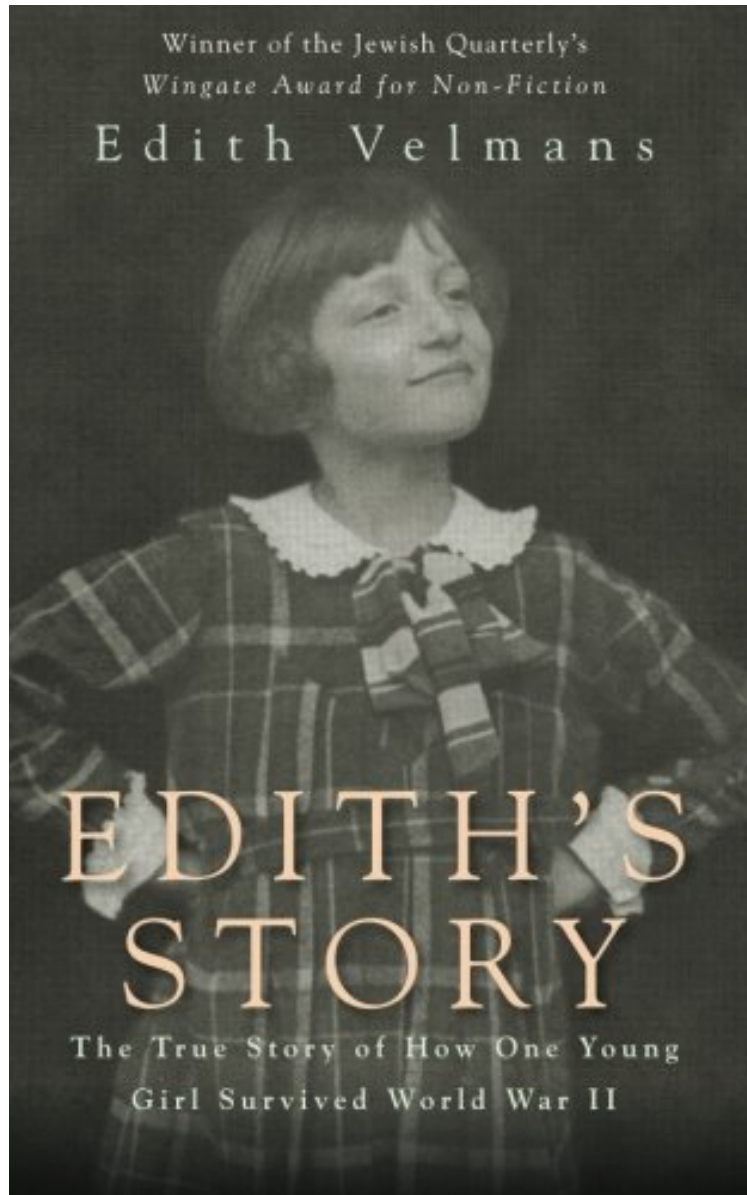


[Free and download] Edith's Story: The True Story of How One Young Girl Survived World War II

