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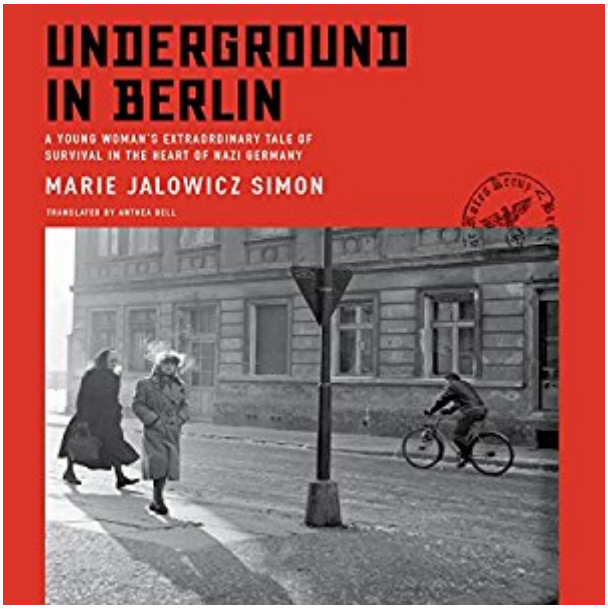
Underground In Berlin: A Young Woman's Extraordinary Tale Of Survival In The Heart Of Nazi Germany



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Synopsis

A thrilling piece of undiscovered history, this is the true account of a young Jewish woman who survived World War II in Berlin. In 1941, Marie Jalowicz Simon, a 19-year-old Berliner, made an extraordinary decision. All around her, Jews were being rounded up for deportation, forced labor, and extermination. Marie took off her yellow star, turned her back on the Jewish community, and vanished into the city. In the years that followed, Marie lived under an assumed identity, forced to accept shelter wherever she found it. Always on the run, never certain whom she could trust, Marie moved between almost 20 different safe houses, living with foreign workers, staunch communists, and even committed Nazis. Only her quick-witted determination and the most hair-raising strokes of luck allowed her to survive.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The horrors of the Holocaust are well known but bear repeating and continued exploration. The Jewish and Gentile resistance to the murders and forced labor of Jews and others under the Nazi regime are less known, yet are a vitally important aspect of history. From the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising to individual efforts to save lives and thwart the Nazis, there are many poignant and powerful examples of resistance to the genocidal hate of Hitler and his government.One such story of resistance is that of Marie Jalowicz Simon, a young Jew in Berlin who, with the help of several friends, neighbors and strangers, managed to â œgo to groundâ • and hide out from deportation and death, surviving the war in the heart of Nazi Germany. After years of near-silence about her experiences, she finally dictated her story to her son. The result is UNDERGROUND IN BERLIN, a harrowing memoir about deprivation and survival.Simon was born into a highly educated,

middle-class Jewish family in Berlin in 1922. They lived a comfortable life as both part of the Jewish community and in the wider culture of the city. She was surrounded by family and started school in her neighborhood, but by 1933 unemployment was high and anti-Semitism was on the rise. That year, Simon witnessed her teacher being arrested and led away from school because she had Jewish blood. In 1938, her mother died following a long battle with cancer, and things were becoming increasingly difficult and dangerous for the Jews in Berlin. Simon and her father soon moved into a smaller apartment and sold their summer house to two previous tenets.As the expulsions and deportations of Jews got underway, Simon, along with her father and many of the Jews they knew, began plans to immigrate to Palestine or leave Germany for safer places.

Hello,We have no dearth of books about World War II, but first person accounts have by this time naturally all been completed. But not quite. Here is an amazing one: _Underground in Berlin: A Young Womanâ ™s Extraordinary Tale of Survival in the Heart of Nazi Germany_ (Little, Brown) by Marie Jalowicz Simon. It is translated by Anthea Bell, and given a foreword and afterword by the authorâ ™s son, Hermann Simon, who explains how the book came to be. His mother died in 1998, and he had worried that although he knew bits and pieces of her story, the full account might never be known and never be presented to others. Like many who had been through the war, she had a reluctance to talk about it. â œI would not admit, being a historian myself, that I couldnâ ™t get my own mother to talk about her life, and so on 26 December 1997, without any warning, I put a tape recorder on the table in my parentsâ ™ apartment and said, â ˆYouâ ™ve always been meaning to tell your story - go ahead.â • His mother went on to make 77 tapes, the narrative interrupted for times she had to be hospitalized. It was completed only a few days before her death. He could not face working on the tapes immediately after his motherâ ™s death, but eventually a transcript of all the tapes was made, and the text edited, and finally here it is, a harrowing and inspiring story of survival.Marie was eleven years old and living with her middle-class Jewish family when Hitler took power in 1933.She had been drafted into forced labor, making arms for Siemens, and she began to hear about deportations to concentration camps. Throughout her story, people she knew disappear, snatched into oblivion by the Nazis.

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