NEW YORK TIMES bestselling author of THE FALSE PRINCE

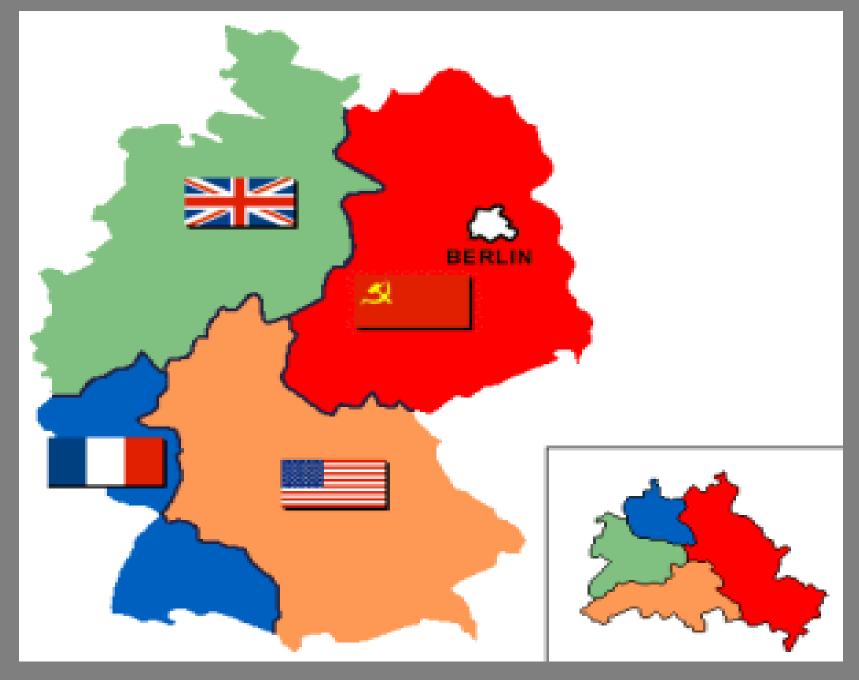
### JENNIFER A. NIELSEN

The wall divided her family. Escaping it might take her life.

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## What Led to the Berlin Wall

- At the end of World War II, America and the Soviet Union (Russia) were the strongest countries left standing. There were major differences between them <sup>(2)</sup>.
  - The Soviet Union (Russia) was a communist country, where the government controlled the economy, and was ruled by a brutal dictatorship (2).
  - The United States was a democratic country with a free economy (2).
- At first, they remained friends (2).
- Soon after the end of World War II, the Soviets (Russians) began imposing communism on other countries because their country had been devastated by the war, and they felt they deserved to have control over enemy countries, as well as, territories they had dominated before the conflict (2).
- After World War II, Germany and its capital Berlin were divided. The Soviets (Russians) controlled part of it and America, along with its allies Britain and France, the rest <sup>(2)</sup>.
- In June 1948 the Soviets (Russians) decided to make a move to control Germany, the most important country in Europe (2).
  - They blocked all the roads and railroads into Berlin, making it impossible for those living in the American and allied parts of the city to get supplies (2)





# Historical Facts about the Berlin Wall

People living in East Berlin wanting to sneak over to the west would hide in cars with special compartments made for that purpose (10).

In some cases there were hidden microphones in houses, so the German communists could listen for any secret information (10).





When boys turned the age of 18 living in East Berlin, they were expected to become part of the Stasi (State Security) that watched over East Berlin (along with the Berlin Wall) (10).

### About the Author

#### Jennifer

Thick skinned <sup>(6)</sup>, procrastinator <sup>(7)</sup>, and planner <sup>(7)</sup>

Who is the author of The As<mark>cendance trilogy, beginning with *The False Prince; The Mark of the Thief* series,</mark>

and A Night Divided (8)

Lover of the smell of rainy days (6), hot chocolate (6), traveling (5), and old books (6)

Who feels that whatever you are writing, it is very important to know your audience (5)

Who gives gratitude to those who have read her books<sup>(7)</sup>, and advice for all writers to keep their eye on their goal<sup>(7)</sup>

Fears being up on stage and no one showing up to listen to her (3)

Who in her spare time tends to panic, wondering what she has forgotten to do that has allowed her any spare time (6)

Whose first attempt at a full-length story was in 6th grade when she wrote about a girl who becomes trapped in her daydreams and that world becomes real. Not a bad idea, you say? Wrong. It was pretty awful, but Jennifer liked it at the time. She even called a locksmith to do research on how to pick locks.

When he found out she was only 11, he ended the call and the story got set aside, unfinished. (8)

Resident at the base of a very tall mountain in Utah (6)

#### Nielsen

"I pulled my curtains apart, expecting the worse...but when I looked out, my heart slammed into my throat. Not even the darkest part of my imagination could have prepared me for this."



# About the Book

### Genre:

Historical Fiction based on real historical events, but in which the characters are not real, and the minor events may not be realistic.



In this book you will learn about history, friendship and the bravery of people around the world and of those dear to you.

# **Pre-Reading**

- Gerta went to bed Saturday night, but woke up the next morning with a grim sight outside her window. A barbed wire wall divided her city in half. The realization stunned her as she remembered her father and brother were on the other side of the wall.
- Discuss as a group:
  - How would Gerta's father and brother come home to her and her mom and brother?
  - Why would anyone want to build a wall in the middle of her beloved city?
  - What was going to happen to her family?

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