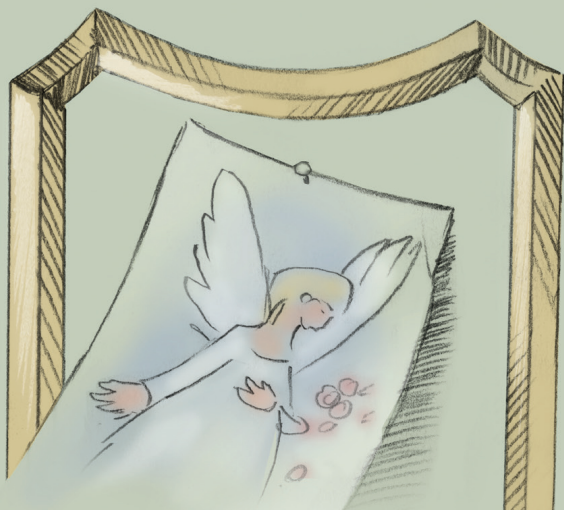
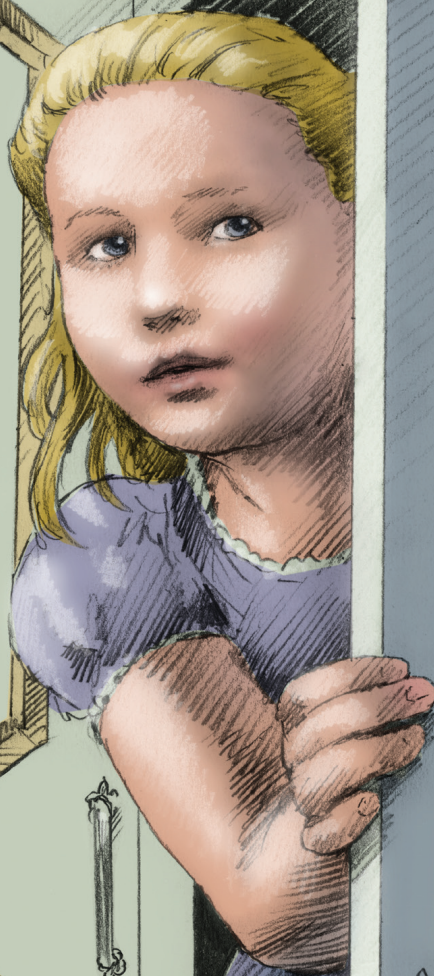


“The story is riveting, the truth undeniable, the heroes all but forgotten. A picture book not to be missed.”  
—Jane Yolen, author of *The Devil’s Arithmetic* and *Briar Rose*

# THE HIDING GAME

**GWEN  
STRAUSS**

illustration by  
**Herb  
Leonhard**



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Herb Leonhard

“A beautiful story of bravery and hope honoring Varian Fry and Danny Bédédite, who selflessly hid and smuggled over four thousand refugees out of Nazi-occupied France.”

—Jennifer Elvgren, author of *The Whispering Town*, a Jane Addams and Sydney Taylor Honor Book

At their new home in the Villa Air-Bel, Aube and her family are used to things being hidden. Among the secrets kept at the château are a radio (for listening to the news), a cow (for milk), and—most secret of all—Aube herself.

Even with the threat of Nazi capture looming over their heads, life at the villa has been colorful for the refugees awaiting their escape to safety. Joined by writers, musicians, artists, and great thinkers such as Marc Chagall, Marcel Duchamp, and Max Ernst, Aube spends each day singing, playing games, and creating art. Together, this lively congregation are able to fight back fear and hatred with bravery and laughter—not just for young Aube but for themselves as well.

Written by the great-niece of Danny Bédédite, a member of the American Rescue Committee who sheltered Aube, this book offers an intimate look at one of the many courageous efforts to conceal Jewish refugees from the Nazis. It is a story of passion, creativity, and resilience, offering children and adults alike a harrowing glimpse at one of history’s darkest periods.

