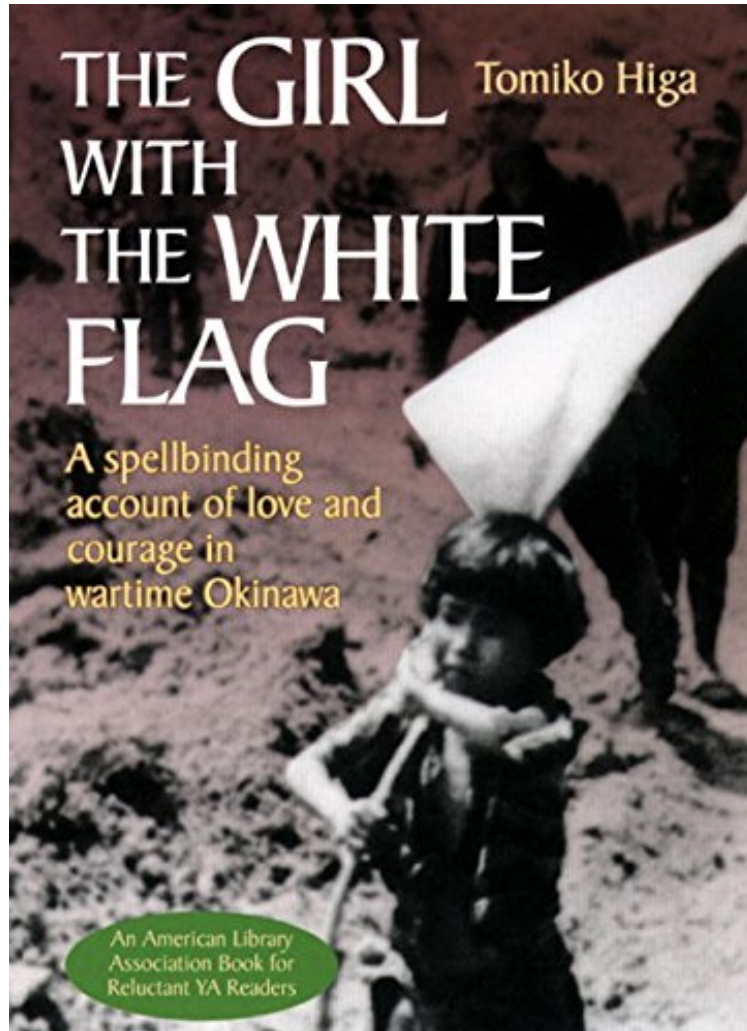


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## The Girl with the White Flag

*Tomiko Higa, Dorothy Britton*  
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**Tomiko Higa, Dorothy Britton : The Girl with the White Flag** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Girl with the White Flag:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy KleeI Enjoyed this book very much. Being of Okinawan ancestry, it was not until I visited Okinawa that I took an interest in the Battle of Okinawa. The ravages of war on a country and its people is so horrible....This was a brave little girl, who lived to tell her story. This is NOT a book for elementary school children.10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. I read this book because she shares my last name ...By higabut is no relation. And found I enjoyed it more than I thought I would. There are many mentions in the customer reviews about it being middle school or young adolescent lit, so I was a little leery. And it is in a way, because the episodes in her life are just presented the way she remembered them. There is no tying it back to

a larger political idea, no closure of narrative like one expect in an adult novel, and often "characters" in her story walk away never to be seen from or heard from again. So, in that way, if you are expecting an adult account with deep reflections, ramifications both political and social, and prescriptions and condemnations, then you need to read another book. But Higa's account was refreshing in that way that children are. She presents everything without guile or over-analysis. You feel the visceral experience with her as she climbs over the wasteland that her country becomes. She never sugar-coats anything because there is no need to when just presented factually. You feel her need, understand her young judgements, and are just charmed by her plucky character. In today's multicultural educational system, this book would be a good addition to any history of WWII. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Three Stars  
By Cindy Sital  
Book was very short. Fast Read.

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.

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 Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. 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 Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. "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 "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