Edith's Story: The True Story of How One Young Girl Survived World War II

Edith Velmans

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Edith Velmans : Edith's Story: The True Story of How One Young Girl Survived World War II before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Edith's Story: The True Story of How One Young Girl Survived World War II:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Edith's Story Affected Me Greatly By Jo Ann Schneider Farris I don't like to read stories about the Holocaust, but I began reading a sample of "Edith's Story: The True Story of How One Young Girl Survived World War II" on my Kindle Fire and found that could not put the book down. I had to buy the book of course, and it only took me two days to read it. Edith van Hussen was a happy child and teen growing up in Holland. As I read about her, I was reminded of my own daughter who seems to make friends wherever she goes. Edith was good at sports. She attended an exclusive private school, played the piano, loved to write and had a wonderful and loving mother and father, grandmother, and two brothers. Her home was a home filled with love. She even wrote that she ice skated with her friends in Holland. Edith, like all young teens, looked forward to a happy life and future. Just like Anne Frank, she kept diaries and wrote a lot of letters. Parts of her diary entries and letters are woven together throughout her book. Before Germany invaded Holland, Edith's oldest brother moved to the USA when it seemed that it might be dangerous for the family to stay in Holland because they are Jews, but the rest of the family did not really want to leave the comfortable life they had in Holland. The van Hussen's knew they are Jewish, but they were secular Jews who even celebrated "St Nicholas" day. They have friends from all sorts of religious backgrounds, and life in Holland was good. They actually could have moved easier than some since her father worked for an American company based in Ohio. Also, the USA would not allow Edith's grandmother in the United States since the grandmother was from Germany and the USA had closed the door on Jewish Germans, so the family decided to stay since they didn't want to leave the grandmother behind. Just in case they might possibly change their minds, they did obtain passports and Visas, but those were burned up after the Germans invaded Holland. At first the van Hussen's did not believe Hitler would actually do the same things in Holland as he did in Germany, but they soon found out that they were wrong. It happened slowly, but soon they had to sew yellow stars on all of their clothing, Edith can't go to school with gentiles, they can't ride bikes, they can't ride buses, their car is taken away, they can only shop at certain times, and things keep getting worse and worse. Jewish friends are suddenly told they must vacate their homes. It is a very scary time. The van Hussen family decides to have Edith and her brother Jules hide since young people are being "called" and being "called" could mean that they could be sent to work camps or to unknown places. Edith and her brother obtain false identification cards without the Jewish "J" and different names. Jules goes to a different place to hide than Edith. Edith lives with a gentile family in an area where no one knows her and takes on the name "Netti" (a gentile girl whose parents are ill) and helps her hosts keep their home clean. She is very lonely during that time and misses her family so much. She is visited by a gentile friend that gives her letters from her parents that are supposed to be burned after they are read, but she keeps the letters anyway. These letters are treasures now since they are what made Edith's book so very dramatic. During the hiding period, Edith does get to travel to see her father one last time while he is in the hospital recovering from cancer surgery, but knows it will be the last time she will ever see him. She also does see her brother one time, just before her brother tells her about his plan to escape from Holland. The brother who had false identification is caught though before he has a chance to escape and is eventually sent to a death camp. Her family's home is eventually taken by the Germans. Her mother and grandmother, and friends and other relatives are eventually sent to death camps and die there. Her father dies in the hospital, but Edith says that later she believes he may have committed suicide rather than be sent to a German death camp. Edith "hides" under the false gentile identity for about three years. After the Germans are defeated and things return to "normal," Edith leaves the gentile family and returns home and finds her bedroom almost intact, although her family's house was stripped and everything else was gone. In her room she also finds photos and memories. Edith is reunited with her brother, who moved to the USA and also her cousin who both served with the Allies during the war. She goes on with her life and eventually goes to college, participates in sports, gets married, has children and goes to America. She forms a new family and life goes on, but she always misses her parents, brother, grandmother, and other friends and family who died in the Holocaust. This book really affected me and seemed to be more powerful a read than Anne Frank's diary. In fact, when Edith had twin babies in 1950, she shared a hospital room with Miep, the woman who helped hide the Frank family! She tells Miep, when Miep mentions that Mr. Frank is trying to publish Anne's diary, that she doubts anyone will read it... It is awful to think such a sad thing happened to such a young and sweet girl. I cried and I will cry again when I think about Edith's story. I hope nothing like the Holocaust will ever happen again... 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. but once I did I really liked it. This is the story of Edith Velmans ... By dep It took me a while to get into this book, but once I did I really liked it. This is the story of Edith Velmans who lost most of her family in the Holocaust. Edith and her two older brothers grew up in the Netherlands. Her parents Gustav and Adelheid had a loving happy marriage, especially watching their three children growing into young adults. All of this changed rapidly with the Nazi invasion of the Netherlands in 1940. Edith was only 14 at that time and at first hardly noticed the changes toward the Jewish population. Unfortunately, Edith's father developed health problems at that time which was eventually diagnosed as cancer. Her mother suffered a fractured hip that required surgery and a very long recuperation. Edith's oldest brother Guus had managed to escape to the United States. With the situation for the Jews rapidly getting worse, Edith and her brother Jules decided to go into hiding. A wonderful book with valuable documentation of every day life for Jews in the Netherlands after 1940. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A novel not to be forgotten. By Charlie Granneman The writer wove together a story from a diary and letters. Many times the reader may

be confused as to the speaker as the story is intertwined with the letters and the diary. This child's account of the fall of The Netherlands to the Germans, the occupation, and the liberation will pluck your heartstrings. The sound heard will grate on your humanity. There are silent heroes, the father and mother, who attempt to elevate their daughter's spirits beyond what is realistic. The story is a warning that liberties can be gradually stolen so silently that one barely notices the incremental changes until it is too late to reclaim them.

