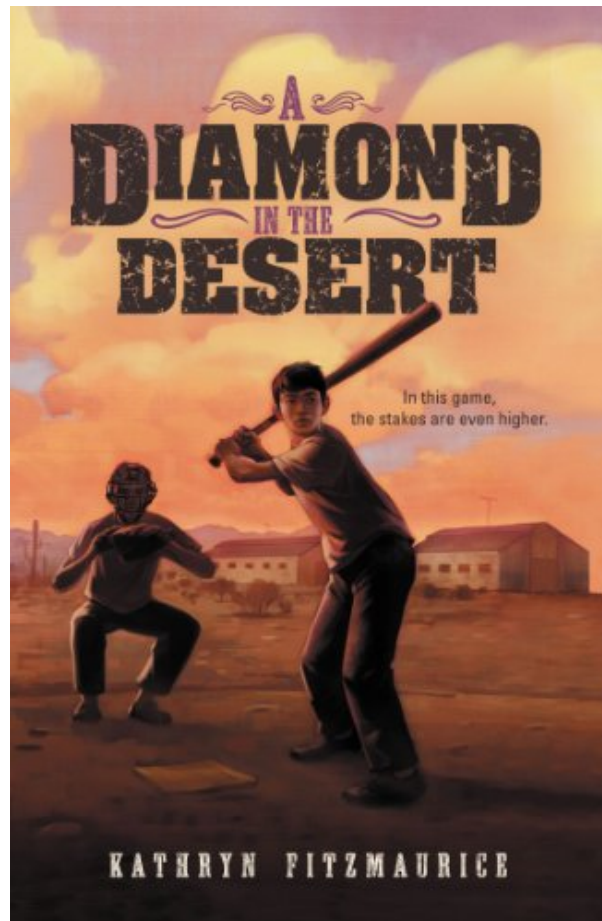
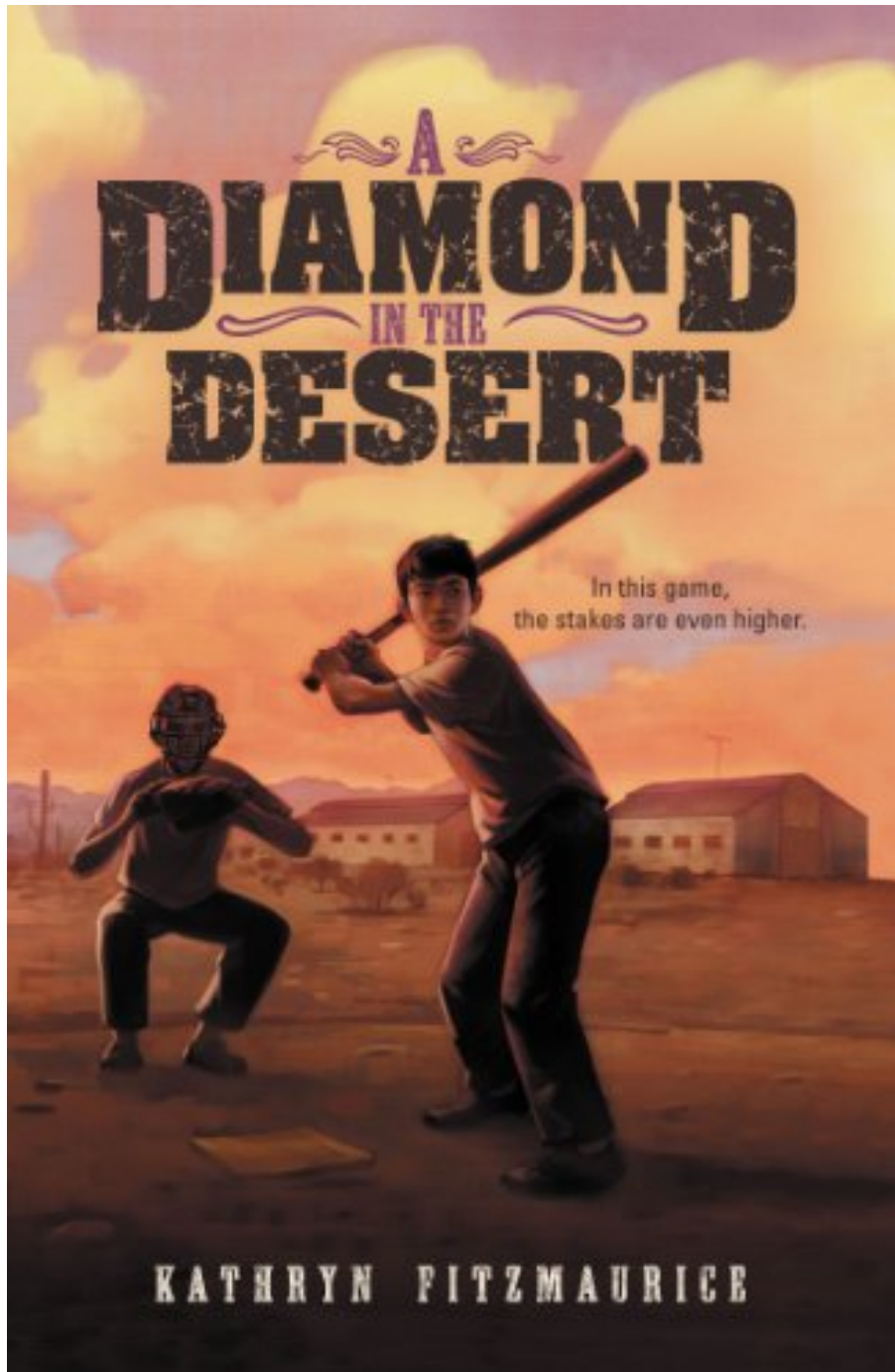


