

A Quiet Genocide. The Untold Holocaust of Disabled Children in WW2 Germany By Glenn Bryant

One of the things I appreciated most about this book was actually that it had an unfussy narrative - with enough depth and visibility of the author's natural aptitude for creating characters (with whom we immediately sympathise or despise depending on the desired outcome) to pull the reader along with the storyline with a sense of urgency. The author chooses to impart these facts largely through the classes Jozef attends at school and university so I did feel at times that I was sitting alongside him in a series of history lectures - a case of telling rather than showing. The subtitle of the book The Untold Holocaust of Disabled Children in WW2 Germany means the subject matter of the book is clear to the reader from the start but of course what the reader doesn't know is how Jozef's personal history is connected to this terrible atrocity. However as the book draws towards its shocking conclusion and the true nature of the connection is revealed it provides an explanation for the strained relationship between Jozef's parents and demonstrates how the malevolent influence and twisted belief systems of Nazism persisted in some quarters even beyond the end of the war. Following Jozef and his family over the years feels like you are a member of the family watching the relationships between them changing and finding out the dynamics and reasons for this. I read the book in two sittings as I simply could not put it down! A true joy and pleasure to read I thoroughly recommend this as a book to read to see out 2018 and it is one of my personal favourites of this year. While at the university he is thirsty for knowledge and learns more about WWII and eventually about the way that the Nazis euthanized people who were handicapped - both mentally and physically. But Jozef is determined to find out about the past and a horror is finally unmasked which continues to question our idea of what in the last hour makes each of us human. This segways into an opportunity to show us how nasty the character of Michael is and to set up the essence of the plotline - who is Michael and what terrible things is he capable of? More importantly what is his relation to Jozef and his family? By the end of the novel all these important questions are answered but the biggest question of all perhaps - why were so many thousands of lives so carelessly torn aside? - remains a poignant and unresolved query in all our minds. Michael is not conveyed as a complex character - he seemed to just be naturally evil and I almost expected to hear an audience boo and hiss every time he came 'on stage'. This of course made for an exemplification of Jozef's lack of prejudices and kind-hearted nature so unlike Michael and even unlike his parents who out of grief were struggling to do the right thing in their own lives. Though at times I did feel as though in an effort to present the facts objectively - mostly via the character of a ex-Auschwitz resident and esteemed academic (Professor Zielinski) - the flow of narrative sometimes felt a little jarred as though facts were being shoehorned in. Glenn Bryant Author Glenn Bryant attempts to bring to light some of the lesser-known evils committed during World War 2 and the effects of the war on the generation which grew up in its shadow. Unfortunately this takes a toll on the reader after a while: we sit with Jozef in history classes and listen to lectures on Hitler becoming distracted from the seriousness of the subject as Jozef allows his mind to wander to other things such as soccer and the girls in his class. On its surface the story is not to my taste but an acceptable catalyst for analyzing lesser-known facts from World War Two specifically the Nazi's campaign to exterminate all disabled persons from the German population. I am left with no strong feelings for or against this book; it is a good attempt at taking part in the global conversation about World War Two through fiction but the story is somewhat lacking and the elements of historical analysis and examination of the human condition are stated somewhat bluntly without much ability to really engage with the protagonist or reader. Glenn Bryant I have no idea where I found this book but I picked it up because I wanted to see a fiction book focused on the genocide of the mentally and physically disabled people and this partly delivered. The plot is a little all over the place at times as it timeskips through Jozef's life and we switch between the point of views of each of the family Michael and some of Jozef's friends as well. I wished we had been able to see more of the history surrounding what happened to the people during the Holocaust and I really wish that a story about the killing of disabled children during WWII had actually included someone with a disability in it as a main character but this was a book with an original premise. It's easy to forget the very real horrors of what happened during World War Two

especially now so many decades after the war with history and the media often romanticising the war and glossing over the most horrifying events. Told through the eyes of Jozef a young man just starting out in life it seems that horror after horror unfolds as Jozef begins to dig deeper into the past of both his country and his own family, It seems that the Holocaust continues to claim lives even after the demise of the much feared and loathed Fuehrer: Glenn Bryant I read a lot of WWII fiction and this book joined my shelf of favorites. It takes place in the 1950s in Germany and is about the after effect of the war as well as flashbacks to the war years, There are still people in Germany who are part of the National Socialist party and former Nazis who are unhappy with the changes in their country since the end of the war. He grows up in a fairly happy household with two parents: A friend of his father's.

