



Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Wartime Sarajevo, Revised Edition

By Zlata Filipovic



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Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Wartime Sarajevo, Revised Edition By Zlata Filipovic

The child's diary that awakened the conscience of the world

When *Zlata's Diary* was first published at the height of the Bosnian conflict, it became an international bestseller and was compared to *The Diary of Anne Frank*, both for the freshness of its voice and the grimness of the world it describes. It begins as the day-to-day record of the life of a typical eleven-year-old girl, preoccupied by piano lessons and birthday parties. But as war engulfs Sarajevo, Zlata Filipovic becomes a witness to food shortages and the deaths of friends and learns to wait out bombardments in a neighbor's cellar. Yet throughout she remains courageous and observant. The result is a book that has the power to move and instruct readers a world away.

"The only bright thing to come from [Sarajevo's] recent history." -*USA Today*

"Conveys the bewilderment and horror of modern-day conflict...One of Zlata's gifts lies in throwing a human light on intolerable events." -*San Francisco Chronicle*



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

A graphic firsthand look at the war in Sarajevo by a Croatian girl whose personal world has collapsed, this vivid, sensitive diary sounds an urgent and compelling appeal for peace. Filipovic begins her precocious journal in autumn 1991 as a contented 10-year-old preoccupied with piano and tennis lessons and saturated with American movies, TV shows, books and rock music. Soon the bombs start falling; her friends are killed by shrapnel or snipers' bullets; her family's country house burns down, and they subsist on UN food packages, without gas, electricity or water, as thousands of Sarajevans die. Filipovic, whose circle of friends included Serbs, Croats and Muslims, blames the former Yugoslavia's politicians for dividing ethnic groups and playing hell with people's lives. She and her parents escaped to Paris, and her diary, originally published in Croat by UNICEF, was reissued in France and has already been much written about in the U.S. Photos not seen by PW. 200,000 first printing; film rights to Universal; first serial to Newsweek; author tour
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From School Library Journal

YA-From September 1991 through October 1993, young Zlata Filipovic kept a diary. When she began it, she was 11 years old, concerned mostly with friends, school, piano lessons, MTV, and Madonna. As the diary ends, she has become used to constant bombing and snipers; severe shortages of food, water, and gas; and the end of a privileged adolescence in her native Sarajevo. Zlata has been described as the new Anne Frank. While the circumstances are somewhat similar, and Zlata is intelligent and observant, this diary lacks the compelling style and mature preceptions that gave Anne Frank's account such universality. The entire situation in the former Yugoslavia, however, is of such currency and concern that any first-person account, especially one such as this that speaks so directly to adolescents, is important and necessary. While not great literature, the narrative provides a vivid description of the ravages of war and its effect upon one young woman, and, as such, is valuable for today's YAs.

Susan H. Woodcock, King's Park Library, Burke, VA

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From Library Journal

The harsh realities of the Bosnian conflict are brought to life in this chronicle. Begun in late 1991 when Zlata was ten, the typical musings of a young schoolgirl confiding in her diary are increasingly overtaken by accounts of the horrors of life in besieged Sarajevo. All vestiges of normal life disappear: schools close, electricity and gas are cut off, food and water become scarce, and Zlata becomes a virtual prisoner in the least vulnerable room of the family flat. As friends and family members are killed in the conflict, Zlata describes the events that have made her a "child without a childhood." This plea for help from an innocent victim is enhanced by the authentic Slavic voice of narrator Dorota Puzio. Recommended.

Linda Bredengerd, Hanley Lib., Univ. of Pittsburgh, Bradford, Pa.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Cindi Russell:

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Sarah Petty:

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