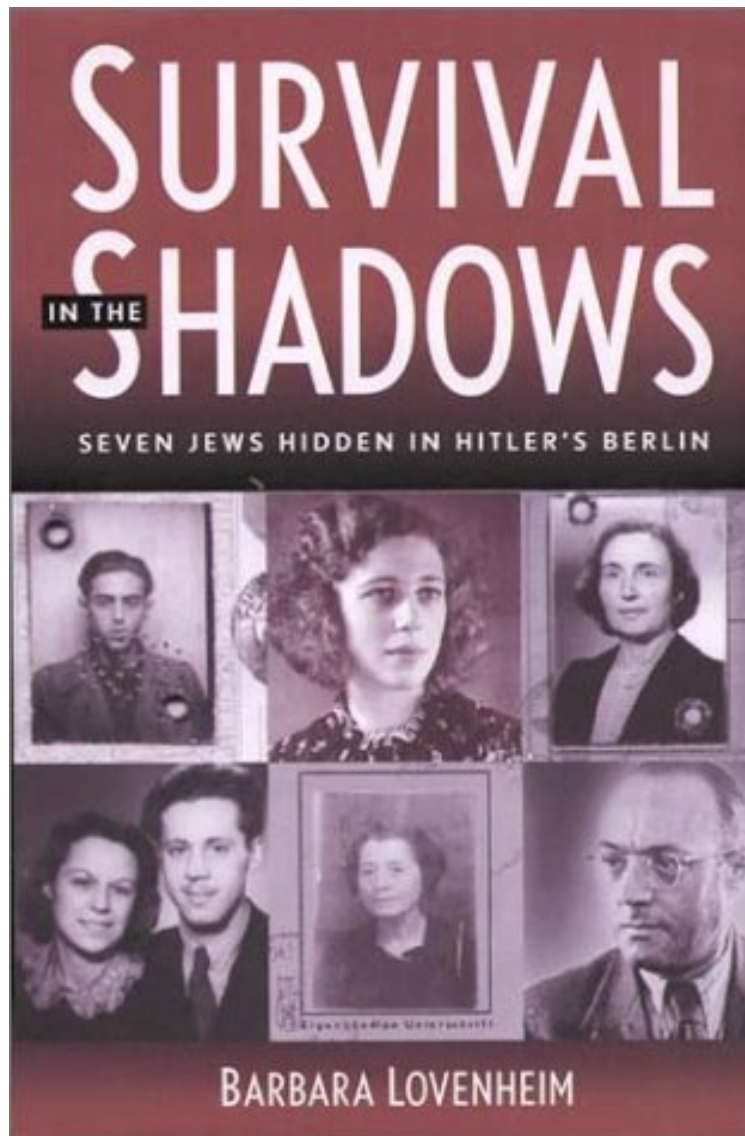


[Free pdf] Survival in the Shadows: Seven Jews Hidden in Hitler's Berlin

Survival in the Shadows: Seven Jews Hidden in Hitler's Berlin

Barbara Lovenheim

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Barbara Lovenheim : Survival in the Shadows: Seven Jews Hidden in Hitler's Berlin before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Survival in the Shadows: Seven Jews Hidden in Hitler's Berlin:

98 of 98 people found the following review helpful. Spell-binding Survival Tale Will Brighten Your Day!By SeattleBookMamaAt one point I promised myself, no more Holocaust memoirs! I cant change history, and I know enough. I am retired. Why make myself feel worse? But then this wonderful biography became available, thanks to

