

Elvina's Mirror

Sylvie Weil



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2010 Sydney Taylor Book Award, Notable Book for Older Readers

The tale of Rashi's granddaughter, a young girl who defies her community to help a friend in need. In this sequel to *My Guardian Angel*, Sylvie Weil continues the story of Elvina, the 14-year-old granddaughter of Rashi, the famous 11th-century French Bible and Talmud commentator. It is the spring of 1097 in the town of Troyes, in France. The Crusaders have been marauding their way through Europe, attacking Jewish communities. One evening, a mysterious family arrives in Troyes—German Jews forced by the Crusaders to submit to baptism. The townspeople shun the family, but Elvina befriends 11-year-old Columba. Columba's mad cousin, Ephraim, steals a mirror from a member of the Jewish community, believing it will let him see his family killed in the recent attacks. Elvina tries to help Ephraim rid his mind of the terrible images by bringing him her own mirror, in which she claims to see a positive future. Elvina's story brings the oftenignored world of Medieval European Jewry to life for young readers.

Ages 10 and up



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