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Czechmate (International Mission Force) (Volume 1)



Synopsis

Nicole Wise loves her new life in Prague almost as much as she loves telling people about Jesus. But when an election upset changes the balance of power in the formerly communist country, Nicole's outspoken attempts at evangelism lead to her parents' arrest on espionage charges. Teaming up with Jakub, a handsome, young Romani Czech, who has grown up homeless, Nicole and her little brother, Adam, evade corrupt authorities by hiding out in underground tunnels of the ancient city while hoping to find evidence of their parents' innocence. Their last resort is to make the proof public in a desperate bid to save them before it's too late. When Nicole and Adam's parents are caught in a standoff between political forces that threaten to erupt into a bloody civil war, Nicole finds herself standing alone against an army, faith her only defense.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Czechmate, by Felicia Bridges, weaves traditional Czech folklore with modern day action-adventure. It also keeps the reader holding her breath through long stretches. Bridges' protagonist, Nicole Wise, is a beautifully flawed-but-sincere character. Nicole is strong in her faith and bold in her witness, but she is also headstrong and wrestles with pride. What starts with teen angst at leaving her friends behind in Raleigh, NC, to spend a year on mission in the Czech Republic, ends for Nicole as a perilous escape and rescue adventure when political unrest erupts. Only through prayer

and firm faith in God's sovereignty--no matter what the outcome--is Nicole able to face fear and walk through danger. Czechmate is the first title in Bridges' International Mission Force series, which I am hoping will visit more of the international missionary kids that Nicole joins in an online group. The narrative in Volume 1 hints of adventure in the lives of other IMF teens, which I am confident will yield stories as compelling as Nicole's. As an English teacher by profession, I would highly recommend Czechmate for preteens and teens. While there are moments of violence due to the nature of the narrative, nothing is graphic or gratuitous. The Nicole-Jakob relationship is sweet and appropriate for older children and teens. Adults will enjoy the adventure too. It's a quick day-at-the-beach or poolside read. Young Adult fiction as a genre is ablaze in the secular world, but there has been a dearth of quality Christian-themed titles, especially action-adventure or mystery titles. Bridges' series shows promise in supplying young readers with quality fiction in line with Christian values.

This is a very well written book. It is easy to read, easy to follow and easy to get caught up into from the beginning. I have to say if I had the time I could have easily read it all in one sitting. It ended up taking me longer and near the end I was conflicted in finishing it as fast as possible or dragging it out longer because I really didn't want it to end. I finally finished it, and I cannot wait until the next one is out. I will be sharing about this book with many. It is great for teens and adults. It was educational for me as well. I've always wished to be part of missions but I have never known much about the details of being there in the field. I felt like I was right there. Bridges did an excellent job with the details and descriptions...my heart was racing with anticipation many times. I cannot wait to read the second book.

It was incredibly refreshing to find a young adult Christian novel that features a heroine who serves as a spiritual leader. She has her flaws, which makes her more relatable, but she seeks to continue to honor God. Through a page-turning adventure, she teams up with a Romani boy and together they seek to uncover the truth surrounding her parents' arrest. Felicia writes in exquisite detail and the conflict rolls seamlessly throughout the novel keeping the reader engaged. I am very excited to dive into the next book in the series. This is a must read for young women who are looking to be leaders in their communities

I love to read fiction. I often love to read young adult fiction (though no longer a "young" adult), for multiple reasons that include a focus on story and characters that you can actually root for, and it

doesn't include those supposedly adult elements that only seem to detract from the heart of the story. Even more, I love to read works that inspire and educate me while they entertain. Czechmate hits all those marks and more. It was a great read I wouldn't hesitate to recommend to teens or anyone wanting a fast-paced, enjoyable, interesting read.

If only my children were school-age again, I'd build an entire homeschool unit around this story covering modern-day politics, world history, church history, myths and fairy tales, and biblical studies! Any young person will thrill to this story and even those of us past middle-age will be inspired to live deeper and truer through this missionary adventure. I can't wait for the next book in this series but in the meantime, I want to know even more now about the people and culture covered in this novel. Home run!

I really enjoyed this book! An exciting story taking place in Prague. I could visualize the Oldest Chapel in Prague and the dark tunnels running beneath the city. The main character Nicole had a strong faith in God which continued to grow while facing her challenges and testing friendships. Nicole relied on help from her new friend Jakub, an unlikely match, to help her reunite with her family.

Even though this was a book for young adults, I really enjoyed it. The characters were wonderful and the story was fast paced. It's an easy, but good read that will stir your heart and challenge your thinking. I am looking forward to the next book in the series!

Loved this book! Even though the main character is a teenager, this is a book readers of any age who enjoy adventure will love. Well written and such an easy read. Looking forward to more adventures from Felicia Bridges.

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