not use the terms Jew, Nazi or Holocaust in his book. What I will take away from this novel is the fact that I enjoyed learning about the S. S St Louis, the trans-Atlantic ship that Hannah and her family took with almost 1, other people to Cuba to escape the horrors of war. I had previously no knowledge that there were refugees who escaped the Nazis only to be turned away by Cuba who suddenly decided not to honour the visas that the passengers had procured earlier. Unfortunately, I don't think that Correa, an award winning journalist and author, delved deep enough into the issues or the emotions of his characters to make it a truly gripping and emotional read.

Disclaimer: My sincere thanks to Atria Books and NetGalley for providing me with a complimentary e-book copy of this book in exchange for my honest review. View all 15 comments. Mar 08, Diane Barnes rated it liked it Shelves: noble-bitches-book-club.

THE GERMAN GIRL | Kirkus Reviews

At first, the liner feels like a luxury, but as they travel, the circumstances of war change, and the ship that was to be their salvation seems likely to become their doom. New York, On her twelfth birthday, Anna Rosen receives a mysterious package from an unknown relative in Cuba, her great-aunt Hannah. Weaving dual time frames, and based on a true story, *The German Girl* is a beautifully written and deeply poignant story about generations of exiles seeking a place to call home.

Hannah Rosenthal will remain in your heart and her determination to tell the story of what she saw, lived, and lost will change the way you look at the world. I was able to identify with what my parents must have experienced first in Germany and later the St. Louis "It was so true to our many life experiences... I became enthralled with the descriptions of the emotional turmoil that these characters endured.

This tragedy, ignored for so many years, contains a lesson the world must learn and never forget: compassion for refugees. Louis "A timely must-read. Armando Lucas Correa is an award-winning journalist, editor, author, and the recipient of several awards from the National Association of Hispanic Publications and the Society of Professional Journalism. He is the author of the international bestseller *The German Girl*, which is now being published in thirteen languages. He lives in New York City with his partner and their three children.

Visit ArmandoLucasCorrea. The countries that denied them asylum in addition to Cuba were Canada and the U. I agree with other reviews that the ending was a touch over the top, but overall a well written and memorable read. The reproduction of the passenger list with accompanying photos were a beautiful tribute. View all 43 comments. Apr 01, Elyse Walters rated it liked it Shelves: historical-fiction, holocaust-themes, fiction, europe, war. The saddest part of this book for me was the real history — history that the United States - Cuba - and Canada - should have felt ashamed of — for their loathness and aversion in accepting and welcoming Jewish refugees. The President of Canada and the United States - both refused their entrance. When the St. Louis sailed from Germany to Cuba with over people - Germans and Jews - hopeful to begin a new life — one could only imagine the horrific devastation the people felt being turned away. Less than 50 people were granted sanctuary.

I often found it wearisome switching back and forth with the chapters and the characters. It became somewhat irritating and predictable- never changing styles in the crafting In concluding the actual history was shattering Many readers thought this was a beautiful book. I respect our differences. Likeable enough at times Perhaps the audience for this novel would be better targeted at

young adults. View all 25 comments. We first meet Hannah in Berlin, , when her family is planning to escape Hitler's Germany while he is still letting Jews that can afford it, to leave. Her days are spent running around with her friend Leo, two eleven year olds that are trying to find out what is happening to their country, find out their parents plan. They will leave on a ship to Cuba, the St. Louis. Anna, and her mother will receive a packet in the mail, pictures of her Aunt Hannah, a look into her Father's past.

Her We first meet Hannah in Berlin, , when her family is planning to escape Hitler's Germany while he is still letting Jews that can afford it, to leave. Her father who never knew she had been born and this is the opportunity to find out about her Father's life. In present time, she and her mother will travel to Cuba to meet Hannah and find out about the father she never knew. Such a good read, the scenes in Berlin and on the St. Louis are so vivid, so heartfelt, wonderfully told.

