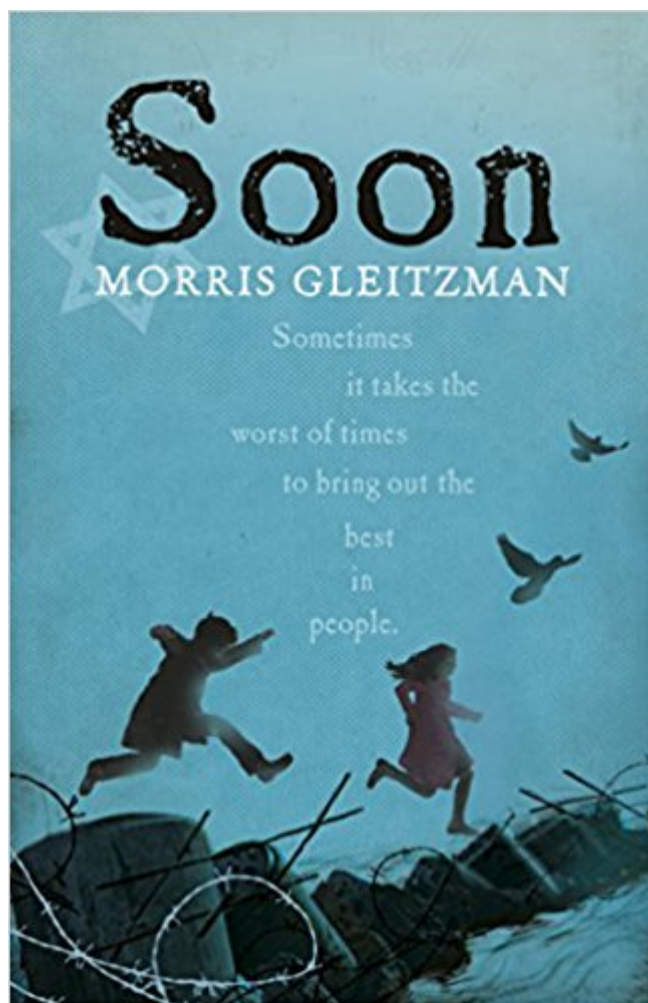


The book was found

# Soon



## Synopsis

The Second World War has officially ended, but the streets are still a battleground - for food, for shelter, for protection... Felix is in hiding to stay safe, but finds he has been left holding the baby - literally. An orphaned infant has been left in his care and he will do everything he can to protect the child.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: HL550L (What's this?)

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Penguin Books, Limited (UK); UK ed. edition (August 6, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0141362790

ISBN-13: 978-0141362793

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.5 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 5 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #375,673 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #72 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Holocaust #8423 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Haunting . . . dangerous and desperate, but also full of courage and hope \* Guardian \* Nail-biting . . . prepare for shock and tears \* Sunday Times \*

Morris Gleitzman was born in Lincolnshire and moved to Australia in his teens. He worked as a paperboy, a shelf-stacker, a frozen chicken de-froster, an assistant to a fashion designer and more before taking a degree in Professional Writing at Canberra College and becoming a writer. He has written for TV, stage, newspapers and magazines but is best-known for his hugely successful children's books including *Two Weeks with the Queen*, *Bumface* and *Once*.

I bought it for my grandson who does not particularly enjoy reading. He could not put it down and even asked for the next book. He has now read the series. Perhaps Mr. Morris Gleitzman has

turned my grandson into a reader!

This book is one of the best books I have ever read! Is so hartbracking in some part but and together it just beautiful! ã ã ã'ã"ã ã ã^ã"ã ã ã^ã... (yay first person to right a review!ã ã ã^ã†)

