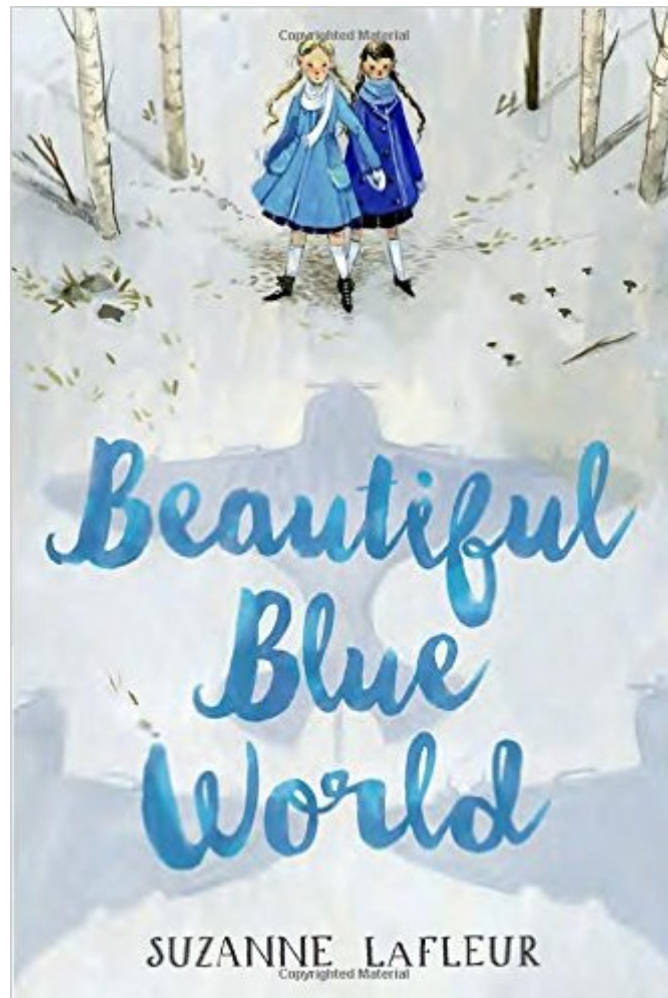


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# Beautiful Blue World



## Synopsis

Beautiful Blue World is a thrilling and moving story of children who become the key to winning a war. Sofarende is at war. For twelve-year-old Mathilde, it means food shortages, feuding neighbors, and bombings. Even so, as long as she and her best friend, Megs, are together, theyâ™ll be all right. But the army is recruiting children, and paying families well for their service. If Megs takes the test, Mathilde knows she will pass. Megs hopes the army is the way to save her family. Mathilde fears it might separate them forever. This touching and suspenseful novel is a brilliant re-imagining of war, where even kindness can be a weapon, and children have the power to see what adults cannot.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 224 pages

Publisher: Wendy Lamb Books (September 13, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0385743009

ISBN-13: 978-0385743006

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 0.8 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 starsÂ Â  See all reviewsÂ  (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #112,709 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #109 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Military & Wars #2031 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works #3883 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

I received a copy of this book from Netgalley/the publisher in exchange for an honest review. I am always looking for middle grade books to read with my nine-year-old daughter, and we both agreed that Beautiful Blue World sounded interesting. This is the first book in a new series by Suzanne LaFleur. Mathilde is a twelve year old girl who lives in Lykellig, a city in Sofarende with her family. She has a best friend named Megs, and she goes to school every day. Their lives have changed drastically in recent months; their country has been fighting a war against Tyssia, a neighboring country. There are air-raids at night, and food is sometimes scarce. Mathilde and Megs receive

paperwork at school regarding an upcoming examination. The army is looking for children, and are willing to pay generously. No one is sure what the children will be doing for the war effort, but Mathilde knows the money will help her family. Mathilde does not think that she did very well on the examination, and is surprised to find out that she has been selected. She leaves her family and Megs behind, and travels far away to a new place. I am being intentionally vague to avoid giving spoilers, but I think that I can reveal that Mathilde sees the contributions that the other children are making in the fight against Tyssia. These new friends have unique skills, and Mathilde wonders why she was selected if that was the criteria that the examiners were looking for. Over the course of the story, Mathilde gains an appreciation for her own skillset. Beautiful Blue World is not a very long book, but it is a powerful examination of war, as seen through the eyes of a child.

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