



# Shadow on the Mountain

By Margi Preus

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*Shadow on the Mountain* recounts the adventures of a 14-year-old Norwegian boy named Espen during World War II. After Nazi Germany invades and occupies Norway, Espen and his friends are swept up in the Norwegian resistance movement. Espen gets his start by delivering illegal newspapers, then graduates to the role of courier and finally becomes a spy, dodging the Gestapo along the way. During five years under the Nazi regime, he gains—and loses—friends, falls in love, and makes one small mistake that threatens to catch up with him as he sets out to escape on skis over the mountains to Sweden. Preus incorporates archival photographs, maps, and other images to tell this story based on the real-life adventures of Norwegian Erling Storrusten, whom Preus interviewed in Norway.

### Praise for *Shadow on the Mountain*

#### STARRED REVIEWS

"Newbery Honor winner Preus infuses the story with the good-natured humor of a largely unified, peace-loving people trying to keep their sanity in a world gone awry. Based on a true story, the narrative is woven with lively enough daily historical detail to inspire older middle-grade readers to want to learn more about the Resistance movement and imitate Espen's adventures."

—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

"This engrossing offering sheds light on the Norwegians' courage during World War II. Preus masterfully weds a story of friendship with the complications faced by 14-year-old Espen and his friends as Nazi restrictions and atrocities become part of their everyday lives...This is at once a spy thriller, a coming-of-age story, and a chronicle of escalating bravery. Multidimensional characters fill this gripping tale that keeps readers riveted to the end."

—*School Library Journal*, starred review

"A closely researched historical novel... relates this wartime tale with intelligence and humor...Ms. Preus deftly uses together historical fact (Espen is based on a real-life spy) and elements of Norwegian culture to conjure a time and place not so terribly long ago."

—*The Wall Street Journal*

"Margi Preus, who won a Newbery honor for *Heart of a Samurai*, returns with another riveting work of historical fiction... This fine novel, which includes an author's note, a timeline, a bibliography and even a recipe for invisible ink, is based on extensive research... The result is an authentic coming-of-age story, perfect for readers fascinated by the diary of Anne Frank or Lois Lowry's classic, *Number the Stars*."

—*BookPage*

"The final chapters, which chronicle Espen's dramatic escape to Sweden—days and nights of mountain skiing, Nazis in hot pursuit—take the book into adventure-thriller territory without losing the humanity that characterizes Preus's account."

—*The Horn Book Magazine*

"Preus makes crystal clear the life imperiling risks that Espen undertakes and the danger to his family."

—*The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

"As readers understand the risks that Espen took, they will want to learn more about this period. That Espen escaped to Sweden by traveling at night on skis with five different guides should intrigue them."

—*Library Media Connection*

#### Awards

VOYA Top Shelf for Middle School Readers 2012 list

2013 Notable Books for a Global Society

Dorothy Canfield Fisher Book Award

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## **Editorial Review**

From School Library Journal

Gr 6-9-This engrossing offering sheds light on the Norwegians' courage during World War II. Preus masterfully weaves a story of friendship with the complications faced by 14-year-old Espen and his friends as Nazi restrictions and atrocities become part of their everyday lives. Espen not only has to deal with the political turmoil, but also with discovering that his best friend has joined the German cause, which Espen is committed to work against. Even his young sister, Ingrid, joins the resistance when she gets a bit older. Norway's hazardous topography adds to the adventure as Espen must ski across dangerous mountain passes in order to carry out his secret missions. This is at once a spy thriller, a coming-of-age story, and a chronicle of escalating bravery. Multidimensional characters fill this gripping tale that keeps readers riveted to the end. An informative author's note explains that Espen was inspired by Erling Storrusten, who, as a teenager, helped in the resistance movement. A "Bonus for Code Breakers" and instructions for making invisible ink are appealing additions. Preus aptly celebrates the determination of ordinary citizens in this book. Similar truths are told in Mal Peet's *Tamar: A Novel of Espionage, Passions and Betrayal* (Candlewick, 2008) and Kathy Kacer's *Night Spies* (Tandem, 2003).-Renee Steinberg, formerly at Fieldstone Middle School, Montvale, NJ(c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

About the Author

**Margi Preus** is an acclaimed children's book author and playwright whose first novel, *Heart of a Samurai*, earned a 2011 Newbery Honor award. She lives in Duluth, Minnesota. Visit her online at [www.margipreus.com](http://www.margipreus.com).

## **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Jared Smith:**

Hey guys, do you want to find a new book to see? Maybe the book with the headline Shadow on the Mountain suitable to you? The book was written by famous writer in this era. The actual book entitled Shadow on the Mountain is the main of several books in which everyone read now. That book was inspired many men and women in the world. When you read this publication you will enter the new dimension that you ever know before. The author explained their concept in the simple way, thus all of people can easily to understand the core of this book. This book will give you a wide range of information about this world now. To help you to see the represented of the world in this particular book.

**Bruce Alexander:**

Often the book Shadow on the Mountain will bring you to definitely the new experience of reading a book. The author style to clarify the idea is very unique. In case you try to find new book to read, this book very ideal to you. The book Shadow on the Mountain is much recommended to you to see. You can also get the e-book in the official web site, so you can quickly to read the book.

**Myron Mendez:**

People live in this new day of lifestyle always aim to and must have the time or they will get great deal of stress from both way of life and work. So , whenever we ask do people have extra time, we will say absolutely yes. People is human not just a robot. Then we inquire again, what kind of activity do you possess when the spare time coming to anyone of course your answer will certainly unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading books. It can be your alternative with spending your spare time, often the book you have read is definitely Shadow on the Mountain.

**Dana Richardson:**

Your reading sixth sense will not betray anyone, why because this Shadow on the Mountain publication written by well-known writer who really knows well how to make book that can be understand by anyone who all read the book. Written in good manner for you, still dripping wet every ideas and composing skill only for eliminate your hunger then you still question Shadow on the Mountain as good book not just by the cover but also from the content. This is one book that can break don't determine book by its cover, so do you still needing an additional sixth sense to pick that!? Oh come on your studying sixth sense already told you so why you have to listening to a different sixth sense.

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