"Brilliant and hugely ambitious... it's the kind of book that can be life changing." –The New York Times

Liesel Meminger is a survivor.

She begins by surviving the loss of her immediate family at a young age and continues by persevering through the transition to a new life with an adopted family. Growing up in Germany during World War II, Liesel struggles to understand the contrasting themes of love and hate surrounding her. As she and her best friend Rudy navigate adolescence, their escapades offer comedic relief. Liesel is challenged to be stronger than ever when her foster parents harbor a Jewish man named Max. Reading empowers Liesel to transcend both place and condition and inspires her to write her own stories. In desperation to expand her reality, she begins stealing books from bookburnings and borrowing from whomever will allow it.

Liesel is slipping through Death's grip. But for how long... only Death himself can tell you.

Winner of the 2006 Commonwealth Writer's Prize and now a major motion picture, The Book Thief offers a glimpse into both the best and the worst of the human condition. This emotionally gripping and thought-provoking tale of destruction and hope in a young girl's life in Nazi Germany and Publisher Weekly's Best Children's Book of the Year will keep you "...up late into the night feverishly reading the last 300 pages." -The Plain Dealer

