

Wonks

author: William Reese Hamilton

2026-07

Synopsis

author	William Reese
readBy	William Reese
inLanguage	english

World War II, the Philippines. Johnny Oldfield tells what it's like to grow up in a Japanese prison camp, his pivotal teenage years filled with danger and defeat, adventure and intrigue, cruelty and betrayal, starvation and death, survival and liberation. Johnny calls himself a Wonk (from the Chinese *won gau*, yellow dog), a mongrel running with a pack of rebellious kids and viewing his society from the ground up. Separated from his father by the Japanese invasion, he gets his life lessons from a diverse cast of characters: his mother, Ruth, a nurse with a strong and independent spirit; Harry Barnes, a storyteller who arrives from China carrying the urn of a friend's ashes; Southy Jack, an ex-pro boxer who trains boys in the manly art; Polecat, a mestizo pal with an all-consuming hatred for the Japanese; the Colonel, a wise old plantation owner who gives advice on survival; Haverford, a disgruntled alcoholic from Manila's high society; and Abiko, the feared officer of the Japanese camp guard. This dramatic tale is played out in the heart of Manila, a city once called "the Pearl of the Orient", now being destroyed by massive bombing, strafing, artillery barrages, and mortar attacks.

Reader's comments

comment 1:

â€"â€" ()