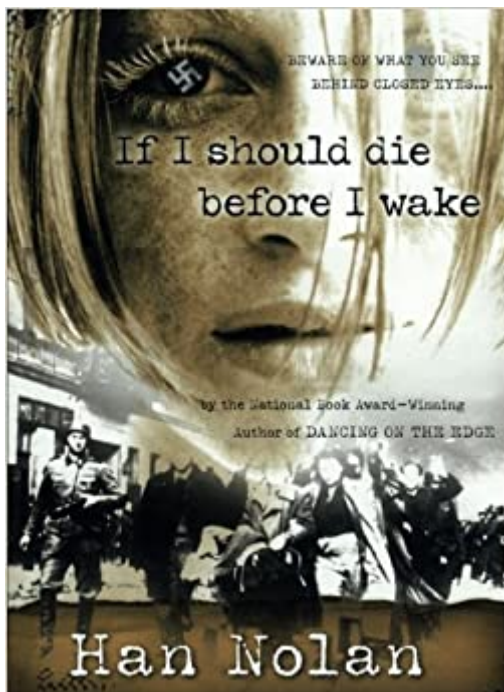


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# If I Should Die Before I Wake



## Synopsis

Hilary hates Jews. As part of a neo-Nazi gang in her town, she's finally found a sense of belonging. But when she's critically injured in an accident, everything changes. Somehow, in her mind, she has become Chana, a Jewish girl fighting for her own life in the ghettos and concentration camps of World War II. Han Nolan offers powerful insight into one young woman's survival through the Holocaust and another's journey out of hatred and self-loathing. Reader's guide and an interview with the author included.

## Book Information

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; 1 edition (May 1, 2003)

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Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.7 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 119 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #460,733 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #81 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Holocaust](#) #92 in [Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Holocaust](#) #295 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Prejudice & Racism](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Few novels can match this effort for its stupefying lack of taste. Teenager Hilary, who has never recovered from the long-ago death of her father and from her Bible-thumping mother's temporary abandonment of her, lies in a coma, the victim of her own adventures with her neo-Nazi pals. Suddenly she "slips" into another life--that of a Jewish girl in Poland at the beginning of the Nazi occupation. It turns out that she is sharing the memories of her hospital roommate, whose telepathic communications eventually bring about Hilary's salvation. Gratuitously lurid subplots involve teenage American neo-Nazi depredations and the torture of Hilary's young Jewish neighbor; the Holocaust flashbacks feature a psychic grandmother. Passages about Nazi ghettos and concentration camps seem cobbled together from survivors' memoirs (noticeably, Kitty Hart's

several autobiographies and Fania Fenelon's *Playing for Time* ), while the overall conceit owes a major debt to Jane Yolen's *The Devil's Arithmetic*. Any hope that the author will redeem this misbegotten first novel is quickly quashed by her unrelievedly airless prose. Ages 12-up. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 7-12-Hilary Burke, a young Neo-Nazi, is in a coma after a motorcycle accident. Ironically, she has been taken to a Jewish hospital and shares a room with elderly Chana, an Auschwitz survivor. Instrumental in the kidnapping of her 13-year-old Jewish neighbor, Hilary hates all Jews and believes one caused her father's death. Through Chana's memories, the girl is transported back to World War II, experiencing for herself the horrors suffered by Polish Jews just trying to survive, first in the Lodz ghetto, then in the concentration camp. While the subject matter is certainly compelling, this first novel is not as powerful as Jane Yolen's *The Devil's Arithmetic* (Viking, 1988) or as chilling as Jay Bennett's *Skinhead* (Watts, 1991). Nolan does a better job of portraying Chana than Hilary or her Bible-quoting mother, but Mrs. Burke's dysfunctional personality and Hilary's problems with her are clear. Interspersed are Biblical passages that are sometimes appropriate to the text, but often unnecessary and distracting. The ending is predictable and soppy: Chana dies leaving an album full of family photos to Hilary. Stick to the numerous, excellent-quality, existing examples of Holocaust literature. Jo-Anne Weinberg, Greenburgh Public Library, NYC Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

EXACTLY WHAT WE WANTED =)

This book speaks the truth about what's in the dark, will certainly come to light!!! Very Intriguing, a great read!

I like how it's mostly correct and it's a beautiful book on the war and how it was to be a Jewish family fighting to stay alive.

Fast shipping! Excellent quality!

I purchased this book for my granddaughter who is an avid reader. She like it and has passed it on to one of her friends!

My 14-year old granddaughter is reading this for recommended summer reading.

It was a fantastic read. I am in 8th grade and choose to read this for my World War 2 book. It was very intriguing.

i love Han Nolan books...its a great book..i couldnt put the book down. i read it in two or three days... i recommend.

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