

In Judith Kerr's *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit*, Anna and Max are living in Berlin, Germany mere weeks before Adolf Hitler gets elected. They see posters and hear about him, both outside and at school, but have no idea who he actually is. They just know that he is running for Chancellor. At the time, their Papa, who is a famous author, is sick in bed. One morning, while their Papa is still sick, Anna and Max wake up to hear from their Mama that Papa has gone to Switzerland. This is because he fears that not only will Hitler get elected, he will also take away their passports. In only a few days time, Anna, Max, and their Mama pack up their house and board a train to Switzerland. The whole family believes that they will be back in 6 months when the elections are over. Eventually though, Anna gets a fever and is in bed for about a month, and while she is sick, Hitler wins the elections. Once Anna is strong enough, the family moves to another hotel. There, Max and Anna make friends with the hotels owner's children. Soon enough, money begins to become somewhat of an issue because Swiss newspapers don't want to publish Anna's Papa's stories; they want to remain neutral to Hitler, and they fear publishing his anti-Hitler pieces will mean that they are no longer unbiased. However, soon Anna's Papa gets a job offer from a newspaper run by German refugees in Paris. They soon move, and sadly, the Depression hits Paris. As such, the family struggles financially because the paper can't afford to pay him for his articles. Thankfully, the family does manage and the children learn French. One day in school, Anna learns about Napoleon, the famous general. That night, Papa tells them more about him. This conversation leads him to start writing a play about Napoleon's mother. After sending the script to many production companies, an English company buys the script and the family moves to London. Will the family finally find a home or will they have to flee from Hitler once more?

The book's themes, like the one from my last review, *Bridge to America*, is to never lose hope; a better life is always to come. Anna and Max didn't lose hope as their family continued to move and became refugees in many different places. Furthermore, as they kept hope, they knew that a better life lay ahead. However, unlike *Bridge to America*, no Jewish themes or values were discussed. In fact, Max and Anna didn't even know they were Jewish until a few days before they moved to Switzerland. For example, they had a maid and didn't give her *Shabbos* off. They also didn't go to synagogue or practice anything Jewish.

The book also talks about a few things that relate to my life. I have a few friends who are technically Jewish but don't practice it, just like Max and Anna. Also, there are people whom I hear about who are fleeing from bad government and dictatorships, which is what Max and Anna were fleeing from (Hitler eventually became a dictator). For my Bar Mitzvah in June, I'm going to visit Yad Vashem which is the World War 2 memorial. The book takes place before World War 2, during the beginning of Adolf Hitler's rule in Germany. To conclude, the book relates to my life because I have friends who are technically Jewish, but they don't practice it (just like Max and Anna) Regardless of Jewish practice, the Holocaust affected all Jews. I look forward to learning more at Yad Vashem.