Gently unfolds some harsh but necessary truths about the holocaust: Some of which we may already be very familiar with and some of which may horrify us yet further. I was lucky enough to get my hands on a review copy of A Quiet Genocide - I like reading wartime novels and was more than happy to get stuck in: Bryant's written style puts us right into the plot with no fussing around: I loved the opening sequences of the book.

A Quiet Genocide from new author Glenn Bryant is a quiet book: It's historical fiction with a topic I've never seen broached: They're a small family—just young parents and their grade school aged son. But Gerhard drinks too much Catharina is dissatisfied with life and Jozef is mischievous. The book then jumps forward to Josef's first year at university when things start to unravel: Since the book's subtitle is The Untold Holocaust of Disabled Children in WW2 Germany I anticipated grisly details: When Bryant delivers it's more of an intense emotional hit than a gruesome one. Especially given the kinds of things happening in the 2018 United States. My conclusions Bryant writes like an author with many more books to his credit, Its truth-telling is subtle and unfurls like a big black umbrella on a rainy day: Bryant learned of this specific genocide while studying modern history at university: Stunned that it's not taught more often he determined to make people more aware. There were tens of thousands of families like the Diederichs: I'm also intrigued to know about Amsterdam Publishers a small house that specializes in Holocaust Memoirs and WW2 historical fiction, The Kindle version will be available on August 22 just next week, It's well worth your time! Acknowledgements Thanks to Glenn Bryant and Amsterdam Publishers for a digital advanced readers copy of A Quiet Genocide, As always this review is entirely my own honest impressions and writing, Glenn Bryant The Quiet Genocide contains a wealth of fascinating information about the rise of Hitler and National Socialism that was certainly new to this reader. This contrasted with the sections of moving first-hand testimony for example from Professor Zielinski which felt much more vivid and powerful: I also confess that I found it difficult to identify with the adolescent drinking exploits of Jozef and his university friends that take up some of the book: Jozef's experiences at school and university are interspersed with insights into the troubled marriage of his parents Catharina and Gerhard. Gerhard finds refuge in drinking sessions either alone or with his acquaintance Michael who seems to exercise a strange hold over Gerhard and exudes a general air of malevolence, Catharina finds refuge from her unhappy marriage in a quite different way; a way that will have unforeseen and tragic consequences. I think it's fair to say that it takes quite a while for the mystery surrounding Jozef's past to be revealed: I found this latter section of the book the most compelling and for me it had the pace that was perhaps lacking in earlier parts of the book, Although I have read a number of books about atrocities committed by the Nazis during World War Two the shocking nature of those events never seems to lose its impact, Most shocking of all I find is the ruthless efficiency and organisation with which such terrible acts were carried out: paperwork completed records kept numbers tallied targets set: Books such as A Quiet Genocide perform an important role in ensuring that such atrocities are never forgotten: I received an advance review copy courtesy of the author in return for an honest and unbiased review, Glenn Bryant A Quiet Genocide a must read for all WW2 enthusiasts follows Jozef Diederich on a journey of discovery