Hannah and Leo are amazing characters, memorable, heartbreaking. Life in Cuba where very few passengers are allowed to disembark, never feels like home for Hannah and her mother. The heat, the customs, their losses, what this country took from them. Later we will get a glimpse of the Cuban revolution, another event that will turn on its own country's people, another event that will effect this small family. The ending was a little too sentimental in my view, but I am not sure how else it could have ended. The best written parts were Hannah and Leo's story, this part is unforgettable.

I have come to the conclusion that I can continually read books about Hitler and his terrible programs and still find out new and cruel things, never ending. I applaud the author for bringing another little know event, the fate of the Jews on the St. Louis, into the public's eye. Her author's note tells us exactly what happened and why. ARC from publisher. View all 14 comments. Dec 04, Vanessa rated it really liked it. The German Girl was a nice surprise taking on a different perspective than other books set around the Second World War and I was quickly swept into the two worlds of Hannah and Anna.

The dual timelines successfully meld to bring the past and future together. Set in Germany, Cuba and New York this book describes the sense of loss of displacement and isolation from a country that no longer sees you as desirable into another country that never feels like you belong. The sense of loss permeates thro The German Girl was a nice surprise taking on a different perspective than other books set around the Second World War and I was quickly swept into the two worlds of Hannah and Anna. The sense of loss permeates through the generations where only memories and promises remain. Oct 17, abby rated it really liked it Shelves: historical-fiction , world-war-2 , fiction , netgalley. When eleven-year-old Hannah Rosenthal winds up on the cover of the German Girl, a Nazi propaganda magazine for pre-teen girls, it's almost a sick joke.

Because if her childhood in Berlin living amongst the "Ogres" has taught her anything it's that she's not German— not pure, not wanted, barely tolerated. Her blonde hair and blue eyes can do nothing to change that. By , her family is more or less holed up in their apartment building, the one that's been in her mother's family for decades but When eleven-year-old Hannah Rosenthal winds up on the cover of the German Girl , a Nazi propaganda magazine for pre-teen girls, it's almost a sick joke.

By , her family is more or less holed up in their apartment building, the one that's been in her mother's family for decades but that the Ogres now want for themselves. The Rosenthal family's tenants used to respect them, but now they ask "Why won't they just leave? Don't they know how uncomfortable this situation is making us? The Ogres arrest Hannah's father, only allowing the family to leave the country if they turn over all their assets. But it's worth it for the chance to escape to Cuba, where they will go on to America. Louis bound for Havana. In one final insult, all the passengers are forced to buy return tickets, even though everyone knows this is a one way trip.

For two weeks, they're human beings again. Their captain, a German but not an Ogre, makes sure that his passengers were treated with respect. There is fine dining, dancing, and swimming. It's almost a dream vacation. It ends in a nightmare. Unknown to the passengers aboard, the Cuban government had retroactively invalidated almost everyone's visas. Hannah and her pregnant mother are allowed to disembark, but her father and Leo are still on ship as it is forced to sail away from salvation. Even though she lives to become an old woman, her life pretty much ended in The German Girl is told from two perspectives: Hannah and Anna, her only living relative. Hannah's story follows the events of , from life in Berlin, where her only refuge is in her friend Leo, to the sailing of the St.

Louis , to life in Cuba afterwards. Anna is her grand-niece. She comes to Cuba to meet with Hannah and learn about her father's past. For Anna, this trip to Cuba is a chance to connect with her roots. For Hannah, it's a chance to close the book on the "Rosen curse. The writing is beautiful, but I don't read a book like this for the glamour. This book was slow for me to get through. I will say the ending was masterful oh, Leo, break my heart, why don't you? I don't know that I would have given this book 4 stars otherwise. Overall, this is a book that grows on you and gets better as it goes on. I don't feel like we get to know too much about Anna. Hannah definitely dominates this book, but even then we get a lot of "I wish I had said" and "what I wanted to do was" and not a lot of genuine action. Hannah gets stuck in her own head a lot.

I loved the story of Hannah and Leo. I enjoyed the parallels between Nazi German and Communist Cuba. When the passengers boarded the St. Louis , crowds jeered and spit on them. Newspapers covered the event with the words: "Good Riddance! The Nazis took Hannah's mother's apartment building; the Cuban state took her pharmacy. Their Cuban maid's nephew became an "enemy of the state" as a Jehovah's Witness and sent to a work camp, with a huge sign at the entrance that read: "Work will make men of you.

