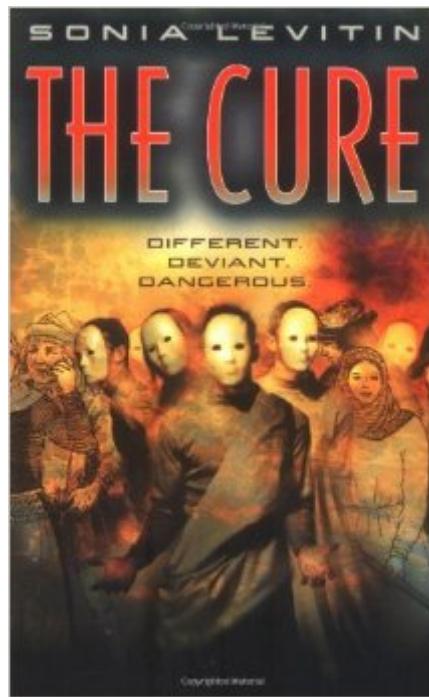


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# The Cure



## **Synopsis**

"You are a criminal, Gemm 16884--aggressive, hostile, nonconforming. We have noted tendencies toward diversity in your gait, in your dreams, and most especially in your repeated persistence in"--the Elder cleared his throat--"making music."Branded a deviant--and therefore a threat--to the utopian society of Conformity, Harmony, and Tranquility that exists in the year 2407, Gemm 16884 is given the choice between being recycled or undergoing a painful and mysterious cure. Gemm chooses the cure, and suddenly finds himself living the life of Johannes, a 16-year-old Jewish musician in starsbourg, Germany, in 1348, at the onset of the Black Death. As the pestilence spreads, the townspeople begin to accuse the Jews of causing the disease. Surrounded by hatred and horror, Johannes struggles to hold on to his family and faith as well as his belief in the basic goodness of human beings. But can he return to the future and become Gemm again after having known such emotions as pain. . .and love?

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins (August 8, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 038073298X

ISBN-13: 978-0380732982

Product Dimensions: 6.8 x 4.2 x 0.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (34 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #698,783 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #35 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Religious > Jewish #174 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Medieval #179 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Medieval

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

Don't be fooled! This book isn't just about the future, where everyone wears a mask and things like music and love are forbidden. Deep within is a tale set in 1348 during the coming of the Black Death. In "The Cure", Gemm 16884 is sent back in time in hopes that he can forget his interest for music and individuality. What follows is an amazing tale of survival, passion, togetherness, and courage when sixteen-year-old Johannes and his Jewish family work hard to keep their traditions

alive whilst millions of Christians plot against the Jews because they believe that the Jews are responsible for the pestilence which has raged their land. I was interested in this book because of the science fiction aspect, but now I see that "The Cure" is so much more than that. This book is recommended for students in grades 7 and up.

this book is amazing! it follows a boy named gemm 16884. gemm 16884 lives in a futuristic, perfect society. in this society everyone is perfect and doesn't know love or pain or practically and emotion. they live by conformity and see diversity as a horrible, troubling, bad thing. gemm 16884 is different though...he hears music. music is not known to anyone and therefore he is different. the elders of this society want to make him go through the cure to be cured of this monstrous thing he hears, music. gemm 16884 goes through this program where he becomes a jew named johannes living in germany in the year 1348. at this time jews weren't treated like regular people. they were treated badly and dehumanized. this book follows johannes and in a way gemm 16884 is living through him. after all the hardships johannes goes through in a year, gemm 16884 wakes up, only a day passing in his society. he saw all the things and emotions johannes went through. he experienced love, pain, hatred, and many things. the pain was so great he didn't want to hear music and be reminded of the horrible things johannes went through. he wanted to conform and be like everyone else. however, at the end of the book, gemm 16884 realizes how much there is out there, like love and music. this book is wonderful and just pulls you in. this is by far my favorite book.

In the year of 2407, Gemm 16884 is a sixteen-year-old boy who lives in a world of tranquility. Passion, hate, violence, and diversity are considered deviant and forbidden. Gemm was a very special exception in that world and finds happiness through music by singing. He was given a choice of à œrecyclingâ • (death), or The Cure. Doing anything to live, Gemm choose The Cure and was sent back to Strasbourg, Germany, in the year of 1348 as a Jewish moneylenderâ ™s son Johannes. Johannes was a cheerful young man who loved to make music on his flute. In Germany, because of the pestilence, Jews were blamed for the cause and was segregated from the gentiles.... Sonia Levitin used very detailed descriptions on the everyday lives of people in the medieval times and portrayed what really had happened. Her book shows that we cannot live without pain and it is an experience to teach human lessons. We cannot just banish negative emotions and live in a world where everything is the same.

Far in the future, the year 2407, a society of perfection exists. Children are paired with a life partner

from birth, someone perfectly compatible with themselves, with almost the same genetic structure: a twin. These sets of twins travel through life together, keep each other company, and are similar in most ways. Then again, most people in this society are similar. Each person wears a mask, so no person's true face is ever seen. They live in a state of perpetual peace and tranquility, with no passion for good or bad. There is no diversity and no conflict, and anything other than passivity is seen as dangerous. This is all that Gemm 16884 has ever known. Then he begins to have strong feelings. He feels rhythm. He feels song bubbling up inside of himself, and he needs to let it go free. Such behavior is deviant in his society, and everyone around him is horrified. He thinks he may even be put to death for the way he is, but then there is a bit of hope. There is a cure--for Gemm 16884 to experience a bit of history, to live the life of someone from the ancient past who also had a love for music, so he could see how painful music and the things associated with it could be. Gemm is virtually implanted into the body of Johannes, a young man living in Germany in 1348. He is a musician and a Jew, and it is a bad time for Jews in Europe. A plague is sweeping through and in many countries Jews are being blamed and killed for causing it. Gemm has no memory of his real life in 2407; he is living the life of Johannes, a life that may be doomed. I hadn't realized that the Jews were so persecuted so far back in history, so this book was an interesting history lesson for me. I didn't like how the females in this futuristic society were so frivolous, and so subservient to the males. I also didn't like the ending to this book; it was a bit muddled.

I found this book in the library of my old high school back in 2004. Eleven years later, the story still haunts me; as if it is engraved into my memory for all time. Books like these show make you face your own humanity. They strip away the veil people these days seem to don like a second skin and reveal the harsh truths behind it. I don't know how this book found its way into that library, but I feel as if it were fate. Books that stay with you... The words, the characters, the stories; they shape who you eventually become. Hopefully, they make you decide to dedicate your life to what is right. They make you want to be better. I especially think, at this dark turning point in the history of humanity, that every American should read this book.

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