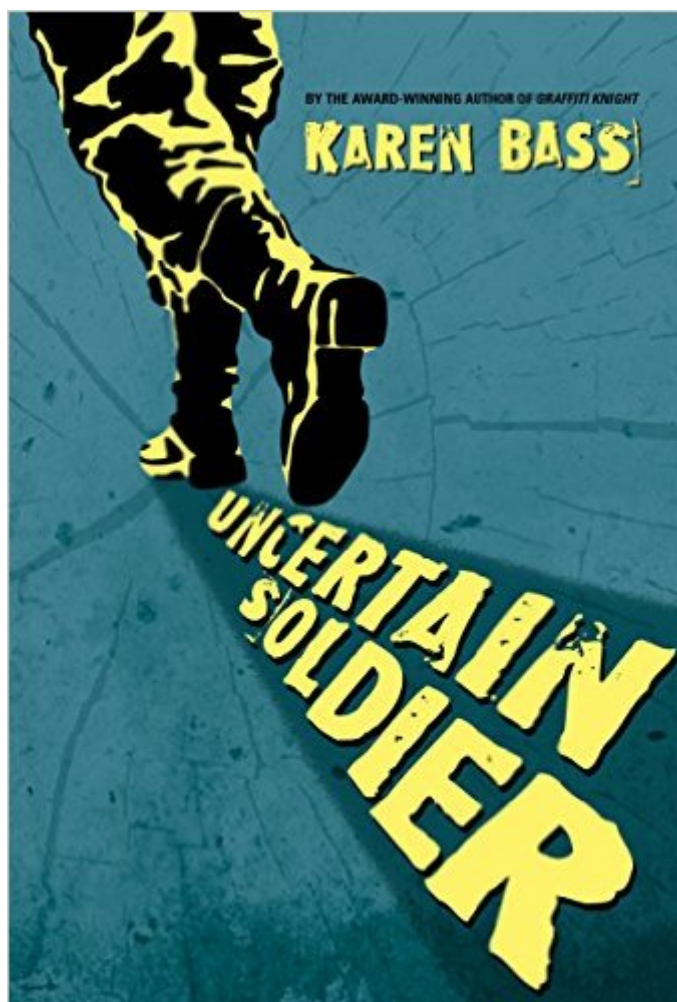


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Uncertain Soldier



Synopsis

Seventeen-year-old Erich is a prisoner of war working at a northern Alberta logging camp. Twelve-year-old Max goes to schoolâ•reluctantlyâ•in the nearby town. The two would be unlikely friends, except that neither has anyone else to turn to. At the height of World War II, nobody wants to befriend a German. It doesnâ™t matter that Erich was forced into the military by his father, or that Max was proudly born in Canada. They are both easy targets for the localsâ™ grief and anger against the Nazis. The other prisoners are no more welcoming, distrustful of Erichâ™s perfect English and his dislike for Nazism. Still, when a series of accidents shake the logging camp, they pressure Erich to question the Canadians and find the saboteurâ•even if his questions get him into trouble. Caught between angry prisoners and suspicious captors, Erich is afraid to take any action at all. It is only when Maxâ™s schoolyard tormentors cross a dangerous line that Erich realizes that his real loyalties lie not with a regime or a country, but with his friend.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 starsÂ• See all reviewsÂ• (1 customer review)

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Historical Fiction > Canada #269 inÂ• Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Canada #833 inÂ• Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Military

Age Range: 12 - 16 years

Grade Level: 7 - 11

Customer Reviews

Fascinating window on Alberta history: some German POWs were sent to northern Alberta to work in a logging camp. Needless to say tensions were high, with many Canadians having relatives still fighting or dead in the war and angry at the "Jerries" as well as factions within the POWs themselves. I sympathized both with Erich (a young German soldier but no Nazi) and twelve-year-old Max, a German-Canadian boy, but Max especially got under my skin to the point

where my reading slowed down a little because I hated reading about him being bullied. A chilling climax set against the backdrop of spring breakup on the mighty Peace River.

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