

"Rob Currie's *Time for Courage* is a powerful and captivating story that immerses readers in a critical moment in history."

DR. JOSHUA HOLTCAMP
director of the Children's Holocaust Memorial



TIME FOR

The Dutch Resistance is outnumbered and outgunned.

COURAGE

And all they have is each other.

A WWII NOVEL



ROB CURRIE

The award-winning author of *Hunger Winter*

PRAISE FOR *TIME FOR COURAGE*

This book is a captivating and well-written introduction to the stories from the Second World War. I hope that one day you will read about Anne Frank, Corrie ten Boom, Edith Eva Eger, and Irena Sendler too. I am sure that when you do, you will know why this book, *Time for Courage*, was worth reading as a child.

FOPPE WIERSMA, MD, DIRECTOR OF THE CORRIE TEN BOOM MUSEUM, HAARLEM, NETHERLANDS

A great read! I couldn't put it down. With the vivid storytelling and heartfelt emotion, I found myself transported to 1945 and was captivated by the courage and resilience of Dirk, his family, and other characters we meet along the way.

KELLIE BARTLEY, SENIOR DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, AWANA

Rob Currie's *Time for Courage* is a powerful and captivating story that immerses readers in a critical moment in history. Through the eyes of young Dirk, students will experience themes of courage, sacrifice, and resilience in the face of unimaginable challenges. This book is not only engaging but also an inspiring tool for teaching empathy and the importance of standing up for what is right.

DR. JOSHUA HOLT CAMP, PRINCIPAL OF WHITWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL AND DIRECTOR OF THE CHILDREN'S HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL

Time for Courage is a gripping and carefully researched novel based on seldom-told stories of the Dutch Resistance during WWII. I strongly recommend this book to young (and older!) readers. The characters are just as memorable and well-drawn as the storyline of young people and their adult allies thwarting the Gestapo. Suspenseful, inspiring, and unforgettable.

JOSEPH BRUCHAC, AUTHOR OF *CODE TALKER*, AN ALA BEST BOOK FOR YOUNG ADULTS AND ONE OF *TIME* MAGAZINE'S 100 BEST YA BOOKS OF ALL TIME

A gripping tale of courage, sacrifice, and unwavering faith, *Time for Courage* brings to life the incredible true-to-history efforts of the Dutch Resistance as they risk everything to save Jewish children from Nazi persecution. With daring escapes, secret networks, and the steadfast bravery of the Ingelse family, every page pulses with tension and hope. Anchored in deep faith, the characters cling to God's guidance in the face of evil, proving that even in the darkest times, light prevails.

MARIANNE HERING, AUTHOR OF THE IMAGINATION STATION BOOK SERIES

The suspense never lets up in this action-packed story of brave young people standing up for what's right. In one gripping chapter after another, we race along on foot, ice skates, and bicycles as the young resisters outrun, outwit, and outthink their Nazi pursuers at (nearly) every turn.

Time for Courage is an inspiring testament to the heart and commitment of youthful resistance in WWII Netherlands.

MARGI PREUS, AUTHOR OF *SHADOW ON THE MOUNTAIN*, A KIRKUS BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR, AND *HEART OF A SAMURAI*, A NEWBERRY HONOR BOOK

Time for Courage is an important story for these times. Rob Currie has created a story with relentless danger, historical details, and characters to root for. With courageous children who help the Resistance against the Nazis, this book reminds readers that you don't have to be a grown-up to make moral decisions . . . and to make a real difference in the lives of others.

JENNIFER ROY, AUTHOR OF *JARS OF HOPE* AND *YELLOW STAR*, A *SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL* BEST BOOK AND ALA NOTABLE CHILDREN'S BOOK

A harrowing but supremely important book that will inspire young readers to reach deep within themselves. Now more than ever we need books that urge us to aim high.

YONA ZELDIS McDONOUGH, AUTHOR OF *THE BICYCLE SPY*, A SYDNEY TAYLOR NOTABLE BOOK

A fast-moving story of how an ordinary boy is forged into a hero—as he puts the needs of others ahead of his own. As young members of the Resistance, Dirk and Els will need courage and more if they're going to make it out of this one alive. *Time for Courage* feels so real, you'll be

reading with the shades down, the lights low—and the doors locked tight.

TIM SHOEMAKER, AUTHOR OF THE HIGH WATER SERIES AND THE CODE OF SILENCE SERIES, WHICH RECEIVED A *BOOKLIST* STARRED REVIEW

In my line of work, I typically gravitate towards the true stories that survivors have written about their Holocaust experiences. However, Rob Currie's *Time for Courage* stands out as a remarkable narrative. It offers a compelling glimpse into the resistance movement during this dark period in history, sparking the reader's curiosity and encouraging them to explore this time in even greater depth. The characters, suspense, and inspiration are unforgettable, especially for young readers.

