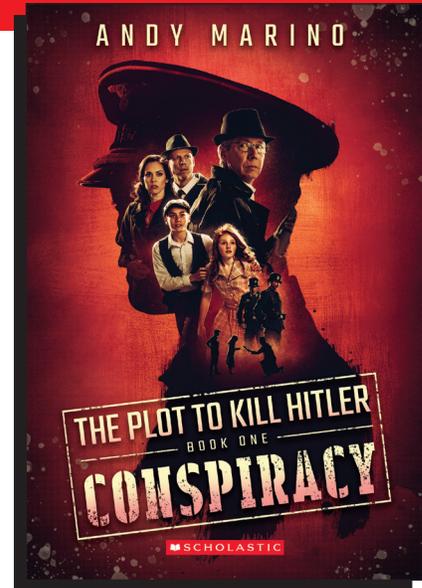


Booktalk!

The Plot to Kill Hitler #1: Conspiracy Script

For this Book Talk you will need

- **2 actors** (Max, Gerta)
- **Max:** Black pants & vest, white dress shirt, black dress shoes
- **Gerta:** red plaid dress, black dress shoes
- **Additional props:** 2 chairs side-by-side with blanket draped over them to simulate bed, plain-coloured top sheet and blanket covering seats of chairs, pillow at head of makeshift bed, small desk, chair, wooden knight/soldier figurines strewn all over floor, copy of *The Plot to Kill Hitler #1: Conspiracy*.



Max: *(sitting on bed around centre stage & staring at the small wooden knight/soldier as he's turning it around in his hand)*

Gerta: *(walking onstage & stepping around the soldiers on the floor; making her way over to where Max is seated; addressing Max quietly)* Okay, little brother... We need to talk about that man in our kitchen.

Max: *(closing eyes for a moment & saying nothing)*

Gerta: Max, you can't just pretend this isn't happening. *(pausing & waiting for Max to open his eyes or to say something; crossing her arms & speaking a little louder)* Max.

Max: *(slowly opening his eyes; loud thump heard offstage; Max & Gerta looking at floor then exchanging glances)* What are they doing down there?

Gerta: It's two orderlies from the hospital that Papa trusts. They're helping him move the body.

Max: *(visibly shivering, then continuing weakly)* To where?

Gerta: *(shrugging)* Not here, anyway. So that's good news. *(Max fidgeting with wooden knight; Gerta taking it, setting it on the desk then crossing stage to sit next to Max on bed)* That man went outside during a bombing raid just to deliver those papers to Papa... *(pausing momentarily)* I think that was very brave.

Max: *(frowning)* Why would anybody go outside in that? Walking the streets during one of these massive raids is suicide!

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Gerta: *(rolling her eyes)* Because it's the perfect cover! Even the Gestapo inspectors are hiding in basement shelters on a night like tonight.

Max: *(nodding slightly)* Right...so whatever's in those papers that man gave to Papa just before he died must be really important.

Gerta: *(brightening slightly)* Which is why we need to see what it is... *(pausing momentarily)* They're probably still in Papa's bag.

Max: But they're tied up with string. *(glancing at Gerta)* He'll know if we untie it.

Gerta: We'll figure out how to tie it back up! *(turning to face Max)* This is important, Max. You heard what the man said: "The Führer must die." *(pausing)* If Papa's involved in... *(lowering her voice)*...assassination, then I think we deserve to know.

Max: *(looking down at the scattered figurines on the floor; responding after a longish pause)* What if I don't want to know?

Gerta: *(standing up and putting her hands on her hips)* What does Mutti say about Berliners?

Max: *(sighing)* That they stick their heads in the sand like ostriches so they don't have to see what's going on around them.

Gerta: Which is?

Max: People being taken from their homes and relocated.

Gerta: What kind of people?

Max: Jewish people. And anybody who speaks out against the Nazis.

Gerta: And what does "relocated" really mean? *(Max just staring at Gerta)* It means killed, Max. "Relocated" really means murdered by the Nazis.

Max: *(closing his eyes, then opening them and continuing in a quieter voice)* If Papa really is involved in some kind of plot, then isn't it better for us not to know the details, in case we're questioned?

Gerta: *(putting her hands on her hips & standing straighter; speaking in a determined whisper)* Okay, fine! Make up your own mind about what you want to know and what you don't. But I need to know, and I'm doing something about it! *(starting to walk offstage)*

Max: *(standing up & calling after Gerta in a loud whisper)* Gerta! Wait up! *(Gerta turning to face Max; Max picking up copy of The Plot to Kill Hitler from off of desk & speaking to audience)* What's in those secret papers? Is our Papa really going to go after the Führer? Is he in danger? *(holding up book)* Look for *The Plot to Kill Hitler* at your Scholastic Book Fair, and find out for yourself!