



## The Girl with the White Flag

By Tomiko Higa, Dorothy Britton

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*New York Newsday* called this memoir of a warhood childhood in Japan "one of the saddest and yet most uplifting books about childhood you will ever encounter."

Separated from her family in the confusion and horror of World War II, seven-year-old Tomiko Higa struggles to survive on the battlefield of Okinawa, Japan. There, as some of the fiercest fighting of the war rages around her, she must live alone, with nothing to fall back on but her own wits and daring. Fleeing from encroaching enemy forces, searching desperately for her lost sisters, taking scraps of food from the knapsacks of dead soldiers, risking death at every turn, Tomiko somehow finds the strength and courage to survive.

Many years later she decided to tell this story. Originally intended for juvenile readers, it is sure to move adults as well, because it is such a vivid portrait of the unintended civilian casualties of any war.

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## The Girl with the White Flag By Tomiko Higa, Dorothy Britton Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #97536 in Books
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## **Editorial Review**

From School Library Journal

YA-- Higa tells of her experiences as a seven year old wandering for seven weeks in battle-torn Okinawa in 1945. Her nine-year-old brother was killed beside her as they slept. Separated from her sisters, she survived on her own and then with an elderly, handicapped couple. Although bloody corpses are a common sight, the book is not depressing. Aspects of Oriental culture and religion, such as the importance of family and the relationship of man to nature, can be seen. Sentences are usually short, but they don't detract from the effectiveness of this moving, autobiographical memoir. Recent immigrants from countries ravaged by war will find it particularly meaningful. All will be touched by Higa's tenacity under impossible circumstances and will be reminded that children continue to be the worst victims of war. --Claudia Moore, W. T. Woodson High School, Fairfax, VA

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From Library Journal

Iwo Jima, Saipan, Okinawa. The names of Pacific War battlegrounds conjure up vaguely similar memories to Americans above a certain age. But there was a difference. On Okinawa for the first time U.S. forces encountered a large civilian population. Estimates are that at least 75,000 Okinawan men, women, and children perished, many of them committing suicide rather than surrender. This book tells the story of the climax of this battle from the perspective of a seven-year-old girl, the author, who struggled against the odds to survive and to lead others to survival. Some rare photographs illuminate the ending to this simply told story, as the girl in the title comes into camera range of an American soldier. A charming story, a quick read for young and old alike.

- *John H. Boyle, California State Univ., Chico*

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Review

"One of the saddest yet most uplifting books about childhood you will ever encounter. ... A powerful document as well as a completely engrossing adventure." -*Newsday*

"[A] moving memoir... All will be touched by Higa's tenacity under impossible circumstances and will be reminded that children continue to be the worst victims of war." -*School Library Journal*

". .. her unaffected memoir serves as a reminder that in any war, 'noncombatants' suffer grievously." -*Los Angeles Times Book Review*

"A gripping story." -*Mainichi Daily News*

"A testimony to the resilience of the human spirit. [It] is a short book that you will not be able to put down

once you start to read it." -*City life News*

"...an original, candid, and attention gripping autobiographical narrative which is superbly written and enthusiastically recommended..." -*Bookwatch*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Rodney Sierra:**

As people who live in the actual modest era should be revise about what going on or data even knowledge to make them keep up with the era and that is always change and progress. Some of you maybe will probably update themselves by reading through books. It is a good choice in your case but the problems coming to a person is you don't know what kind you should start with. This *The Girl with the White Flag* is our recommendation to help you keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and want in this era.

#### **Donald Murphy:**

*The Girl with the White Flag* can be one of your starter books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary that can increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nonetheless delivering the information. The copy writer giving his/her effort to place every word into joy arrangement in writing *The Girl with the White Flag* nevertheless doesn't forget the main point, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource facts that maybe you can be among it. This great information can certainly drawn you into brand new stage of crucial considering.

#### **Norma Eberhart:**

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#### **Isabel Martin:**

That reserve can make you to feel relax. This particular book *The Girl with the White Flag* was colorful and of course has pictures on there. As we know that book *The Girl with the White Flag* has many kinds or style. Start from kids until young adults. For example *Naruto* or *Detective Conan* you can read and believe that you

are the character on there. Therefore not at all of book are generally make you bored, any it can make you feel happy, fun and chill out. Try to choose the best book for you and try to like reading which.

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