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Keeping The Promise: A Torah's Journey (General Jewish Interest)



Synopsis

A small Torah scroll passes from a Dutch rabbi, to a Bar Mitzvah boy during the Holocaust, to the first Israeli astronaut. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

Series: General Jewish Interest

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Age Range: 4 and up

Grade Level: Preschool and up

Customer Reviews

Grade 1-5
A Dutch rabbi named Simon Dasberg carried a tiny Torah scroll with him wherever he went. He even carried it with him to Bergen-Belsen. There, he carried out a Bar Mitzvah for a 13-year-old boy in the concentration camp. He gave the tiny Torah scroll to him as a gift, commanding him to keep it and always tell the story. It was this very scroll that was taken into space by Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon aboard the ill-fated Columbia. His inspiring words were "This little Sefer Torah in particular shows the ability of the Jewish people to survive everything, even the darkest of times, and to always look forward with hope and faith for the future." This book belongs on the shelves of Hebrew day schools and synagogue libraries nationwide. Paired with Barbara Sofer's *Ilan Ramon: Israel's Space Hero* (Kar-Ben, 2004), it will give students insight into a true hero's journey as well as a lesson in history and humanity. Orback's full-page oil paintings tell a story in themselves; while some tend to be on the dark side, they are in keeping with the tone of the presentation.
Sandra Kitain, Abrams Hebrew Academy, Yardley, PA Copyright ©

Craig Orback has illustrated numerous award-winning children's books, including *The Can Man* and *Nature's Paintbox*. He received his BFA in illustration from Cornish College of the Arts in 1998. Craig attended summer camp just like the boys in *Boys Camp* and now teaches children's book illustration at local colleges. You can find Craig in search of inspiration in nature, at the library, or at the movie. To learn more about his work, visit www.craigorback.com. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I went to see Tami Lehman-Wilzig read this book and talk about the process she went through to create the book. As she read the story, I began to sob and then I cried. I waited until the very last word and then I went to the bathroom and really cried for about 5 minutes. My tears reflected my feelings about this extraordinary story. She has captured not only an incredible story from the Holocaust, but also the story of a nation. The first Israeli astronaut and the impact he had on people around the world. This is a book for older children who can understand the gravity and enormity encompassing this story.

WOW. This book moved me to tears. Such a legacy and tradition that can be appreciated by any age group. I know its written as a child's book but I thoroughly enjoyed it.

WOW! What a great story. I have read this to my children, and even read it to a children's group that was learning about Israel and the Jewish culture - and they loved it. This book is a great addition to the library of any Jewish (Reformed, Conservative, Orthodox or Messianic) child.

This story of a tiny Torah scroll that survives the Nazis to accompany Ilan Ramon on the doomed Columbia mission is one that all children, especially Jewish children should hear. The themes of hope and promise are universal. There are true heros in this world and Rabbi Dasberg (z"l) and Ilan Ramon (z"l) are two of them.

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