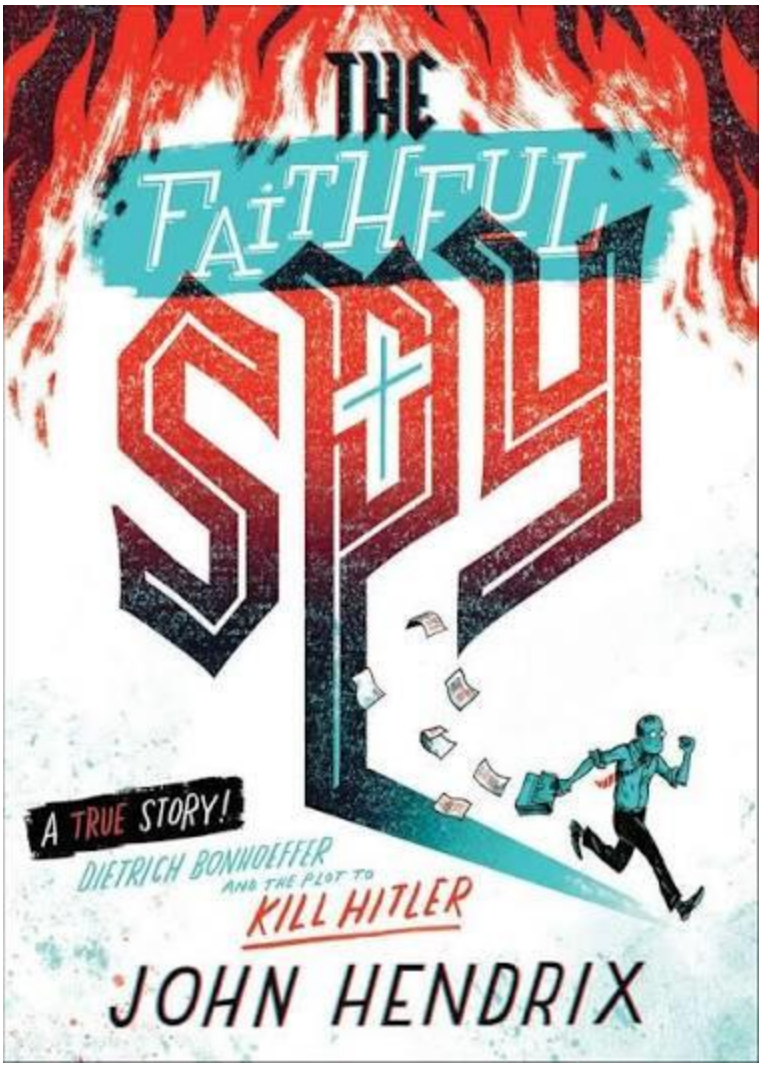

The Faithful Spy
John Hendrix
Reviewed by: Ayan Mohapatra, 15
Star Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity
www.bethestaryouare.org

A priest navigates Germany during the Nazis' rise in this true story. Growing up and learning religion in Germany across World War I and the 1920s, Dietrich Bonhoeffer became a staunch enemy of the Nazi Party. Navigating the contradiction between the desire to serve the country and the Nazis' evils, Dietrich becomes a member of the German resistance. Becoming a double agent in the German ranks, Dietrich seeks to save Jewish people as the resistance seeks to overthrow Hitler. The resistance must face constant peril in this graphic novel as Dietrich stands for his values.

The Faithful Spy **is a great, digestible graphic novel that informs about the rise of Nazism. For someone with a layman's perspective, it is greatly helpful for gaining a greater understanding of this era in history. In addition, the book is greatly informative about the life of Bonhoeffer. The book paints a clear picture of Bonhoeffer's religious convictions and how they affected his views. In spite of this information, this book is nowhere near boring. The book uses an expressive visual style, depicting scenes both naturally and metaphorically. Text is seamlessly wrapped into the visuals to inform while not feeling as inaccessible as a standard biography.**

I have few criticisms of this book, and those I do have are deeply subjective. For one, the book tends to overuse exclamation marks. This overuse can make the book feel a bit more lighthearted than it was perhaps intended to be, though it does fit with the graphic nature. Furthermore, the book can often feel a bit heavy-handed in its messaging, though this is somewhat natural given the subject material of Nazism. Finally, the narrative of Bonhoeffer's life and the German resistance's efforts to assassinate Hitler become increasingly detached by the end of the book, though both remain captivating until the end.

Overall, I would greatly recommend ***The Faithful Spy*** **to Teens and other Young readers above about 10 years old interested in learning about history. The book requires little prior historical knowledge and is very accessible thanks to its graphic format. For an accessible, informative, and enjoyable book about history,** ***The Faithful Spy*** **is a good choice.**

Recommended Titles:

The Mythmakers, by John Hendrix

Treaties, Trenches, Mud, and Blood, by Nathan Hale

Cold War Correspondent: A Korean War Tale, by Nathan Hale.