



**[Bomb: The Race to Build--and Steal--the World's Most Dangerous Weapon](#)** by

**Steve Sheinkin**

Square Fish, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, 2012

ISBN: 9781596434875 (Trade paperback)

\*Age Range: 10-14 (Suggested by Publisher)

## BOOK SYNOPSIS

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*New York Times* bestselling author Steve Sheinkin presents the fascinating and frightening true story of the creation behind the most destructive force that caused the arms race and the Cold War

In December of 1938, a chemist in a German laboratory made a shocking discovery: When placed next to radioactive material, a Uranium atom split in two. That simple discovery launched a scientific race that spanned three continents.

In Great Britain and the United States, Soviet spies worked their way into the scientific community; in Norway, a commando force slipped behind enemy lines to attack German heavy-water manufacturing; and deep in the desert, one brilliant group of scientists, led by "father of the atomic bomb" J. Robert Oppenheimer, was hidden away at a remote site at Los Alamos. This is the story of the plotting, the risk-taking, the deceit, and genius that created the world's most formidable weapon. This is the story of the atomic bomb.

## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

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"This superb and exciting work of nonfiction would be a fine tonic for any jaded adolescent who thinks history is "boring." It's also an excellent primer for adult readers who may have forgotten, or never learned, the remarkable story of how nuclear weaponry was first imagined, invented and deployed--and of how an international arms race began well before there was such a thing as an atomic bomb." —*The Wall Street Journal*

"This is edge-of-the seat material that will resonate with YAs who clamor for true spy stories, and it will undoubtedly engross a cross-market audience of adults who dozed through the World War II unit in high school." —*BCCB*, starred

★ "...reads like an international spy thriller, and that's the beauty of it." —*School Library Journal*, starred

★ "A must-read..." —*Publishers Weekly*, starred

★ "A superb tale of an era and an effort that forever changed our world." —*Kirkus*, starred

"[a] complicated thriller that intercuts action with the deftness of a Hollywood blockbuster." —*Booklist*

**Updated 9.5.25**

Macmillan Children's Publishing Group  
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## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

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- BCCB Recommended Title
- ME Cream of the Crop Master List
- National Science Teacher's Association-CBC, Outstanding Science Trade Books for Children
- VA Jefferson Cup Winner (Older Readers)
- Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Award Master List
- South Carolina Children's Book Award Master List
- Vermont Dorothy Canfield Fisher Award Master List
- Arizona Grand Canyon Young Readers Master List
- Illinois Rebecca Caudill Young Readers Choice Award Master List
- Oklahoma Sequoyah Young Adult Book Award Master List
- CCBC Choice (Univ. of WI)
- Capitol Choices Noteworthy Titles for Children and Teens
- NSTA-CBC Outstanding Science Trade
- Robert F. Sibert Award - Medal
- Virginia Jefferson Cup Winner (Older Readers)
- YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction Winner
- National Book Awards Finalist
- Washington Post Best Books of the Year
- Bank Street Best Children's Book of the Year
- Maine Cream of the Crop Master List
- Michigan Great Lakes Great Books Award Master List
- Tri-State Reviews Committee Books of Note - Master List
- Indiana Young Hoosier Award Master List
- Iowa Teen Award Master List
- Kansas William Allen White Award Master List
- Maine Student Book Award Master List
- Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Award ML
- OR Battle of the Books Master List
- South Carolina Children's Book Award ML
- TN Volunteer State Book Award Primary ML
- Vermont Dorothy Canfield Fisher Award ML
- Arizona Grand Canyon Young Readers Maste
- Illinois Rebecca Caudill YR Choice Award ML
- Oklahoma Sequoyah YA Book Award ML
- Newbery Honor Book

## MEDIA AND RESOURCES

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- [Teacher's Guide](#)
- [Author-Fan Face-off](#)
- [2 Kids Interviews](#)
- [Literacy Worldwide interview](#)
- [Horn Book interview](#)

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### **\*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES**

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A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

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