



Trust To A Degree

Horst Christian

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Book Two in the series. On May 3, 1945, Karl Veth is arrested, just one day after the fall of Berlin. He and his friend, Harold, had survived the last few days of the Battle of Berlin by taking refuge in the subway tunnels under the city. Up until the day before, the two 14 year old boys had been members of the Hitler Youth and now that Berlin had surrendered, they thought the horrors of the war were behind them. Unfortunately, that was not the case.

Arrested by a Russian political Kommissar, the boys are given the choice of helping him with his missions in Berlin or being deported to the Russian labor camps. They agree to help him and Karl hopes that when the missions are completed, he will be released to look for his family.

The final mission ends with a twist and instead of being released, Karl is given an ultimatum by the Kommissar that once again, leaves him in the position of having to choose between life and death. This time, the life he must save is not his own but that of someone very close to him. And in order to save that life, he must agree to do something he has never done before - take a life.

Trust To A Degree Details

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From Reader Review Trust To A Degree for online ebook

Anita Heveron says

Goodness! What a ride! I knew little to nothing about the Russian occupation of Berlin. And what a cliffhanger to leave off on! An amazing character arc for our hero, Karl. Cant wait to finish this series!

Ris says

Just ok. Interesting, however I'm going to put this series on hold because there are more interesting things to read. (Have kind of had enough of this one for a while)

Mavis Frasure says

Fascinating Read continues...

The life and times continue for 2. 14 year old German boys, Karl and Harold, members of the Hitler youth. They have been separated from their families and their ordeals continue as the Russian take over Berlin.

This is a true account of youth life in the WWII's Berliners. I found their accounts of life in the 2nd great war, simply amazing. It truly was a different world. Children were raised in a much more disciplined manner, so what these young teens managed to endure is inconceivable to grown adults.

I have purchased and read the first 3 books in this series and will begin reading the 4th. I encourage everyone that enjoys personal historic books to read these. You can't put them down!

Tealeaf says

The stories of Hitler Youth boys Karl and Harold are compelling. What elevates Horst Christian's series on their intertwined lives is the astonishing richness of detail. In Horst's capable hands the most mundane details of life during and after the fall of Berlin bring a richness, a vividness I've never before encountered. Horst has an astonishing eye for detail.

There is a danger that overediting could cause Horst's natural German voice to be lost in future volumes. They are getting less authentic and more American native-speaker like. I certainly hope the trend does not continue.

I know that to some extent Karl is seen as the cool kid and Harold the sidekick. However the boys are going their separate ways in the adult world as the series progresses. Personally I'm as eager to hear about Harold as I am about Karl.

Betty says

Sequel to "Loyal to a Degree." This book picks up immediately after the first ends. The boys end up working for a Russian political commissar in Berlin. Their quick thinking and devious minds are hard to believe. They are 14 year old. At that age German boys were expected to choose their lifetime work. They were accounted men at 15. Maybe that had something to do with their acceptance of responsibility. This book takes place from the surrender of Berlin to the Russians to the beginning of the multinational arrangement was in place.

maureen zeigler says

This was surprise

I had no idea what happened in Germany immediately after the war ended. I guess this has some factual information and is relatively free of speculation . If its true things were going to work out rapidly. I wonder if that was so.

Cathy says

I have a very hard time hearing about what happened to these kids in Berlin during Hitler's time. All of this information is new to me. Christian tells what happens in this true story simply, and yet with much detail. I would love to know who Karl is in real life and if he is alive today. Very enjoyable, especially to someone like me who loves WWII stories.

Pam says

Trust to a Degree is book three in the series by Horst Christian. It is a novel based on true events. It is the story of what happened to a fourteen year old German boy in the days following the fall of Berlin.

Karl Veth and his friend Harold Kellner survived the war and the fall of Berlin. They spent several days in a ventilation shaft of the subway system. They had secured the shaft and had supplies stashed in it for the time they would need it. When they decided to come out, they had only one place to go, to Frau Becker's apartment. Frau Becker had been in charge of the KLV children when they returned to Berlin. They had become friends and she had told them where to come if they needed help. Now they needed civilian clothing in order to begin again. However, the morning after they arrived, they were rudely awakened by Russian soldiers breaking down the door. They specifically asked for Karl and then promptly arrested him. Later, he would learn they arrested Harold as well.

Karl was taken to Kommissar Godunov's premises and questioned about his knowledge of the tunnels of the subway system. Karl was relieved to tell him it was extensive; but that the tunnels were flooded and filled with dead bodies. He with Harold's help, would help the Kommissar as long as what he wanted didn't interfere with their values. They also wanted his help in finding their families.

What did the Kommissar want them to do? Would they be able to do this and whatever else he wanted?

Could he keep them and their friends safe? What dangers would come their way while helping him?

This book was excellent. I had to continue reading it until I was finished. Now I have to start the last book to

continue the awesome story.

Joseph Sorenson says

Interesting Series

Honestly, I read the prequel of this series first and had no high expectations. I enjoy reading history but so much has been written about WW II that it is overwhelming and doesn't usually draw my interest. I found the prequel extremely interesting and have breezed thru the next two volumes in the series. The stories of Karl and Howard are mind blowing when you realize they are so young. Looking forward to the next book.

Terralyn Brown Barfield says

This is the 3rd in a series of 4 books. This is set in Berlin during and after it's fall and the beginning of allied occupation (WWII). This is an unusual series as it is through the eyes of 14yo. Hitler Youth. This portion is centered around survival and unusual alliances. Engrossing. I will be continuing on to the 4th book, "Partners to a Degree".

Eileen E Cartwright says

Good read

I liked this sequel to LOYAL TO A DEGREE. I learned a lot more about what happened in Germany, particularly Berlin, at the end of WWII. The author says it a true story and I found a lot of it shocking and awful. I did not know about the Mongolians the Russians used as front line troops when they captured and took over the city particularly the woman among them who were worse than the men. The Mongolians were savage barbarians who were permitted to do dreadful things as a reward for their service. Also interesting was all the info about the Hitler Youth. I recommend this book but be warned, it is not pretty.

Amira Abdellatif says

I've read three of Horst Christian's books and they are really great. This last one has light humour in it which is amazing considering the heart-rending events related in the book.

I admire the author's balanced perspective which I think is very difficult to achieve with such subject matter. I hope he writes many more books. It is very important that we all be made aware of what war is really like in people's daily life - OUR life.

Can you imagine not seeing or hearing a bird for two years??

I truly think children are far more adult than grown-ups.

Donna Gettings Apperson says

I've been enthralled with the series from the get-go.

Calista says**Book 3 and the story continues**

I've really enjoyed reading this series. It's well written and provides some great insight into the lives of the young boys in Germany at that time.

Sue says

I like this series . I have read the prequel , and the first two books now . That they're based on a true story is significant to me as a reader. I will read the third book a little later .
