Sarah Bergmann

The Boy from the Ruins of Berlin

Recommended Age: 12+

Middle Grade
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Further information here

The powerful portrait of a childhood in post-war Germany on the move from fascist ideology to democratic values – as highly topical as ever.

Berlin, 1947. In the ruins of the war-torn city, Paul and his friends make do with what they can find, coming up with adventurous games and scavenging for valuable scraps. Since his father went missing in action, Paul has taken on many responsibilities to help care for his family. Yet, he is happy with the life they have built for themselves. That is, until he finds out that his mother intends to marry the black GI Bill. Paul, who is certain his father is going to return, refuses to accept this and even some of his friends urge him to take action to prevent the wedding. Paul is determined to break up Bill and his mother – no matter what the cost … but is that really the best for his family?

Creative People:

Author: Sarah Bergmann grew up in tranquil southern Germany where books were her door to the world. She studied literary criticism and philosophy in Berlin and screenwriting at the Filmakademie in Ludwigsburg. Today, she lives with her husband in an old farmhouse near Braunschweig. She travels a lot and writes novels while the world passes by outside the train window.