

# Behind the Bedroom Wall: A Novel of Nazi Germany

By Laura E. Williams

## Characters:

Herr Haase - arrested by Gestapo, a butcher who gave meat to poor people

Hans Demerau - Gestapo officer, brother of Rita

Rita Damerau - Best friend of Korinna, very anti-Jewish

Eva - Friend of Korinna, sympathetic to the Jews

Korinna Rehme- Main character, at first very anti-Jewish, but comes to believe her ideas were wrong

Bernd Rehme - Korinna's father, teacher

Aunt Hendrikia

Elsa Demmer-Rita's cousin, made a face at the fuhrer's picture and is sympathetic to the Jews, turned in by Rita

Herr Richt - New history teacher

Fraulein Meiser - history teacher with long blond hair who was replaced after she expressed displeasure with the way history was being revised

Sophie Krugman - Jewish woman hidden by the Rehmes

Rachel Krugman - Sophie's daughter hidden by the Rehmes

Sol Krugman - Sophie's husband, hidden in a barn

Ruth Krugman - Sophie's older daughter, hidden in a barn with her father

Frau Reineke - Korinna's mother's best friend, arrested for hiding Jews

Anita Scheinman - Jewish best friend of Korinna's when they were little

## Questions:

1. What is the *Jungmadel* - a German pro-Nazi youth group who encouraged their members to turn in adults who appeared un-German or pro-Jewish
2. Why did Korinna's class get new history books? Their teacher said the old ones were no longer accurate
3. What present did Korinna's father give her at the start of the book? A black and white kitten
4. Why was Herr Haase arrested by the Gestapo? He was involved in a secret organization that helps Jews
5. What did Korinna do at the Jungmadel meetings? Bake, help the poor, babysit, sing, hike, march in parades
6. What did Hitler always say in his radio speeches? If the enemy (Jews and radical intellectuals) were destroyed, it would make a stronger more unified Germany that would last for 1,000 years
7. Why did Herr Rehme say he came in the back door after school meetings? Why did he really come in the back door? He said the back door was more convenient, but really, he didn't want anyone to see him coming from resistance meetings (not school meetings)
8. Why was Fraulein Meiser taken by the Gestapo? They were arresting her father and she wanted to stay with him.
9. How did Korinna find the Jews behind her bedroom wall? She was looking for a mouse hole when she pulled back her wardrobe and saw them
10. What is the German word for "wardrobe"? Schrank
11. What really caused the sound that Korinna had thought was mice? Rachel was walking back and forth
12. What did Korinna think the Krugmans were when she first saw them? Monsters
13. What meal did Frau Rehme bring to Sophie and Rachel that Korinna thought was for her? Potato and carrot soup and rye bread
14. Who stopped by to see Korinna the day after Korinna found the Krugmans in her house? Rita
15. Why did Frau Rehme have to cook separate meals for the Krugmans? The Krugmans kept kosher.
16. Which of Korinna's features did Rachel think was especially pretty? Her hair, which shone like bronze.
17. Why did Rachel ask Korinna for paper? She liked to draw
18. After she came home from school on the day after she found the Krugmans, where did Korinna find her kitten? Rachel was playing with it behind the bedroom wall.

19. How did Rachel thank Korinna for letting her play with the kitten? She drew a picture of the kitten with the word "danke" under it and put it next to the wardrobe
20. Why did the Jungmadel begin meeting every day? Hitler was coming to visit.
21. What instrument did Ruth Krugman play? The piano
22. What did Korinna's mother want to give Rachel that Korinna wouldn't let her give? Korinna's old dress.
23. Why was Korinna slapped by the Jungmadel leader? She hadn't said "heil Hitler" quickly enough.
24. What did the Krugman's do that made Korinna feel better after she had been slapped at the Jungmadel meeting? They let the kitten out of their room so she could pet it.
25. Who told Korinna's mother that she had been slapped at the Jungmadel meeting? Rita
26. What games did Rachel suggest when Korinna invited her into her room? Dress-up, house, soldier and Jew
27. What gifts did Korinna give Rachel the first time she went into the Krugman's closet? Colored pencils and an old China doll
28. Who named the kitten, and why? Rachel named it Tag (Day) because she only saw it during the day
29. Who came in the middle of the night to search Korinna's house for Jews? The Gestapo officer Hans Demerau, Rita's brother
30. Why did Hans hit Korinna's father during the search of Korinna's house? Bernd was trying to keep Hans from destroying pictures
31. What happened to Anita Scheinman according to Rita? She was sent east to live with other Jews.
32. What happened to Ruth Krugman? She died of pneumonia
33. How did Korinna try to cheer up Rachel after Ruth died? She had Rachel draw a picture of Ruth so she could see her any time.
34. When Rachel drew the pictures of Ruth, what did Ruth look like? She had blond hair and blue eyes, like Korinna.
35. Who told Korinna that her house would be searched a second time? Eva
36. How did the Krugman's escape from Korinna's house? They traded clothes with some friends of the Rehmes and rode away on bicycles
37. How did Korinna fool the Gestapo the second time her house was searched? She turned the room where the Krugmans had been hiding into a shrine for the Fuhrer.
38. What happened to Korinna's black notebook? Rita stole it and gave it to Hans.
39. How did the Rehme's escape from their house? On bicycles
40. What did Korinna decide was perhaps even more important than love? Freedom

In which book...

- Does a group throw snowballs at some small children?
- Does a kitten bite a hole in a girl's stocking?
- Does a family say Sabbath prayers in the dark?
- Does a girl lie about a secret clubhouse?
- Is a girl disgusted by the Treaty of Versailles?
- Does a girl pace like a trapped animal?
- Does a girl forget what her sister looks like?