



## Partners To A Degree

*Horst Christian*

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# **Partners To A Degree**

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A World War II Historical Fiction Novel Based On A True Story

As World War II comes to an end for Germany, 14-year-old Karl Veth and his best friend, Harold Kellner, narrowly survive the fall of Berlin. Their knowledge of the city's subway system plays a key role in their survival during the battle of Berlin and will do so again in the days that follow as the Soviets take control of the city.

After being arrested by a Russian Political Kommissar, Karl and Harold are given the option of being shipped off to Russian labor camps or completing missions for the Kommissar and earning their freedom. The promise of freedom and the possibility of receiving information about the fate of their families is more than enough to ensure their cooperation.

The Kommissar is continually surprised by Karl and Harold's ingenuity and resourcefulness as they complete each mission. He develops a fondness for the boys and offers to adopt them and take them back to Russia with him when he returns. Holding out hope they will eventually be reunited with their families, they refuse the Kommissar's offer. Unfortunately, only one boy's dream of seeing his family again will come true.

The ravages of war dramatically changed their lives and while Karl and Harold have each suffered the loss of loved ones – one has lost more than the other. One boy will struggle to put his life back on track and the other will embark on a path of revenge - fueled by grief and anger at the lies that caused his loss and the destruction of his homeland.

As one boy's story comes to an end, the other's is just beginning.

Partners To A Degree is the final book in the series. Other books include:

Children To A Degree

Loyal To A Degree

Trust To A Degree

## **Partners To A Degree Details**

Date : Published June 23rd 2014

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Author : Horst Christian

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## **From Reader Review Partners To A Degree for online ebook**

### **Betty says**

The third book in Christian's series based on his own life and that of a friend as members of the Hitler Youth in the last weeks of WWII and the time right after the surrender of Berlin. Their adventures were harrowing. The contacts they made were important to their survival and to their search for their parents. Did they find their parents? What kind of lives have the boys had since those strange times? Read to find out.

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### **Mavis Frasure says**

#### **Engaging Read**

This is the 4th book in the series regarding 2 young German teenagers that survived WWII and their challenges as Berlin is invaded by the Russians. This author has the amazing talent of transporting the reader back in time. It is a fast read, but a treasure trove of historical information. So looking forward to more from this author!

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### **Cathy says**

I couldn't put these books down. What Harold and Karl had to do in their lives was beyond comprehension. I learned so much more about one of my favorite genres in such an interesting story.

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### **Pam says**

Partners To A Degree is book four in the series by Horst Christian. The story is based on a true story but told as a historical fiction. It is tragic that the events did occur and nothing could be done to stop them. This book takes the young boys, only fourteen and then fifteen, through the aftermath of World War II in Berlin. Adjusting to life under the Russians and then having to try to relocate their families at the same time, proved to be exhausting and dangerous for the two young men.

Karl Veth was overjoyed to be reunited with his Father; but was angry at the Kommissar for using his Father's life as a tool to get Karl to eliminate an enemy. Karl had come through World War II without having to use his skill as a sniper to kill anyone and did not want to do it now. It seems as if he doesn't have a choice. He understands the Kommissar's reasons but doesn't have to like them. All Karl wants is to take his Father to Westphalia where his Mother and two siblings are now living. First they have to get out of the Russian held portion of Berlin.

Harold Kellner is still reeling from the death of his Mother after repeated rapes and beatings by a Russian unit. The Kommissar was able to find his Mother and bring her to Berlin before she died so her son could be with her and for that he was grateful. However, he felt nothing but getting revenge for her after she died. The Kommissar has also located his Father; but he is being held in Spandau prison for war crimes. Harold takes the Kommissar's offer to take him under his wing and give him the best education Europe has to offer and a place in the Russian army leadership. This will mean he and Karl will be separated.

Each boy has to choose the path he will now follow since the war is over. They must each stay true to their own values or change them to fit the path they chose. The choice is never easy. The series is an excellent one of two boys who are intelligent and ambitious in the Third Reich and who resist the indoctrination of the Third Reich by questioning what they learn.

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### **Anita Heveron says**

I really enjoyed this series! While this book strayed from Karl's point of view and focused on Harold, I found it just as good. Harold isn't the moral character we grew to love like Karl, but a dark, hurt soul bent on revenge. It was nice to see his side.

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### **Joan Jolman says**

#### **Very interesting**

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this whole series. It was interesting to read about how young Germans lived and viewed events during this horrific time in history. I am fascinated with this time period of history and recommend this read to any one who has a love of history.

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### **Terralyn Brown Barfield says**

3 1/2-4 Stars. This last book in the 'to a degree' Series centers around Howard, Karl's closest friend during his survival of Hitler's Berlin during and immediately after the end of WWII. It is one young man's life choice in the struggle to survive and thrive in a world that seems to present few options. It will be interesting to compare his choice with Karl's in books to come.

I do believe the the whole issue of the holocaust was basically skirted instead of giving it it's rightful attention. I was looking forward to the perspective of the boys. I wanted more on how these young men, and much of the rest of the country, could have been so insulated as to profess no knowledge of the atrocities until revealed after the fall of Berlin. I wanted more interest and concern, if not outrage and horror at the systematic acts of evil.....not a footnote.....or is this how it is actually seen by the German people who lived through this era.....just a footnote. How does one carry on and move forward?

I really wanted a first-hand perspective. I was disappointed. Soon, there will be no one left alive who experienced what Karl and Howard did. That perspective will be lost for all to learn from and history will again repeat itself. Better to learn in the present and change, than to continue to struggle into the future. Aside: {We in the US continue to struggle with the evil of racism long after slavery was abolished. We continue to oppress our Native Americans. The new slave trade is in women, children and immigrants. This is not just a German problem or an American problem. This is a HUMAN problem. The more international authors I read, the more pervasive I see the sickness of power and greed. Is there any hope that we will overcome our base instincts?

Will better/faster global communication be used to solve this problem or will it be perverted to further oppress others so that a few can gain unlimited wealth and power over all?

We will see.}

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**Heather says**

I was so sad that Carl wasn't in this books so much but it was still fantastic

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**teresa childers says****This is a great read.**

A great read, the whole series has been great. I definitely will recommend all of the Degree series of book's. From the first page of the first book through to the last page of the last book I was on edge to see what would happen next and I was never disappointed.

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**Virginia Ullrich-serna says**

All 4 of these books should be required reading in high school, maybe even middle school. They show how easily a whole nation can be lead astray.

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**Emily Enfinger says****Fascinating read**

This entire series has kept me glued to book. The representation of the fall of Berlin from the standpoint of two young men with only the limited information given them as well as the showcase of their ability to solve the problems they encountered was rejuvenating. The fact that much of it was factual made it even more worth while

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**Joan M Erickson says****Riveting Story**

I read all three books to follow these two young men. Their age perspectives are fascinating because they assumed very adult responsibilities without information. They also witnessed horrible actions and survived.

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**Jenny Allen says****Enjoyed!**

I liked all 4 books in this series, learning what it was in Germany in the 40's. Highly recommended series.

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### **Susan says**

#### **War story**

I enjoyed reading the books because the story was written from the German youth perspective, and it reflected the truth from people who lived through it. It would make a great movie.

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### **Cathy Georgia says**

#### **Historical novel**

Very interesting historically. Well written. Easy to read. Kept my attention. Hard to put down. Would recommend it to anyone interested in WWII.

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