



The Blood Lie: A Novel

Shirley Reva Vernick

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2012 Sydney Taylor Award Honor Book, 2012 Skipping Stone Honor Book. Lauren Myracle, author of *Shine*, calls it "a powerful—and poignant—reminder that no person can live freely until all people can live freely." *Blood Lie* was the winner of the 2012 Simon Wiesenthal Once Upon a World Children's Book Award.

September 22, 1928, Massena, New York. Jack Pool's sixteenth birthday. He's been restless lately, especially during this season of more-times-at-the-synagogue than you can shake a stick at. If it wasn't Rosh Hashanah, then it was Yom Kippur, and if it wasn't Yom Kippur, it was the Sabbath. But temple's good for some things. It gives him lots of time to daydream about a beautiful but inaccessible Gentile girl named Emaline. And if she isn't on his mind, then he's thinking about his music and imagining himself playing the cello with the New York Philharmonic. Yup, music is definitely his ticket out of this remote whistle-stop town—he doesn't want to be stuck here one more minute. But he doesn't realize exactly how stuck he is until Emaline's little sister Daisy goes missing and he and his family are accused of killing her for a blood sacrifice.

Blood Lie was inspired by a real blood libel that took place when a small girl disappeared from Massena, New York, in 1928, and an innocent Jewish boy was called a murderer.

"Vernick's novel is a scathing indictment of anti-Semitism...it is an important book that reminds us of the imperative need to remember lest we find ourselves repeating the horrors of the past."

—*Booklist*

"Effectively mines layers of ignorance, fear, intolerance and manipulation."

—*Kirkus Reviews*

Shirley Reva Vernick's interviews and feature articles have appeared in *Cosmopolitan*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Ladies' Home Journal*, and national newspapers. She also runs a popular storytelling website, storybee.org, which is used in schools and libraries all over the world. Shirley grew up in the town where the blood libel happened, as did her father, whose family was directly victimized by it.

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