I recommend this book to fans of historical fiction, lovers of beautiful writing, and ww2 buffs. I also recommend learning about the real St. Louis and especially its hero captain Gustav Schroder. Thank you to the publisher and NetGalley for giving me a copy of this book. Jun 21, Cheri rated it really liked it Shelves: , arc , holocaust , netgalley , cuba. Hannah, an eleven-year old girl, was used to a life wrapped in loveliness.

Together, they must find a future together. The one chance they have is a ship, the Saint Louis. They need to get all their papers signed, all the arrangements made, and then they will, hopefully, be able to join the other families going to Cuba. It is the only place to go. No other country will allow them to come. No one else wants them. The gloom of the last days of their life in Berlin, for them, begins to lift a little as the ship begins the journey. Hannah and Leo enjoy many days of hope, and their playful nature fills their days.

Their coming-of-age story is sweet, and then fraught with the potential for loss. Little by little, news filters in. There will be no admittance to Cuba for most of these passengers. Neither the US or Canada will admit them, their only chance is Cuba, there, at least, their papers are in order. Or were, before Cuba decided to add on a new condition impossible to fill after their departure. Hannah is intrigued by this news. Finding a relative of this father she never knew, a woman she now knows she was named after. Loosely based on the journey of the Saint Louis, the fictional lives of some of the 28 allowed to disembark in Cuba, and the lives of the others who left Germany on this ship only to be turned away by Cuba, a disaster averted by those few who were allowed to remain in Cuba, and the disaster of the lives for those who were turned away.

Alternately told through the stories of Hannah and Anna, their journeys and their joys, heartbreaks and happiness. An unforgettable debut novel. Hannah and Anna are 75 years apart, but connected by history - well narrated! Beautiful, Haunting and Gut-wrenching. We cannot imagine the horror of those who experienced the atrocities of World War II. To read about them is extremely difficult and evokes such strong emotion. The German Girl is based on a true story of what happened during that time. Hannah Rosenthal is the German Girl. She is a twelve-year-old, blond hair, blue-eyed German Girl. And she is also a Jew. The year is and the place is Berlin. All Hell starts to Beautiful, Haunting and Gut-wrenching. Some of their friends are taken in the night, never to return. They fear for their lives and work to find a way out of Berlin. Eventually they obtain visas to travel on the St. Louis, a ship offering Jews safe passage to Cuba.

The ship and the voyage is unlike anything they have ever experienced and they all believe their futures to be bright but upon arrival in Cuba they are told that the government has rescinded their offer and that passengers will no longer be allowed to disembark and will need to return to Europe. All hope is lost for Hannah and Leo, who promised themselves to each other as well as their families and everyone else on the ship. The German Girl is based on the true story of the St. It honors the lives lost in World War II. Armando Lucas Correa wrote such an incredibly beautiful story, and he told it with such sensitivity. The novel switches between the past and present day, with Hannah narrating her side of the story and the past up to the present day and Anna narrating her side of the story in the present day.

Hannah and Anna are both such incredibly strong young women and both touch me in immeasurable ways. Though the novel was hard to read at times, it was incredibly well told, is a stunning book and I enjoyed it immensely. View all 21 comments. The German Girl is a fictionalised account of the events that took place before, on board and after the German ship St Louis set sail in May, With more than nine hundred passengers on board, mainly German Jewish refugees, these people were hoping to escape the oppressive Nazi regime.

Many were in search of freedom from persecution of the Third Reich in a new world, Havana. However, a tragic turn of events occurred and when the St Louis reached the waters of Havana, the ship was refused entry, unable to dock. The ship was forced to sail on, hoping to find sanction elsewhere but this is an impossible task. We follow Hannah and her family as they take a huge fall from grace. In the opening of the novel, the reader learns that the Rosentals are a wealthy Jewish family. The increasing dominance of the Nazi regime and their hatred for the Jewish people forces this family to flee their home. This leads them to the fateful voyage on the St Louis. The family is torn apart by their decision to travel on the St Louis, a decision that echoes across the decades, impacting on the descendants of the Rosenthal family. The German Girl is a touching and ambitious novel. It is expansive, crossing the continents, as the setting moves effortlessly from Europe, to Cuba and finally the US.