FABULOUS FLORES, CEO, HOLOCAUST AWARENESS MUSEUM

This true-to-life novel plunges the reader into the shoes of thirteen-year-old Dirk as he tries everything possible to hide Jewish kids from the Nazis before it's too late.

MARSHA FORCHUK SKRYPUCH, AUTHOR OF *MAKING BOMBS FOR HITLER*, AN AMAZON TEACHERS' PICK

I enjoyed reading this book! Set in December of 1944 and January of 1945, *Time for Courage* is fast paced with twists and turns in each chapter. The story of three brave children and their father, who works for the Resistance, will carry the reader through a Dutch landscape of life under the German occupation. Trickery and betrayals, captures and escapes, determination and moral choices are all threaded through

riveting pages of this beautiful novel that includes a quiet faith and prayers to God. Skates, bicycles, trains, and boats add to the rich details of this well-researched book about family and friendships during the dark days of separation and reunion.

LOUISE BORDEN, AUTHOR OF *THE LITTLE SHIPS*, A PARENTS' CHOICE AWARD BOOK

Tensions can't be higher in *Time for Courage*. Rob Currie's words draw the reader into this captivating story. Action packed and filled with moments that also pull on your heartstrings, this book will delight readers until the very end.

JENNA CARLSON, DUAL-LANGUAGE TEACHER, LAKEVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, HOFFMAN ESTATES, IL, AND AUTHOR OF *FALLING FLAT*

Time for Courage has wonderful characters and an exciting, suspenseful story that will keep kids glued to the page, but it is more than that. It is also a story that inspires and lifts the heart.

JANET RIEHECKY, AUTHOR OF *THE MYSTERY OF THE MISSING MONEY* AND THE DINOSAUR SERIES (WINNER OF THE SUMMIT AWARD FOR BEST CHILDREN'S NONFICTION), AND PAST PRESIDENT OF MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA

Time for Courage gives wonderful insights along with history I will need to read again.

CALVIN RAMSEY, AUTHOR OF *THE GREEN BOOK* (THE BASIS FOR THE ACADEMY AWARD-WINNING MOVIE *GREEN BOOK*) AND *RUTH AND THE GREEN BOOK*, A SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE'S NOTABLE BOOK FOR CHILDREN

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COURAGE**

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R O B C U R R I E



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Time for Courage

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Time for Courage is a work of fiction. Where real people, events, establishments, organizations, or locales appear, they are used fictitiously. All other elements of the novel are drawn from the author's imagination.

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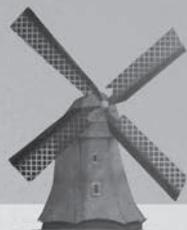
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*I dedicate this book with love and gratitude to Kay Currie,
who is my bride and joy.*



“Not only was I in mortal danger, but so were my dearest friends. Never in my life have I been more filled with joy. For a purpose guided our steps. . . . Our goal was clear, our course correct.”

R. A. SALVATORE, *Sea of Swords*



IMPORTANT HISTORICAL NOTE

ON MAY 10, 1940, Nazi Germany invaded Netherlands.* Their plan to eradicate the Jews—including children—began by restricting their rights. But later they shipped them to concentration camps where they were killed or forced into brutal labor.

By late 1944, nearly all of the Jews had been wiped out of Amsterdam. So the Nazis hunted down Jews in the rest of the country. The Nazis' efforts were particularly intense in the area around Utrecht, a city in central Netherlands. This novel is based on the little-known but true stories of the heroism of the Dutch Resistance near Utrecht. These clever and courageous volunteers saved as many Jewish children as they could.

* Important Note about Netherlands: The Dutch refer to their nation as "Netherlands." For the sake of authenticity, this story refers to their homeland as "Netherlands" rather than "the Netherlands."

CHAPTER I

RUN!

WILHELMINA PARK
UTRECHT, NETHERLANDS
DECEMBER 26, 1944
9:00 P.M.

ANY MOMENT NOW, thirteen-year-old Dirk Ingelse would be running for his life. And if the plan failed, he'd be thrown in jail. Or worse.

