Saved By The Enemy

The True Story of Fred and Henry Taucher; Survival Amidst Nazi Terrorism in Berlin

Craig A. Ledbetter

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Framed in the historical time line from Hitler's rise to power to the end of the Nazi regime thirteen years later was a Jewish family, with two young sons, living in Berlin. With the clouds gathering, they realized they had no means to leave and therefore must ride out the storm. Their hopes faded as stricter restrictions were placed on them and the bullying and hatred of Jews intensified. Suddenly, Kristallnacht erupted and the numbers of killings and deportations surged. The family was repeatedly pushed deeper into the neglected ghettos, and the father was forced into slave labor. The Nazi SS was assigned the task of making Berlin the center of Hitler's growing evil empire Judenfrei (Jewish free). The mother and children had no choice but to flee the terror when it finally arrived at their door; it was already too late for the father. Running into the night, with no other options, the mother made a phone call to a woman who might be either a friend or an enemy. A plan was quickly hatched. "There is no good place to hide; you can only hide amongst your enemy and pray that your secret is not discovered." And what a train ride it was....

I am an avid reader of books about Holocaust survivors and was drawn in by the books title. I thought it would be a bit more personal- but it was like a War Time Line- and was set up like an Text book.
However, I did learn some things I did not know about that time- so it was worth the .99 cents to increase my knowledge.

immediatly held my attention to the very end. I loved how smart these two young boys were to survive such a huurific time in history, their love for their parents and those who helped them. How the boys made it to America and what amazing lives they’ve made for themselves. I also appreciated the fact that not all Germans were cruel, not all Nazi were, and that other races were also put to concentration camps and killed. My husbands great uncle was a Nazi and killed for helping many Jews out of the country. Loved their story and recommened it to many friends. I will use this book for my reading group. Thank you. Linda

I just finished this book and I loved it. This is a Holocaust story told from the perspective of two young Jewish brothers in Berlin, who with their family and help from good German people, were hidden and taken care of during the war. At war’s end, the only survivors were the two boys, and their story of survival during and after the war, and how they came to America is really a fascinating saga. This is a must read for anyone interested in the Holocaust era, and should be required reading in every school.

This book is essentially an autobiography told by a Holocaust survivor. (I've met the subject of the book in person, and he is truly an interesting character and nice man). This is not a scholarly Holocaust book, so do not come to it looking for an overview of the war or Holocaust experiences -- there are many such books and such authors. Instead, this is a personal story told by a survivor. It traces the life of two brothers who managed to survive the war in Berlin, sheltered in part by SS members. It talks about the life of his parents, his early childhood, and how he escaped death many times. It is a highly personal story. The ghost writer isn’t fantastic, and there is a certain amount of sugar coating as one might expect. As such, it doesn’t have the literary impact of Primo Levi, or the overall impact of a book such as Good Old Days or those by Jan Gross. But still, it is a personal story told by a survivor, and as their numbers dwindle it is important to understand the experiences they went through.

I found Saved by the Enemy a well written book for either a younger reader or an adult. While never watering down the Nazi Regime, Mr. Ledbetter balances that with the kindness of several German citizens. This is a story that must be told. It is also a story of achieving the American Dream. I don't
want to spoil the ending, but one simply must congratulate both men for their hard work and subsequent success.

What an inspirational story! The whole book was captivating. I had relatives that lived in Germany during WWII but never heard much. What the boys did was incredible!

Wow! I learned more about Hitler and his rise to power from this book than any history book in school. The subtle way in which Hitler began to take away the freedom of the "non Aryan" is to be studied and noted by all so that it can never happen again. The will to survive by these brothers is amazing. Their story will make you cry but mostly give you hope. I highly recommend reading this then going to a holocaust museum and watch the rest of history unfold.

I love 'Historical Fiction' and also 'True History' primarily from the Civil War and World War II. This remarkable work is "True History". Using the backdrop of two young Jewish brothers living in Berlin during the madness and evil of Hitler and the Nazi’s, the author brilliantly and skillfully produces a book of extreme value. The story of Fred and Henry Taucher is an example of a period of history that we must never forget. It is also a period that we can never let happen again. In all wars, there are atrocities committed (on both sides), but the Nazis under the leadership of a madman introduced mankind to a special kind of uncontrolled evil that may never be surpassed. The timelines that are at the beginning of each chapter set up the events and make the book even more readable and clear. From WW1 thru WW2 and beyond, this is a story of good over evil, sorrow and joy and pure tenacity of men and women that just would not give in to terror. The world stood by as millions of Jews (and any other people) deemed undesirable by Hitler were led to the ovens like sheep to a slaughter. When the war finally brought in other nations of the free world, the atrocities were finally confirmed and eventually were dealt with. There are some that claim the Holocaust simply didn’t happen. In those cases, ignorance is raising its' ugly head. This book, in my opinion has earned top shelf in my personal library.

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