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book. First off the writing is wonderful, beautiful prose which flows at a steady and increasingly quicker pace. I had never known about the St. Louis and the Jews who tried to flee to Havana and this was a great insight into that event. Sadly, most of the people were turned away and ended up back in the Europe that they fled. The voices of the children, Hannah and Leo, were particularly well written. It is never a small feat for an author to get the thoughts and voices of children on paper. This friendship and all it encompassed was probably my favorite part of the book.

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I highly recommend this book to all lovers of historical fiction. I was given an ARC of this novel to read in exchange for an honest review. Thank you to the publisher and NetGalley for this opportunity. View all 11 comments. This book was my introduction to the SS St. Louis, a transatlantic liner offering Jews safe passage out of Germany in What I enjoyed most about this novel was learning about a piece of Holocaust history that I had known nothing about. It is obvious that a tremendous amount of research went into creating this novel. Overall, I thought the book was good, it just didn't have a "wow" factor for me. I kind of feel bad for this book because I think that part of my lack of enthusiasm b 3.

I kind of feel bad for this book because I think that part of my lack of enthusiasm boils down to a "timing" issue. Like this book, "Lilac Girls" is a historical fiction novel based on true events. One thing that lacked for me in this book was that I could not connect with any of the characters. It wasn't that I didn't like them, I just didn't connect with them. For a book to truly resonate with me, I have to feel that I have become immersed in the character's lives and storylines and I just didn't. This book couldn't keep my interest for long periods of time. Regardless of how I feel about the fictional characters in this novel, I really appreciate learning about this important piece of Holocaust history.

I am happy that I read this book and feel that I would recommend it to others simply because it is an important part of history that we should never forget. View all 9 comments. The climate of their city has started to change due to the invasion of the Nazi party. Because they are of the Jewish faith, the family is no longer accepted and face humiliation daily. Friends disappear in the night, it is not safe to be outside, jobs are taken away, people arrested for no reason. The family does not have many available options to escape.

They enjoy their time on the ship and are relieved to be leaving Nazi Germany. Unfortunately, the ship is refused entry into Cuba. Ultimately, this ship only allowed 29 passengers to disembark in Cuba, and was sent back to Europe. On her twelfth birthday, Anna receives an envelope from a great aunt that she has never met. This person raised her father but is unknown by her mother. Anna is intrigued by the photos and pictures sent by her great aunt. The family travels to Cuba to learn about her father. It is in Cuba where they unravel the mysteries of their family's and their connections back to Berlin.

I felt a surge of emotion when the two stories converged. I appreciate these lessons in history. The author did a great job of weaving together an emotional story. This is a debut novel by this author. View all 17 comments. The story is told via two year-old narrators in two different eras. The first half of the book briefly introduces us to Anna but most of the page time is given to Hannah and her family's escape from Germany just before war breaks out. Living in Ge 2. Living in Germany under the increasing power of what Hannah calls 'the Ogres' is hard. While Hannah has the unique experience of being a Jew yet looking more Aryan in complexion, this does not make her life easier and causes discord within her Jewish community.

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What I will take away from this novel is the fact that I enjoyed learning about the S. S St Louis, the trans-Atlantic ship that Hannah and her family took with almost 1, other people to Cuba to escape the horrors of war. I had previously no knowledge that there were refugees who escaped the Nazis only to be turned away by Cuba who suddenly decided not to honour the visas that the passengers had procured earlier.

Unfortunately, I don't think that Correa, an award winning journalist and author, delved deep enough into the issues or the emotions of his characters to make it a truly gripping and emotional read. Disclaimer: My sincere thanks to Atria Books and NetGalley for providing me with a complimentary e-book copy of this book in exchange for my honest review. View all 15 comments. Mar 08, Diane Barnes rated it liked it Shelves: noble-bitches-book-club. I felt this book suffered from a too simplistic style, until another

reviewer pointed out that it is written from the viewpoint of two 12 year old girls, 75 years apart. Upon reading the afterward, I also learned that it is a translation from Spanish, so that may account for it as well. In any case, an enlightening story about a real event in , where over German passengers escaping from the Nazis were refused entrance into Cuba, the US, and Canada.