about the untold holocaust of disabled children in WW2 Germany: well researched and pulling you back in time with every turn of the page, The interwoven stories are so enthralling that you cannot wait to find out what happens next: Glenn Bryant has created an outstanding tribute to this era with A Quiet Genocide and you can truly relate to the characters feelings and actions throughout the tale: Glenn Bryant A compelling WW2 fiction that penetrates your senses, Catharina Gerhard and Jozef have lived as typical of a life as can be lived after the horrors of Adolf Hilter, They have a pretty reserved social life with the acception of a long time comrade Michael: As Jozef is preparing to enter his College years his parents reveal a secret that will change his life forever: Bringing to the surface repressed emotions and threatening to unravel long eclipsed secrets, Life love marriage Michael visits once a week to talk politics and drink with his dad: The day before Jozef goes away to university his parents tell him that he is adopted which makes him question his entire life. He also tries to find out about his birth parents which further unsettles his life, This novel had a great story but was also written to teach the reader about Germany - before during and after WWII: Even though I read a lot of fiction from this era I learned several items that I'd never known before which to me is the sign of a great work of historical fiction, An interesting fact - this book was published by Amsterdam Publishing that was founded in 2012, I read this on their website and plan to look into some of their other books. AMSTERDAM PUBLISHERS IS SPECIALIZED IN HOLOCAUST MEMOIRS & WW2 HISTORICAL FICTION: But his father Gerhard still harbours disturbing National Socialism ideals while mother Catharina is quietly broken: She cannot feign happiness for much longer and rediscovers love elsewhere. Who is he? Are Gerhard and Catharina his real parents? A dark mystery gradually unfolds revealing an inescapable truth the entire nation is afraid to confront. The Untold Holocaust of Disabled Children in WW2 Germany A Quiet Genocide will quietly grab you make you sit up and probably make you quietly have a weep: This book letting us get to know a young boy Jozef and his friend as they get into trouble as only boys can do, While I felt the characters were well developed I did feel there was an element of character portrayal that sometimes became a little pantomime like: Contradictory to that the characters of Professor Zielinski and Jozef himself were favourites for me and I loved their interactions and the development of their relationship: On Gerhard's part we see he is a lost soul - misled and influenced by negative associations unable to move on from grief and stuck in gratuitous routine, Overall the purpose of the novel - to bring to light the terrible plight of thousands of innocent disabled children at the hands of the Nazi regime - is well conceived: I would have like to have felt the organic discovery of these statistics or perhaps not have seen the statistics conveyed within the story but maybe in the endnotes: This didn't spoil the overall enjoyment for me - and perhaps my gripes comes from a love of fiction over non-fiction writing. At times this book bordered on non-fiction style writing purely because it was very bravely and with sensitivity dealing with some cold hard truths: Read this novel if you enjoy books about the holocaust or want to find out more about it, Jozef starts out as any other schoolboy and his parents equally generic, As the story progresses his personal identity begins to blur and questions regarding his parents' actions during the war surface, Ultimately this brings to light the existence of a Nazi-run hospital called Hadamar where more than 10000 disabled children were murdered during World War Two: Like many novels about World War Two A Quiet Genocide is more didactic than entertaining. Jozef obviously learns from these lectures as he does exceptionally well in school especially once he gets to university: I on the other hand would have liked to see more personal development in Jozef as he digested the information from his lectures and interviews with his professor. The plot is not terribly interesting but forgivable in a first-time author, Disclaimer: I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review: Glenn Bryant Disabled What a sorry way to treat those who cannot defend themselves: The book was put together well and held my interest until the end: In this book Jozef is the only son of unhappily married Gerhard and Catharina: We watch him grow and discover that not only he is adopted but how he fits into life in post-war Germany. Michael one of Gerhard's friends from the war is an ever-present menace for the family, This is not a particularly happy book especially considering the subject matter because no one really gets what they want in the end: I did like the main secret between Jozef's birth and how it

wasn't downplayed how horrifying it was not just for him but for Catharina as well, The underlying message that the Nazi ideas didn't just vanish after Hitler was dead was a chilling but important one. 5 stars! Glenn Bryant Full review now up on the blog: <https://www>, However in A Quiet Genocide Glenn Bryant shares the unflinching brutality of the war and the legacy it left behind on people across Europe: No stone is left unturned and nothing is omitted no matter how horrific it may be. This leaves a true-to-life unflinching account of the fate that countless ill and disabled children faced at the hands of Hitler and the Third Reich, It's clear that the author has done his research as the entire novel is well thought out factually accurate and compelling to read, The reader is drawn into the story from start to finish feeling Jozef's conflicted emotions Catharina's despair and Gerhard's ignorance alongside each of the characters, There's no doubt that Glenn Bryant is an excellent historical author. Glenn Bryant Glenn Bryant grew up in Grimsby the north of England, He has a master's degree from the University of Dundee Scotland in modern history where he studied the Warsaw Ghetto 1940 43[1]

Bonds and blood all come into question. The main character is Jozef. Right up until it punches you in the gut. And I've read WW2 stories for decades now. It opens in post-WW2 Munich with the Diederichs. Catharina is a housewife and Gerhard is a businessman. Young Jozef is a typical boy. And Gerhard has a friend Michael who's uncomfortably menacing. Catharina is more restless. Gerhard is less discreet. And Jozef begins to question his own reality. But it still hurts. A Quiet Genocide is absorbing. The book has a darkness to it from the start. Then that umbrella opens and the true storm begins. Using fiction as a tool makes the story more palpable. Their story deserves to be told. Their catalog looks like something to work my way through. I hope you'll give this book a try. More reviews like this at my book blog [TheBibliophage.com](http://TheBibliophage.com). A gripping read from start to finish. This secret complicates life for all involved. HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR STORIES NEED TO BE KEPT ALIVE. Glenn Bryant Germany 1954. Jozef grows up in a happy household - so it seems. Jozef is uncertain and alone. A terrifying and heartbreaking story. A Quiet Genocide. 3.5 stars. [3.thewritinggreyhound.co.uk](http://3.thewritinggreyhound.co.uk). He is a qualified and experienced senior journalist. Follow him on Twitter @GlennMBryant