When Hitler invaded Holland in 1939, Edith van Hessen was a popular Dutch high school student. She also happened to be Jewish. In the same month that Anne Frank's family went into hiding, Edith was sent to live with a courageous Protestant family, took a new name, and survived by posing as a gentile. Ultimately one-third of the hidden Dutch Jews were discovered and murdered; most of Edith's family perished. Velmans's memoir is based on her teenage diaries, wartime letters, and reflections as an adult survivor. In recounting wartime events and the details of her feelings as the war runs its course, Edith's Story ultimately affirms life, love, and extraordinary courage. "The most vivid evocation of the experience of Nazi Occupation that I have ever read." - The Independent (London)

From Publishers Weekly Since Velmans was a Jew hidden by a Dutch Christian family during the Holocaust, this memoir, which was first published in Europe and won the U.K.'s 1998 Jewish Quarterly Wingate Literary Award, has been compared with The Diary of Anne Frank. However, Velmans's powerful account stands on its own, piercingly conveying the disbelief and horror she experienced as the Nazis clamped down. Through excerpts from her teenage diary, the author shows how her life changed over a period of years as Jews were forced out of schools, then prohibited from visiting public parks and, finally, were thrown out of jobs, rounded up and arrested. In 1942, Velmans went to live under an assumed name with a Protestant family who deceived their neighbors by claiming that she was a relative. While her parents were hospitalized with serious illnesses, they wrote letters to her, reproduced here, that express their love, their belief in her courage and the heartbreaking realization that they might not survive. For her part, Velmans channeled her energy into working hard for the family that was shielding her, in order not to let the isolation and anxiety about her family's fate destroy her. Velmans's father died in the hospital, and her mother, grandmother and one brother were killed in concentration camps (the author was reunited with her surviving brother after the war). Velmans's candid portrayal of herself as a feisty, loving, sometimes self-absorbed teenager is thoroughly engaging, and her story throws a new light on the plight of Jews who survived the war hidden in plain sight. Photos not seen by PW. Author tour; rights sold in Germany, Spain, Italy and Japan. (Dec.) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus s This significant Holocaust memoir of a girl hiding in Holland will be compared to Anne Frank's diary, though it is very different. Yes, Edith went into hiding in the same city and same month as Anne Frank, and her mother even met Miep Gies, who hid the Franks. But while the Frank diary took decades to get recognized, this book (largely in diary format) was condensed by Reader's Digest, won a literary award in England, and will be published in four other languages. Anne was also a precocious preteen, but more famous for diary entries on her family's psychology and philosophical musings. Edith isn't analytical, but her description is superior. In the 1940 invasion of neutral and safe Holland, for example, anti-aircraft fire is "heavy dark smoke clouds and little gray puffs, like bubbles," and German paratroopers arrive in "hundreds of little black balloons." Because she was, at 14, an ordinary teenager, she talks about boys, skating, school, and clothes. A very secular person with a Jewish grandmother, Edith sees herself as Jewish when Nazi laws forbid her from attending school or riding her bike. She wears the "ugly" yellow star of David as a "badge of honor" that prompts the sympathetic Dutch to say, "Keep your chin up." As the situation deteriorates, her ailing mother and grandmother are caught by the Germans, one older brother escapes to America, and her non-Jewish father wastes away. Once the coddled baby, Edith has to spend her late teens posing as a gentile with the zur Kleinmiedes family who already had to board Nazi officers. She can only shout her real name to the wind, thinking about deprivations like their one-egg-a-month ration and waiting for liberation. In another major difference from Anne Frank, Edith survives to double her diary's content with adult comments. A valuable opportunity to see the situation just outside Anne's attic. -- Copyright 1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. "Truly moving...leaving one with great hope in humanity."-- The Times (London) "The most vivid evocation of the experience of Nazi Occupation I have ever read."-- The Independent "It's impossible to get through this inspiring and great-hearted volume dry-eyed, or without admiration for people who so bravely persevere through unimaginable hardship and privation."-- The Washington Post "Gives all the pain and pleasure of reading Anne Frank for the first time."-- Esther Freud "A significant Holocaust memoir... A valuable opportunity to see the situation just outside Anne's attic."-- Kirkus s