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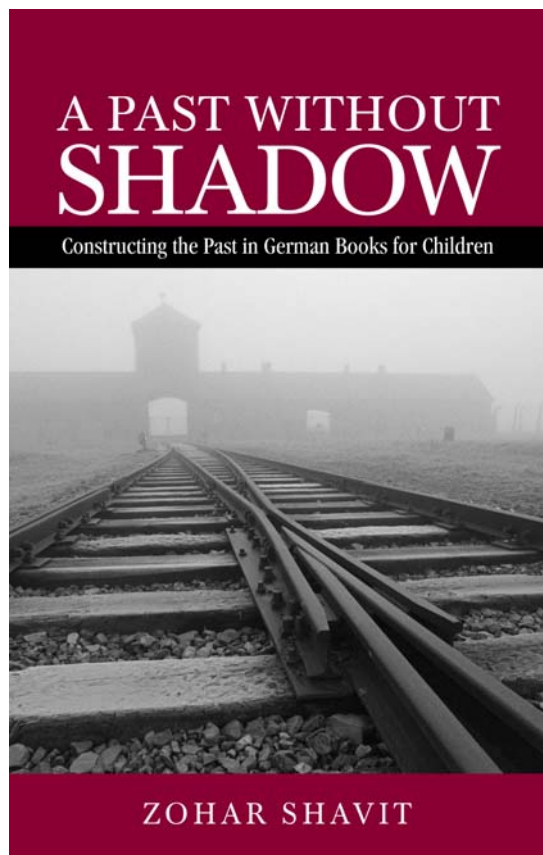
"I have no doubt that this book will become a basic study in both the field of children's literature as well as the analysis of postwar German society."

—Omer Bartuv, *Haaretz*

A Past Without Shadow

Constructing the Past in German Books for Children

by Zohar Shavit



A Past Without Shadow examines 50 years of German children's books in which the darkest horrors of the Third Reich have routinely remained hidden. The horrors of the Third Reich are systematically screened and filtered, allowing the darker, bleaker parts of history to escape illumination. Here Zohar Shavit explores 345 German books for children describing the Third Reich and the Holocaust, and finds a shocking distortion of the past: a recurrent narrative which suggests that the Germans themselves had no hand in the suffering inflicted on the Jews. These books, Shavit argues, have created the false historical lesson that the real victims of Hitler's crimes were the German people themselves.

First published to great acclaim in Hebrew and now available in English, this book is a wake-up call for anyone concerned about German children's literature and its responsibility to past and future.

Zohar Shavit is Professor at the Unit for Culture Research, Tel Aviv University. Her many books include *Poetics of Children's Literature* and several books in German on the History of Books for Jewish Children in the German-speaking world. Shavit is also known for her translations of American children's classics, among them her translation of E. B. White's *Charlotte's Web*, which received the Hans Christian Andersen Medal for distinguished translation.

A Past Without Shadow
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