



2007

Disguised: A Wartime Memoir

Larysa Bordner

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Clercq Zubli, Rita la Fontaine de. *Disguised: A Wartime Memoir*. Candlewick Press, 2007. ISBN 9780763633295. \$17.99. 366 p.

Reviewer: Larysa Bordner

Reading Level: Young adult

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Autobiography; Biography; Informational Book;

Subject: Clercq Zubli, Rita la Fontaine de, 1929---Juvenile literature; World War, 1939--1945--Children--Indonesia--Biography--Juvenile literature; Teenage girls--Indonesia--Biography--Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

Rick's life in World War II is unique compared to many of his other fellow prisoners. He is praised for his language abilities and hard work, so he spends most of his time in an office helping the commandant of the camp keep things operating smoothly. All of the information that comes in and out the camp goes through Rick. This is not only unusual because of Rick's young age, but also because of his secret—Rick is a girl. At the outbreak of the war, Rita's family decided that the best way to protect her from what teenage girls usually suffer at the hands of soldiers was to have her pretend to be a boy, so Rita became Rick. Throughout the war, Rita/Rick must carry out her many duties, protect her family, and deal with devastating trials while protecting her identity.

Disguised is the autobiography of Clercq Zubli; she tells the story of what she went through during World War II, while simultaneously giving a less detailed biography of her family. The author does a tasteful job of describing her experiences in a way that allows the reader to understand what she went through without being overwhelmed with sickening details. She handles complicated adult situations in a delicate way, but because of the mature content, *Disguised* is more appropriate for young adults or older audiences.

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