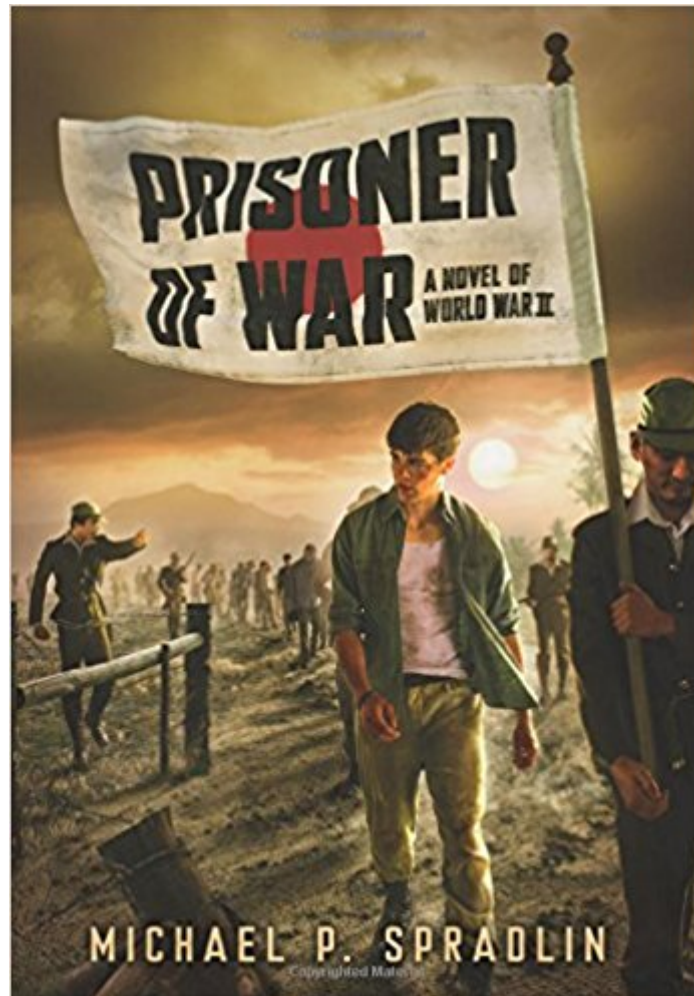




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Prisoner Of War: A Novel Of World War II



Synopsis

Survive the war. Outlast the enemy. Stay alive. That's what Henry Forrest has to do. When he lies about his age to join the Marines, Henry never imagines he'll face anything worse than his own father's cruelty. But his unit is shipped off to the Philippines, where the heat is unbearable, the conditions are brutal, and Henry's dreams of careless adventuring are completely dashed. Then the Japanese invade the islands, and US forces there surrender. As a prisoner of war, Henry faces one horror after another. Yet among his fellow captives, he finds kindness, respect, even brotherhood. A glimmer of light in the darkness. And he'll need to hold tight to the hope they offer if he wants to win the fight for his country, his freedom . . . and his life. Michael P. Spradlin's latest novel tenderly explores the harsh realities of the Bataan Death March and captivity on the Pacific front during World War II.

Book Information

Hardcover: 272 pages

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #287,828 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #154 in [Books > Teens >](#)

[Historical Fiction > United States > 20th Century](#) #165 in [Books > Teens > Historical Fiction >](#)

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Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Praise for *Into the Killing Seas*: "Spradlin spins a gut-wrenching survival tale." -- Booklist "A marvelous fit in a social studies class, this novel would work well as a companion text to a World War II unit and will engage and connect students to the past." -- School Library Journal

Michael P. Spradlin is a New York Times bestselling author. His books include *Into the Killing Seas*,

the Youngest Templar trilogy, the Wrangler Award Winner >, and several other novels and picture books. He holds a black belt in television remote control and is fluent in British, Canadian, Australian, and several other English-based languages. He lives in Lapeer, Michigan. Visit him online at michaelspradlin.com.

Of all the books of Michael P. Spradlin's that I have been privileged to read this is by far the best. The manner in which he draws you into the story is nothing short of brilliant. He begins by letting you see what led to Henry lying about his age in order to enlist in the Marines. You are further entwined in the lives of Gunny and Jams, Henry's or as he's called Tree. All of the stages of progression from entrenched soldiers to prisoners kept me turning page after page until the end. If I could give this more than a 5 star rating I would. Well done Michael, well done.

Great book for my 10 year old. He really enjoyed this read....

This book is so good

Prisoner of War is based on the true story of America's youngest POW in World War II. At 15 years old, Henry Forrest lies about his age and joins the marines. Sent to the Philippines, his true age is uncovered and he is about to be sent home. Unfortunately for Henry, that day is the same day the Japanese invade the Philippines. Holding out for as long as they can, but finally forced to surrender, Henry must endure the Bataan death march and four years of brutal captivity. He is eventually sent to Japan and forced into labor at a steel mill. One of the great unknown tragedies of the the Pacific War is that US prisoners were forced to work in factories, mines and mills for companies that still exist today. These companies have gone on to make billions of dollars and have never offered or paid reparations to the men who suffered this fate, or their families. Prisoner of War is not an easy read. But is a powerful, well told story. Henry is tortured, starved and forced to endure hardships that many of us could not even imagine. But it is an important story. There are many good books on World War II for young readers (including the author's previous books *The Enemy Above* and *Into the Killing Seas*) but the story of POW's in the Pacific is rarely told. Reading this novel and seeing Henry 'dig deep' to survive, help others, and ultimately retain his humanity is a fascinating journey. One that is well worth taking.

This book was a phenomenal read for our young son! History absolutely fascinates our son and

Michael Spradlin did an excellent job telling such a significant part of history through a young man's eyes. I appreciated and enjoyed that the book was written at an age appropriate level. It was heart wrenching at times but a great story of resilience. Prisoner of war certainly captured our son's attention and his heart! Highly recommend for young readers!

My 12 year old son loved it! Reads again and again

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