It seems that no one wants evacuees fro I felt this book suffered from a too simplistic style, until another reviewer pointed out that it is written from the viewpoint of two 12 year old girls, 75 years apart. It seems that no one wants evacuees from oppressive regimes, either then or now. Shelves: historical-fiction , debut , netgalley , history. The German Girl written by Armando Lucas Correa is a debut novel that revolves around the lives of two little girls Hannah and Anna over a period of 70 years. The story begins in Berlin in where we meet Hannah Rosenthal. A beautiful, spirited, blue eyed 12 old Jewish girl who likes nothing better than to spend time with her best friend Leo. Their friendship is an absolute delight to behold. Berlin no longer feels like home now the Ogres Hannah and Leo's name for the Nazi's are so ferociously horrible to them, their families and friends, telling what they can and can't do.

Needless to say, due to the humiliating, degrading treatment, and Jewish families disappearing, Hannah's family have no choice but to flee and leave behind everything Hannah knows. There are few options to left to escape but the Rosenthals are quietly hopeful they may have found the answer. The family and Leo's family board the SS St. Louis, bound for Havana, at first all is exciting and even feels luxurious but after many months their home on the sea feels more like a Prison.

When they eventually get to Havana, Hannah's mother Alma and Hannah are granted emigration devastatingly, Hannah's father is turned away. Understandably, she wants to learn more about her father and who he was, her mother who has become increasingly depressed is of no help and refuses to talk about her father. On Anna's 11th birthday, she receives an envelope from her Great Aunt Hannah whom she has never met.

She learns that her Great Aunt Hannah brought her father up and just maybe Anna can find the information she so desperately needs to know. After learning, that Hannah is now 87 Anna realises that there is no time to waste. Alternating between the two narratives, we see that through their tragedies, joys, memories and more that they may just find commonalities that they both long for. Of course, both Hannah and Anna have both seen the worst of mankind but along the way they have also found the true meaning of humanity. I highly recommend The German Girl, the writing of Correa is raw, emotional and powerful particularly when it comes to the Rosenthals in Berlin, on the St Louis and in Cuba. I want it to be clear that this book is not all depressing, there are purely joyful moments bringing a tear to my eye more than once. An extremely brave and sensitive topic to take on as a debut novel but I believe Correa has certainly done the topic justice with this historical fictional account.

Louis carried passengers, the majority Jewish refugees whom the Cuban Government promised to take. Unfortunately, the Cuban's reneged on the promise only allowing in a measly 28 into Havana. The United States and Canadian governments also refused entry.

The remaining passengers were forced back to Europe, where sadly most perished at the hands of the Nazi Regime. Sep 04, Antoinette rated it really liked it. What I really liked about this story was the fact that it was based on a true event in history that I knew nothing about. The story is told from 2 POV's-both 12 yr old girls. Hannah's story is , as the hatred is escalating towards Jews. She and her family must leave Germany- they manage to book passage on the St Louis, which is headed for Cuba.

What occurs when they get there is the basis of this story. Anna's story takes place in New York in She never knew her father but she and her m What I really liked about this story was the fact that it was based on a true event in history that I knew nothing about. She never knew her father but she and her mother find out that her father's aunt is still alive in Cuba and they travel there to learn their family history. This book touches on race and hatred and connections that can not be broken. The book was not perfect. The voices of the 12 yr old girls seemed beyond their years, although I kept thinking they might seem wiser because of all that had befallen them. Not sure on that one. It was a strong story, but it lacked emotional impact. For me to ever give a book a 5, it has to touch my heart ; it has to stay with me.

I will definitely remember the event the book is based on and feel shame for the countries that turned these innocent people away including my own- Canada. View all 13 comments. Jul 01, Erin rated it liked it Shelves: netgalley. Give up and abandon hope :surrender. That's how I felt by then. I didn't believe in miracles. This had happened to us because we insisted on changing a destiny that was already written.