**THE  
HIDING  
GAME**



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**PELICAN PUBLISHING COMPANY**

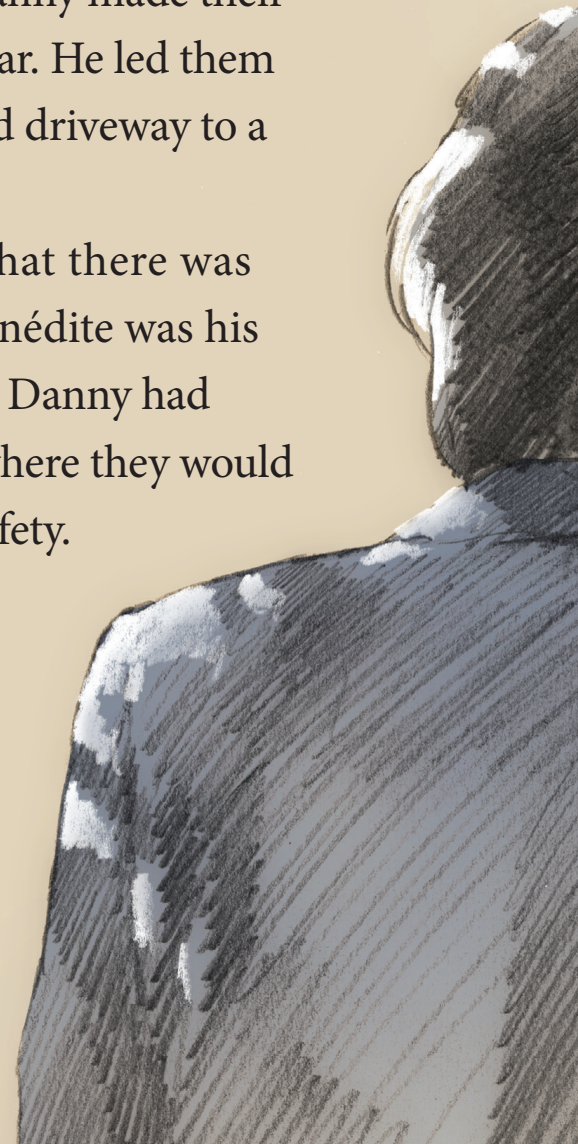
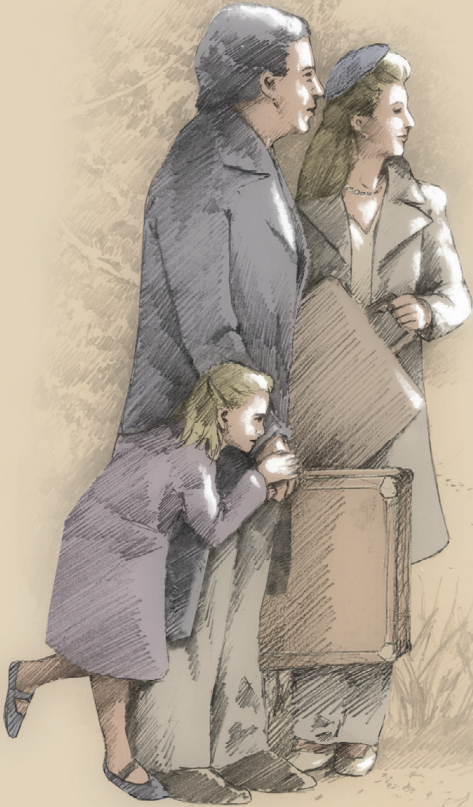
**GRENA 2017**



## OCTOBER 1940

**A**ll summer, Aube's family moved from place to place, staying one step ahead of the German soldiers. When Aube asked if they would return home to Paris, Papa looked worried and Mama looked sad. Then one day, a man named Danny made their worried faces disappear. He led them down the long, shaded driveway to a special place.

Papa explained that there was a magician named Varian Fry, and Danny Bénédite was his assistant. They helped people hide and escape. Danny had found the Villa Air-Bel, the enchanted place where they would live together until it was their turn to flee to safety.





Aube liked Sundays, because Papa and Mama's friends gathered at the Villa Air-Bel to play games. Like her parents, the friends who came on Sunday were also thinkers, artists and writers who had to hide from the German soldiers because of their ideas of freedom and liberty. They played charades. They danced to music from the radio. Papa set out sheets of paper, pots of glue, colored pencils, newspapers and scissors on the long table, and everyone made collages together. Sometimes they played Aube's favorite game: *Cadavre Exquis*. A piece of paper was folded like a fan, and each person drew a part on one fold without seeing the drawings of the others. When they

