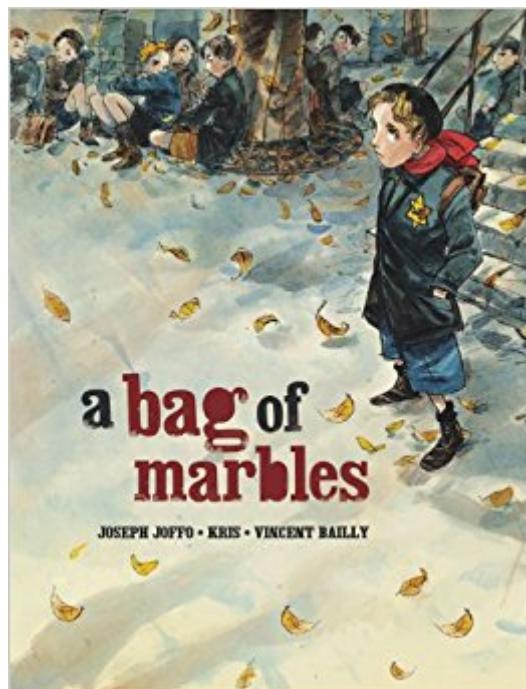


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# A Bag Of Marbles: The Graphic Novel



## **Synopsis**

In 1941 in occupied Paris, brothers Maurice and Joseph play a last game of marbles before running home to their father's barbershop. This is the day that will change their lives forever. With the German occupation threatening their family's safety, the boys' parents decide Maurice and Joseph must disguise themselves and flee to their older brothers in the free zone. Surviving the long journey will take every scrap of ingenuity and courage they can muster. And if they hope to elude the Nazis, they must never, under any circumstances, admit to being Jewish. The boys travel by train, by ferry, and on foot, facing threats from strangers and receiving help from unexpected quarters. Along the way they must adapt to the unfamiliar world beyond their city and find a way to be true to themselves even as they conceal their identities. Based on an autobiographical novel by Joseph Joffo and adapted with the author's input, this true story offers a harrowing but inspiring glimpse of a childhood cut short.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Gr 6-9 "Ten years old at the start of the story, Joffo recalls his Jewish family planning their escape from Occupied France during World War II. Tension runs through the story as he and his brother set off on the long journey to the Free Zone, where they plan to meet up with their older brothers. Along the way the boys must hide their Jewish identity, evade train security, and find a passeur, or guide, to take them past guard posts and fences to safe territory. Readers are never allowed to forget the danger the boys are in as they encounter friends and foes and attempt to discern whom they can trust. Bailly's painterly artwork is well suited to the compelling, well-told narrative. Unfortunately, it is

crowded on dense, dialogue-heavy and tightly packed pages, preventing readers to view more closely the detailed, layered artwork. This title will appeal to readers interested in memoirs about World War II and has enough action to hold their attention. It's a welcome addition to graphic-novel collections, but layout problems preclude it from being a must-have.â “Liz Zylstra, County of Prince Edward Public Library, Picton, Ontarioâ (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

This graphic-novel adaptation of Joffoâ ™s 1973 memoir of the same name succeeds in melding sensitive and accurate imagery with the original narrative flow of a young secular Jewish boyâ ™s experiences in occupied France. The story follows Jo, who could be brought to tears at the threat of losing his favorite marble, and his older brother Maurice as they are quickly ripped from childhood, thanks to the Nazi occupation of Paris, and head south alone, sent by their parents to relative safety in Free France with their two older brothers. Baillyâ ™s richly detailed watercolor art shows a wide variety of scenesâ ”from crowded train stations full of lurking German troops to the palm-lined seaside; from a Vichy camp to a Nazi interview roomâ ”as well as the dynamic expressions and postures of the characters. Among the increasing number of memoirs from aging Holocaust survivors, Joffoâ ™s story as it is adapted here is both accessible and thought-provoking for young readers who may be familiar only with Anne Frankâ ™s firsthand account of the loss of childhood to politics and war. Grades 6-10. --Francisca Goldsmith

Beautifully illustrated. Came quickly. My grandson's eyes lite up when he saw it. Excellent topic for home schools. More on this subject for students.

I bought this as an afikoman gift for a young teen, but found myself absorbed in it myself.

nice story and beautiful drawings

my kids love it

When I ordered this book, I wasn't really tuned in to the format, so I gave it to my 14 year old grandson who really appreciated reading it.

The story begins showing two brothers enjoying just being kids playing marbles. These children

lead a normal life until his father sends them to a trip away from Paris, the only place they have known. The father asks them to travel by themselves into the free zone to protect them from the Nazi invasion. During this trip, the children get to know people who help them get to their destination. On this trip, the kids manage to stay one step ahead of the Nazi army by the ingenuity that characterizes them and the kindness of people they find. Eventually, every member of the family travels while facing difficult situations. This is a story of survival and effort to find a safe place. This comic is inspired by the story of Joseph Joffo. The tone of the comic is generally suitable for the situations presented. I find contradictory the reactions the characters show while experiencing stressful situations. They show no fear or intense reaction. The comic kept me constantly reading. Even once I finished, the story remained on my mind.\*Book provided by Netgalley for an honest review.

Uh, It would have been VERY helpful to know ahead of time that this was written in comic book form. Unreadable for me.

A adaptation of the original memoir by Joseph Joffo by illustrator Vincent Bailly. Well drawn and beautifully colorized. this is the story of Joseph and his brother as they travelled across France trying to stay one step ahead of the Nazi soldiers. They travelled from Occupied France to the Free Zone in France alluding the Nazis. Once they are even saved by a priest on a train when they were asked to show their papers, which they did not have. Though they keep moving and living with different people throughout the war, at the end of the war the brothers and their mother are able to return to Paris. I would say this is a book for older teens, not young children.

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