ãçã ã^Soonãçã ã™ is the surprise (at least it was to me!) fifth book in Australian author Morris Gleitzmanãçã ã™s incredible ãçã ã^Onceãçã ã™ series of books for younger readers ãçã ã| though, as Gleitzman says in a letter to readers at the end, he prefers to think of these as a ãçã ã^family of booksãçã ã™ rather than a series, because they can be read out of order or stand-alone. When we left young Felix in fourth book ãçã ã^Afterãçã ã™ (way back in 2012) World War Two was drawing to a close. Our young Jewish protagonist had lost much to this war and the Naziãçã ã™s ãçã ã^his mother and father, dear friend and faithful companion Zelda and too many acquaintances along the way. When we meet up with Felix and his protector, Gabriek, again in ãçã ã^Soonãçã ã™ the war is indeed over ãçã ã| but danger still looms for Poland.ãçã ã™m crazy about this series. I recommend it to everyone I know ãçã ã^young, old, teachers and reluctant readers ãçã ã^ Morris Gleitzmanãçã ã™s ãçã ã^Onceãçã ã™ series is among this prolific authorãçã ã™s best work, which is really saying something when many of his books have been turned into stage plays and won countless prestigious awards. I know that all the primary school teachers in my family and friendship group (and there are a lot of them!) are particularly grateful to this series, for allowing them to tackle these incredibly difficult subjects in the classroom in a way that kids can both understand, be deeply affected by and still utterly consumed by the story. Through Gleitzmanãçã ã™s books, these teachers have broached the subject of war, Holocaust, death, persecution and prejudice with very young children for whom this is the first theyãçã ã™re finding out how awful the world can be, and has been in humanityãçã ã™s dark past. In all my dealings with youth literature, I find that I live by one rule above all others, which Morris Gleitzman said at Melbourne Writers Festival 2012 ãçã ã^ ãçã ã^œlf itãçã ã™s in the world, itãçã ã™s for them.ãçã ã^Because itãçã ã™s important that kids know these stories, no matter how awful and tragic. I visited Japan last year, and when I went to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum I found this amazing bookshop that sold picture books, graphic novels and chapter books for all ages, across many languages, aimed at children on the topics of World War Two and the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in particular. Because children, even very young children, have to know these stories so that future generation donãçã ã™t repeat mistakes of the past. And thatãçã ã™s really what ãçã ã^Soonãçã ã™ is about. The Soviet Red Army pushed out

Nazi German forces from occupied Poland, and readers find Felix and Gabriek at the beginning of Soviet communist dominance at the end of the World War Two, over what had become the Polish People's Republic. Gleitzman is glimpsing the periods of social unrest in the country that was trying to heal the scars of war "and Felix starts to comprehend how nothing takes so long to heal as the horrors of war. Readers have witnessed the traumas that shaped Felix into the strong, kind man of *Now*, and in *Soon* we're still witnessing that transformation unfold. For Felix in this book, it's really a push-pull of doing the right thing and still struggling to survive. And there is a lot of violence in this book - don't be fooled that just because the war is over, this is going to be any less a harrowing story. One event in particular happens concerning a woman, so teachers/parents out there may want to read this book so they can have conversations with children afterwards about what happened. I don't think that means children shouldn't read this book - and I'm not advising that "gatekeepers" keep it away from kids, not at all - it absolutely has place in the story because it is speaking to a very true history of war (past and present, sadly). This book is Felix coming to the realisation of how wars get started in the first place, when good people who know better stand by and do nothing in the face of others suffering. And that's such a big truth that Morris Gleitzman is presenting to young readers in the tender, beautiful *Soon* that fits so perfectly into this family of books.

One reviewer complained that it reflected badly on the Polish "well, many of them behaved appallingly after the war. The real world can be a very sinful place and the likes of Bruno Bettlheim suggest that if we shield children from it we do them a disservice.

*Soon* is a really good book. It is set after WW2, and Felix, reunited with Gaberik are still struggling. Felix is training to be a doctor, and finds and abandoned baby on the streets which he adopts. The baby dies later in the book when Felix and another girl whose name my brain is refusing to tell me are trying to return it to its country. Turns out girl is pregnant with soldier too. My friend Alex recommended this book to me.

I have read the entire ONCE series after my son was assigned to read it as school. The series is wonderful and now my whole family has read and enjoyed the series. However, I didn't feel that *SOON* was up to the same standard as the earlier books (especially *Once*, *Then* and *After*). The story is relatively short. The only 'new concepts' it introduces is the Nazi use of humans for medical

experiments and the fact that life can be just as hard after a war as during. It is not as emotionally confronting as the earlier books, and that emotional confrontation is what made the earlier books so significant.

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