Heavy clouds hid the moon. The piercing north wind chilled his face, the only part of him not covered this frigid night. Dirk had been out here in these below-freezing temperatures for twenty minutes, and his whole body was cold. But he didn't dare stamp his feet or clap his gloved hands for warmth. Dressed in black from head to toe, he stood statue-still next to a large oak tree, his eyes and ears straining for anything he might see or hear. He recalled Papa's words to him: *We've planned this for days. Now it's time for action. Time for courage.*

Shree! Shree! Shree! Shrill alarm whistles shrieked from a block away. Dirk's throat tightened. He poked his head out from his hiding place near the entrance to the park. He could just make out a cyclist speeding toward him, half a block away. According to the plan, her bike basket carried a pouch stuffed with food ration cards, grabbed in a raid on the Nazi-controlled rationing center. This girl was the first leg in a relay to get the ration cards to the orphanage, Kinderhuis. Dirk had visited the orphanage and seen the empty kitchen cupboards. He and his family had returned to the enemy-occupied zone of Netherlands to help Jewish children threatened by the Nazis. Kinderhuis had taken in several Jewish children already. Now was his chance!

With her head down, the girl approaching Dirk pumped her legs vigorously. But an army truck chasing her was only forty meters behind—and gaining. The engine's roar and its blazing headlights jangled Dirk's nerves. Then he remembered what Papa said.

You can do this. Grab the bag. Be brave. Be quick. Dirk took a deep breath and stepped from concealment. As the girl, maybe fifteen years old, approached him, her eyes were wide with raw terror. She glanced behind her, screamed, and her bike wobbled. She made a wild throw of the bag of food coupons and pedaled away at top speed without looking back.

Dirk surged forward and snatched up the black pouch. He waved his arms at the truck to divert attention from the girl and sprinted into the park. The driver gunned the engine, veered from the road, and barged onto the pedestrian path, which was barely wide enough for the vehicle. As Dirk

bolted down the snowy paved lane, with the pouch pressed against his right side, he took care to avoid stepping on the tire destroyers. The Dutch Resistance had scattered dozens of them—three nails welded together, with the sharp tip pointing up—on the main path into the park.

Ten seconds later, Dirk heard a satisfying *POP! POP! POP!* from behind as the nails punctured the truck tires. He glanced back. Six Nazi soldiers leaped out of the back of the disabled vehicle and gave chase. Dirk poured on the speed, gulping extra air and squeezing the pouch more tightly. He was a fast runner, but these guys chased him like there was a price on his head.

With his adversaries in hot pursuit, Dirk sprinted down the park path. He tried to breathe in a controlled rhythm, but the flashlights of his pursuers cut his confidence. The enemy's beams were blades that sliced the frigid night air. When one swung near him, he instinctively arched his back as if it could slash him.

He looked left and right while he ran. The large park pond was on his left. There'd be no ambush from that direction. He ran straight ahead and plunged into the nearest stand of trees and shrubs, daring his enemies to follow him.

"*Stopp!*" a soldier shouted. Shoulder-high bushes swished as Dirk blasted past. He couldn't see the enemy, but he heard them. They chose the longer route around the pocket of woods—clearly hoping to catch him on the other side.

Dirk's path was no easy shortcut. Hawthorn tree branches raked his face, and their razor thorns clawed his cheeks. "Aagh," he said, wincing at the sharp stab of pain. He burst

out of the bushes, but now the lights behind grew brighter, and the voices louder.

“*Gib auf!*” one shouted. But Dirk wouldn’t surrender. His eighteen-year-old sister, Els, had told him about the cruelty of the Gestapo, the German secret police. In early November, they’d ambushed her and tortured her. And if he surrendered, he’d never get the food ration cards to the orphanage.

He burst out of the bushes and trees. His feet thumped one of the many walkways that looped between the islands of greenery. He was three-fourths of the way across the park. But his thighs burned, and the frigid air jabbed its icy slivers into his lungs. Those soldiers hunting him were a pack of wolves. And he was the rabbit. He’d always been fleet-footed, but now his speed wasn’t enough. His chest tightened.

“*Ich sehe ihn!*” a harsh voice shouted.

Since the soldier had spotted him, Dirk had to do something. He darted into a stand of evergreen trees. Their needle-laden branches partially blocked the beams of the enemy’s lights. After vaulting over some fallen branches, he tripped on a root and sprawled. Several sticks snapped loudly. He scrambled to his feet. Dirk was almost to the rendezvous point, the frozen canal on the edge of Wilhelmina Park, where Els waited with friends. But his foes were close behind.

“*Keine Bewegung, sonst schießen wir!*” a hostile voice shouted.

The evergreens shielded Dirk from their probing flashlights, so maybe the threat to shoot was a bluff. But then shots rang out behind him.

Seconds later, he rushed out of the cover of the trees and

reached the edge of the canal. More shots came, maybe a dozen. Several kicked up dirt only a few meters away. Hemmed in by the enemy behind and the waterway in front, Dirk had to do the one thing he dreaded. He ran straight at the canal and launched himself over the edge. His arms and legs flailed as he fell toward the canal's ice, which lay two meters below ground level.