

Foreword Review YOUNG ADULT FICTION

## The Blitz Next Door

## **Cathy Forde**

Floris Books (Aug 15, 2015) Softcover \$9.95 (208pp) 978-1-78250-203-6

When Pete moves from London to Clydebank with his family, he starts hearing voices through one of the walls. Though his parents dismiss him—too preoccupied with other family problems—Pete is insistent, and soon realizes he has stumbled onto an even greater mystery than he first realized. In the garden of his new home lies a real bomb shelter with a time travel portal to World War II, where a young girl named Beth needs Pete's help solving a mystery.

Blitz Next Door moves along at a fast clip, though it is still a while before Pete and Beth first meet. Once they do, the children struggle to connect, each pulled back into their own worlds where they are dealing with very different, but very deep, issues. Beth is in a dangerous war zone, while Pete is navigating family difficulties centering around his younger sister, Jenny. Through their relationship with each other, they both navigate their respective journeys and seek their peace on the other side. Blitz Next Door is not just about World War II and time travel, but about suffering, family, and friendship. It is sure to appeal to readers who are interested in quiet, emotional tales.

## STEPHANIE BUCKLIN (Spring 2016)

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