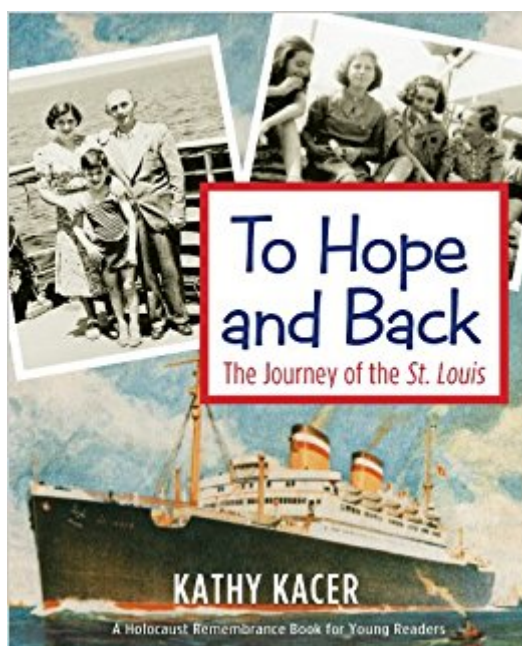


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# To Hope And Back: The Journey Of The St. Louis (Holocaust Remembrance Series)



## Synopsis

Lisa and Sol board the luxury ship St. Louis in Hamburg, Germany, on May 13, 1939. Lisa and her family are in first class; Sol and his parents are below in tourist class. The children have mixed feelings—they're excited to be beginning this voyage to a better life and sad to be leaving their old lives behind. They are Jewish, as are almost all of the 937 passengers on board, and although war has not been officially declared in Europe, the Nazis have been persecuting Jews for years. As they set sail for Cuba, the atmosphere on the ship is optimistic, led by the German captain Gustave Schröder, who is determined to see his passengers to safety. But as they learn that Hitler's propaganda has turned the country against them, the mood changes to despair. They are turned away first from Cuba, then the United States, and then Canada. The story of Lisa and Sol is set against the tragic true history of the St. Louis. Denied entry from port after port, the captain was forced to return his Jewish passengers to Europe, where many died in the Holocaust. Through the eyes of Sol and Lisa, we see the injustice and heartbreak that were caused by the prejudice and hatred of so many.

## Book Information

Series: Holocaust Remembrance Series (Book 10)

Paperback: 200 pages

Publisher: Second Story Press; 1st Edition edition (September 1, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1897187963

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Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 0.5 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #425,940 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #68 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Holocaust

Age Range: 10 - 13 years

Grade Level: 6 - 8

## Customer Reviews

"A tragic story about an historical event that deserves to be told, and which should provoke thoughtful discussion about a difficult subject." (Quill & Quire 2011-10-01)"The author tells this true story through the eyes of the innocent, building the suspense to a level where readers almost feel

they are on the ship, themselves...Black and white photos of parts of the ship, family shots and documents bring this true story to life. To Hope and Back is recommended for middle years school libraries as a good resource about World War II." (CM Magazine 2011-11-18)"Another excellent book to help young people remember the Holocaust...Highly recommended." (Resource Links 2011-12-01)"This book sheds light on a dramatic story that is likely to be unfamiliar to most students...Kacer's text is well written and well researched, and the black-and-white photography from the United States Holocaust Museum offers windows into everyday lives on the ship...The historical significance of the St. Louis and the compelling photos make this a worthwhile supplementary purchase." (School Library Journal 2012-01-01)"Lisa and Sol's stories, related with poignancy and immediacy, will touch young readers. An unfortunate lesson on the complicity and international complexities that made the Holocaust possible." (The New York Times 2011-12-18)"The novel does an excellent job of mixing fictionalized history with actual events...[and] achieves its goal of presenting the St. Louis tragedy in a way that younger readers can relate to." (VOYA 2012-02-01)

A ship of Jewish passengers can find no safe harbor.

This is the story of my life. I was the same age as the girl in the book, heading for Cuba, and not being able to land. My father was already in Cuba, waiting for us, when we could not land, returned to Europe, spent the next six months in France, and then were able to sail once more to join our father in Cuba via a brief lay over on Ellis Island. I bought in total 10 books to give to school libraries to not only make children aware of the cruelty of the Germans, but the humanity and integrity of the Captain, who would not take nearly a thousand innocent people to their demise. I recommend it to all readers age ten and older.

This was a gift for an eleven year old who is very interested in the stories of survivors and victims of the Second World War. The story was presented in a way that he could understand without giving him nightmares, even though the entire situation was one of the worst nightmares of the war.

While no book can truly describe the horrors of the holocaust, this book puts the reader into the shoes of a child in the midst of trying to escape before it is too late.

Who would have ever know such a thing happened to these Jews unless you read this book.

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