Net Galley and Open Road Integrated Media; thank you to both of them for the free DRC. Not only was it worth delving back into this difficult period in history, but it kept me awake till 2 AM because I could not put it down unfinished. What a terrific story! Many of those of us that have studied the Holocaust, whether for reasons of family and culture, historical interest, or something else, have maxed out on the horror, the numbers, the gut-wrenching details. This book isn't more of that. Instead, it is the remarkable true story of Jewish Germans that found a way to conceal themselves, not only in Nazi-occupied Europe, but in Berlin itself. Within the belly of the beast, there were still some good people left. There were people that would house the Arndt family members; there were those who had no space or were too afraid to do that, but who would provide food; and there were those who took no active role, but were willing to see, and to say nothing. And perhaps more than anything, there were seven really smart people who were determined not to die, and who beat the odds by surviving till the Russians came in to rescue them. Young people are often the quickest to respond appropriately when big changes occur quickly, and so it was with the Arndts. Dr. Arndt had grown up in Germany as a member of a respected family, and he was reluctant to give up on the German government as a source of justice and order. He had fought in World War I, and didn't think his country would allow him or his loved ones to be hurt. Erich, his son, thought differently. Ultimately, it was the teenagers, Erich and Ruth, who persuaded their parents that they had to disappear. In fact, they tossed down an ultimatum: disappear, or we will disappear without you! To keep the family together, the doctor and his wife, Lina, complied with their children's wishes, and it is a very good thing they did so. Once Goebbels, the monstrous architect of Nazi Germany's final solution to its Jewish scapegoats, declared Berlin to be completely free of Jews, a lot of Germans believed him. For most of them, it was not really an important issue; they were more concerned with paying their bills and finding food than with spying on the neighbors. The truth was that more than 5,000 Jews had slipped by the cops, soldiers, and members of the SS; of those, 1,600 managed to hide somewhere until the whole thing was over. However, this was the only family to emerge intact—not that no one in their family died, but that seven of them managed to ease themselves in and out of safe houses, factories, even basements and sheds, with the help of the doctor's former patients and others who were willing to do the right thing. It's enough to give us faith in humanity, because there was a good deal of both real and perceived risk in doing so. Wouldn't you like to read some good news for a change? Lovenheim's survival tale is fantastic. I was spellbound both by the bold, clever things done by the family members—especially the young folks—and by the inspirational actions and words of those that could not look away, who just had to help in spite of what could happen to them if they were caught. Highly recommended, and recently released, this one is a real day-brightener. Get it right away. You'll feel so much better if you do!

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A must read for students
By Kindle Customer I am not Jewish, though my mother's step-father was. He emigrated following the Russian Revolution and kept his Jewishness to himself. I read this book because I had visited Dachau in the 80s and saw an exhibit at the Corcoran Museum of those who hid Jews during the war. There is an amazing amount of detail in this book about the only Jewish family that went underground in Berlin and was the only family of the war to remain intact. The shortages and rationing during the war in the US was nothing compared to that in Berlin. The near starvation of the family, with the men weighing 100 lbs. and the women, 90 lbs. at the end of the war is unbelievable. The author did a good job of piecing together the story with multiple people and the timeline of the war. Persecution due to religion is indeed horrific.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A story of Survival amidst the dangers
By Marie Wagner Of all the books about the Holocaust that I have read, none have been anything like this book. The Jews that survived here, right in the center of Berlin were bold and fearless. I'm shocked the woman had the guts to appear in public, not only that but to actually eat with Nazi soldiers! They did what they needed to do to survive and they did it well. Amazingly, they almost all survived. I'm so glad to finally see photos at the end of the book of these courageous people. We must never forget the terrible atrocities that happened to so many women innocents during WWII, and we must never turn a blind eye again.

When Red Army soldiers discovered the Arndt, Lewinsky, and Gumpel families in April 1945, there were seven survivors - the largest known group of German Jews to survive in hiding in the heart of the Third Reich. In January 1943, the four Arndts went into hiding to avoid deportation and were soon joined by Ellen and Charlotte Lewinsky and Bruno Gumpel. For two and a half years the group survived in the shadowy underworld of Berlin - without food ration cards or secure accommodations - protected by more than 50 non-Jewish Germans. This is not only a story of tremendous courage and stamina during the darkest days of Hitler's rule, but also shows that anti-Semitism was not as ubiquitous among ordinary Germans as is commonly thought. Ellen and Erich Arndt and Ruth Arndt Gumpel, who live in the USA, here reveal their story in detail.

The courage of the protectors, who refused to put personal safety first, renews one's faith in the survival of altruism and integrity."From the Publisher
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