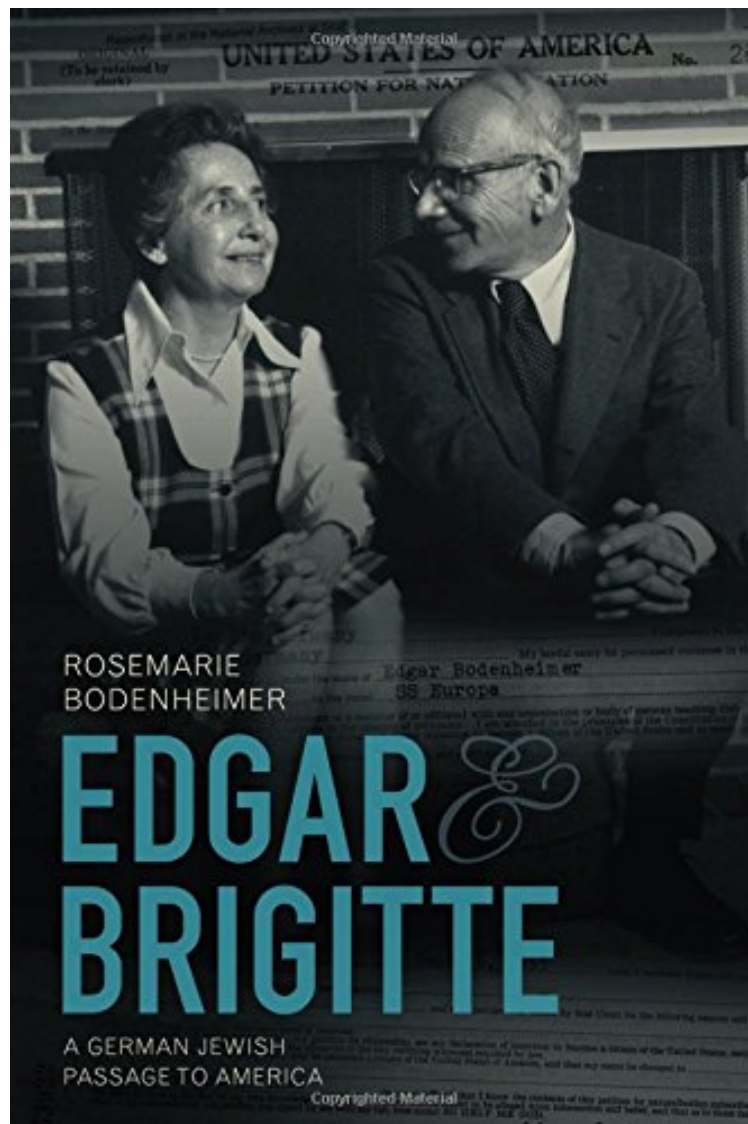


[Download free pdf] Edgar and Brigitte: A German Jewish Passage to America (Jews and Judaism: History and Culture)

Edgar and Brigitte: A German Jewish Passage to America (Jews and Judaism: History and Culture)

Rosemarie Bodenheimer

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Rosemarie Bodenheimer : Edgar and Brigitte: A German Jewish Passage to America (Jews and Judaism: History and Culture) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Edgar and Brigitte: A German Jewish Passage to America (Jews and Judaism: History and Culture):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Scholarship as literature, history as family memoirBy ambaThis

book richly and precisely evokes both the ambiance of a lost world (cultured, affluent, precarious German Jewish Berlin as Hitler darkened its skies) and the quirks and yearnings of a particular family -- the author's own -- rendered with an exquisite balance of perspective and wry affection. The author's parents, law students in flight from a Germany that had ruled them nonpersons, nonetheless brought the literacy, musicality, and idealism of the German Enlightenment and Romanticism to the unlikely setting of Salt Lake City. While their survival, adaptation, and contribution to their new world were triumphant, their loss of the old world remained haunting, and haunted by "a sense of not quite belonging" that reverberated down the generations. The archetypal story of immigration is made sharply particular by the intimate evocation of an otherwise little-documented culture and era. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I could not put it down. By Her Kind This book is about one family's journey away from certain death in Germany to new life in the US. But it is also about the thousands of families that tried to escape Nazi Germany and the ones they left behind. It is harrowing and amusing without ever lapsing into the sentimental. Bodenheimer reminds us again and again that human beings navigate the most difficult waters together and apart. She shows how our stories inevitably intermingle to include all the comfort we intend and the alienation that we deny. I could not put it down.

Edgar and Brigitte: A German Jewish Passage to America is the fruit of an extraordinary archive of personal journals, letters, speeches, and published writings left by Edgar and Brigitte Bodenheimer, who emigrated from Nazi Germany in 1933 and became American law professors. More German than Jewish, highly educated, and saturated to the core in the German cultural ideal of *Bildung*, Edgar and Brigitte embody many of the qualities of their generation of German Jews in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. The couples encounters with the strange new dynamics of race, religion, and the workplace in their new American home offer a compelling account of the struggles that faced many immigrants with deep German roots. It is also an intimate portrait of a now-vanished German Jewish culture as it played out in the lives of Bodenheimers parents and her grandparents from the 1920s to the late 1960s, a story of emigration, assimilation, and the private struggles that accompany those forced shifts in orientation. The Bodenheimers letters and journals offer engaging perspectives into their personal lives that retrospective memories cannot match. Braiding intimate biography together with history and memoir, Edgar and Brigitte will appeal both to historians of the European Jewish diaspora and to readers interested in the struggles and resilience of people whose lives were upended by Hitler.

Edgar and Brigitte presents a multifaceted look back at the German origins of two Jewish families and their relatives, friends, and professional colleagues. Based on letters and diary entries, Rosemarie Bodenheimer retraces the early emigration of her mothers and fathers families to the United States and describes how they adapted and put down roots in their new home country. Tobias Brinkmann, editor of *Points of Passage: Jewish Transmigrants from Eastern Europe in Scandinavia, Germany, and Britain, 1880-1914*