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Praise for A Diamond in the Desert by Kathryn Fitzmaurice:

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About the Author

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PDF

Twelve-year-old Tetsu eats, sleeps and breathes baseball. It's all he ever thinks about. But after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Tetsu and his family are forced from their home into an internment camp in the Arizona desert with other Japanese Americans, and baseball becomes the last thing on his mind. The camp isn't technically a prison, but it sure feels like one when there's nothing to do and no place to go. So when a man starts up a boys' baseball team, Tetsu is only too eager to play again. But with his sister suddenly falling ill, and his father taken away for questioning, Tetsu is forced to choose between his family and his love of the game.

- Sales Rank: #305810 in Books
- Published on: 2013-02-07
- Released on: 2013-02-07
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.75" h x .64" w x 5.06" l, .45 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 272 pages

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Most helpful customer reviews

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Great realistic story

By Max

I enjoyed this book throughout. The author created terrific characters whose personalities were shown in interesting ways. Also, the author managed to portray a real time in American history through somebody in the times view, which she did remarkably well and enhanced the stories meaning with it. I especially enjoyed

this book because this is a part of history in world war two not many people choose to write about because it was overshadowed by the horrors of the Holocaust and what happened in the Pacific, but the author still made a great story out of a part of history that should be remembered more than it is.

4 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

A Gem on the Bookshelf

By Sal

A Diamond in the Desert tells the story of Tetsu and his family--Japanese people forced to live in an internment camp, after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Tetsu is a thoughtful, intelligent boy who examines his world with the eyes of a philosopher and reports on it with the pen of a poet. He sees that the world is harsh:

"Grief lived at Gila River. It collected in the barracks and the mess halls and the latrines. It was there in Mama's face late at night when she thought I wasn't looking.

"We walked around it cautiously, like it was a spiked saguaro cactus, bulky arms twisted high, extended on all sides."

Tetsu also sees that the world is good:

"Other players came, filling in the open spots, second and left and everything else to form one team. It was like Christmas morning had come in April, and everyone got a new bike, and pancakes were cooking, and outside it was snowing. It was a feeling like that."

Simple pleasures. That's what you want most when the world is beating against you, trying to strip you of your dignity.

Tetsu struggles with the way others see him and with the way he sees himself, I think. He has to learn to shoulder his responsibilities but also to let go of past mistakes to keep on living. He has to learn to forgive others and to allow others to forgive him, if he is to emerge from his interment camp experience with joy instead of bitterness.

I loved this book. It's a very fast read, deliciously written, and will be great for teachers or homeschoolers to use in history, creative writing, social studies, and worldview classes.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

The Key: Overcome The Interruptions

By Marvin P. Ferguson

Orville, the Indiana farm boy, loved to play baseball. In blue jeans, sport shirt, and tennis shoes it was never uncommon to find him on a corner lot playing baseball with his friends. And they all loved throwing that little white ball with the stitches around all day.

But Orville's uncle had other ideas. Work was a necessity. Playing baseball was foolish. Consistently, his uncle laid a guilt trip on the poor boy nagging him all the time and insisting that he work on the farm when he wasn't in school. It was a constant interruption.

Likewise, in this story, Tetsu loved to play baseball. He could do it all day. But after Pearl Harbor was

bombed Tetsu and his family were forced to move to an internment camp in the Arizona desert with other Japanese Americans. Thus there would be no more baseball which interrupted the love of Tetsu's life. That is until a man came along and started a new baseball team in the desert which thrilled Tetsu far beyond words could accurately describe. And so an exciting baseball story unfolds. Great!

Kathryn Fitzmaurice, the author, does an excellent job here using a baseball platform to share some real life experiences in an historical fiction setting. Kids of all ages who read this story will have the opportunity to easily identify with its characters and learn something about history. Marvin P. Ferguson, author of **BOYS ON THE GOLD COAST**.

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