



Norway was a country of around 3 million people when Hitler's troops invaded the Scandinavian nation beginning on the 9th of April, 1940.

After the invasion of Poland, the previous September, Germany's land troops had been relatively quiet—at least on the surface. But they were not quiet, behind the scene, and the attack on Norway was extremely well-planned and coordinated.

Margi Preus tells the story of the invasion, and subsequent five-year occupation, through the eyes of a young Norwegian who is 14 when German troops descend on his country.

The publisher provides [an overview of the novel](#) which is loosely based on the true story of a Norwegian teenaged hero who served as a spy for his country:

*Shadow on the Mountain recounts the adventures of a 14-year-old Norwegian boy named Espen during World War II. After Nazi Germany invades and occupies Norway, Espen and his friends are swept up in the resistance movement. Espen gets his start delivering illegal newspapers, graduates to the role of courier, and finally becomes a spy, dodging the Gestapo along the way.*

*During five years under the Nazi regime, he gains—and loses—friends, falls in love, and makes one small mistake that threatens to catch up with him as he sets out to escape on skis over the mountains to Sweden.*

*Preus incorporates archival photographs and other images to tell this story based on the real-life adventures of Norwegian Erling Storrusten, whom Preus interviewed in Norway.*

You can preview the book online.

Credits:

Image of book cover online via Amazon.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Shadow-on-the-Mountain-by-Margi-Preus>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Shadow-on-the-Mountain-by-Margi-Preus>