



Running with Cosmos Flowers: The Children of Hiroshima

Shizumi Manale , Richard Marshall

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In the wake of the bombing of Hiroshima at the end of World War II, the congregation of All Souls Unitarian Church in Washington, DC, sent school supplies to the students of Hiroshima's Honkawa Elementary School. In gratitude, the students sent back drawings-created with their new supplies-of their lives in the devastated city. These remarkable images depicted scenes of play and joy. The delicate cosmos flower, which grew and bloomed in spite of the radioactive soil, was a symbol of hope echoed in the students' drawings. Discovered and restored decades later, these images stand as a testament to the resilience and beauty of the human spirit.

This fictionalized account begins with the rediscovery of these pictures. It is drawn from interviews with the students and teachers of Honkawa Elementary School, as well as from author Shizumi Shigeto Manale's mother's personal recollections. Filled with sincerity and hope, this harrowing tale is told through the voice of Hanako, a young girl whose life is abruptly shattered. Readers will experience with terrifying clarity the catastrophic effects of human destructiveness and the indomitability of the will.

Running with Cosmos Flowers: The Children of Hiroshima Details

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From Reader Review Running with Cosmos Flowers: The Children of Hiroshima for online ebook

Roxanne says

Even though this book is fiction it reads like a non-fiction book. Hanako who is now elderly lived through the Hiroshima bombing after WW11. After the war it was very hard to rebuild and the children did not understand. This is the story of those school children who overcame difficulties after the war and they had to start over. American children began sending art and drawings over to Japan trying to cheer them up. A very heartfelt book.

Catherine Stickann says

I am so glad I won this book on Goodreads First Reads Giveaway. This book is under juvenile fiction, however, I really feel it is a book for all ages. The story is about the aftermath of the atomic bomb being dropped on Hiroshima. The story is fiction based on interviews of the actual people who lived through the bombing. The story is so powerful about the human factor of war it should be required reading for all students.

After reading this book it will be impossible to forget that every conflict has innocent victims. "Running with Cosmos Flowers" is a study of human resilience in a near impossible situation. I highly recommend this book. I will add it to my list of important reads. In this fast paced world it is essential that we slow down and face the consequences of our actions. I hope the photos of the actual children's drawing will touch your senses provoking smiles and tears and leave lasting impressions on your mind.

Sally says

A story of what happened at Hiroshima after the atom bomb. Told from the point of view of a young girl who lost her family except for an aunt and uncle, the narrative develops as she tries to make sense of the destruction, the loss, and the anger. She copes in a haphazard way since the "normal" life she was used to doesn't exist anymore. As she develops some stability, mostly through the school she attends, our notions of how the Japanese view the Americans and even how they view those who survive the bombing are problematized. A sorrowful story, but one that also presents the resilience of the young, even in horrible circumstances. The very end, where many years later adult survivors are reunited with pictures they drew for an American church right after the war, is very touching.

Salsabarian says

The bombing of Hiroshima changes Hanako's life forever. She is the only survivor of her immediate family; she lives with her aunt and uncle until her uncle dies of radiation poisoning. Hanako, her friends and her neighbors soldier on to a new normal but the impact of the bomb forever colors how they see their lives. Tragic and searing.

Tamsyn says

Well-written, interesting perspective of a young girl who had left Hiroshima the day before the bomb dropped to stay with her aunt, and her life back in the city as it was being cleaned and rebuilt. The elementary school she attended was one of the few surviving structures, and her lessons and experiences there were particularly interesting. A short but powerful book.
