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White Rose

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Book Review

White Rose

Author

Kip Wilson

Reviewer

Emma Patton

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Rating

Outstanding

Level

Young Adult

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Pages

368

Year

2019

ISBN

9781328594433

Publisher

Versify

Sophie Scholl is German, but she isn't so proud of that fact. Adolf Hitler is in power, and though her parents are both against Hitler's regime, they can't do much about it. As Sophie watches her brothers and boyfriend get called to fight for Germany, Sophie feels that it is wrong for them to support of a dictator who is doing such terrible things. When Sophie discovers that her brother Hans is creating and distributing leaflets with radical messages as a part of a resistance group called "White Rose," she knows she wants to help. The White Rose is a cause that Sophie believes in, so when she and her brother are later caught and questioned by the Gestapo, she does not feel any regret for participating in something so dangerous. She feels sure that, no matter what happens, she will be remembered as someone who bravely spoke her mind in the face of corruption.

White Rose is very powerful. It creates a narrative out of the lives of real people who were ultimately killed for their insurgent actions. While the first-person account is not actually taken from a diary, the words were written with the historical context in mind, and these real people seem to be fairly and respectfully represented. The entire book is written in verse, which easily could have distracted from the substance, but instead adds to its beauty and power. The format perfectly balances the somber tone of wartime with quick-paced poems that manage to convey the gravity of the events while still lending a welcome energy. Also, though World War II Germany was filled with horrific happening, these issues are discussed in vague enough terms that there is no overly mature content. However, the story is still a very solemn one, and author Kip Wilson manages to steer clear of sensitive material without trivializing the story in the slightest.