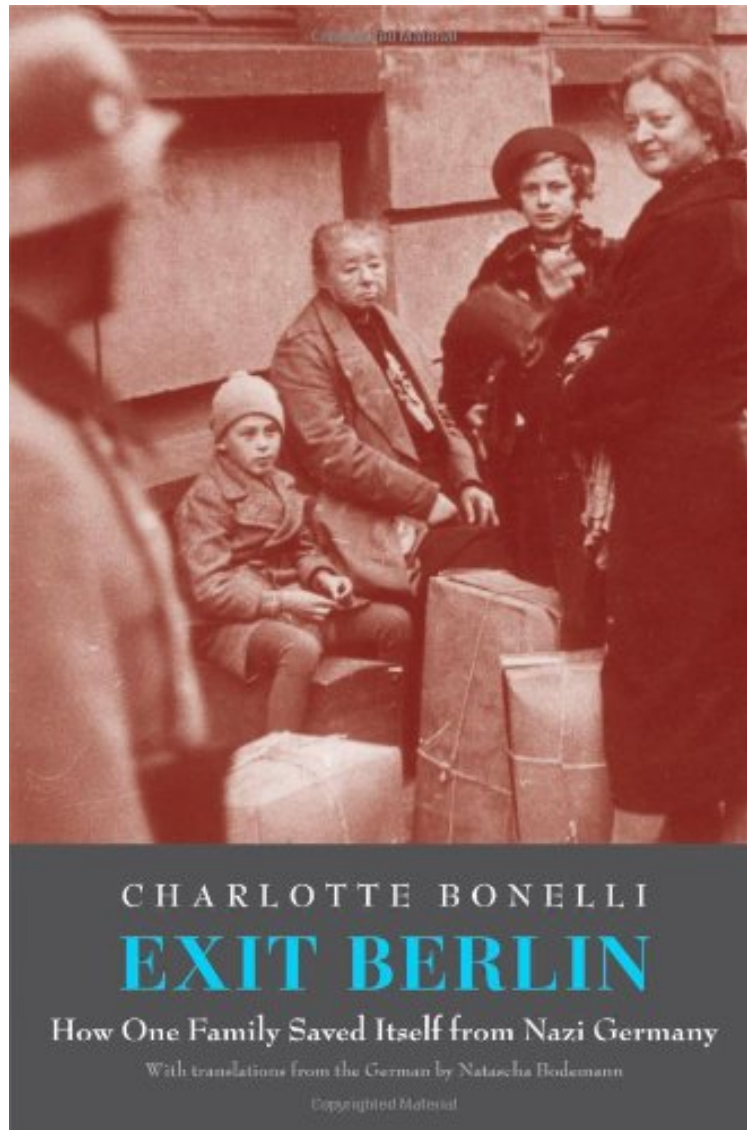


(Download free ebook) Exit Berlin: How One Woman Saved Her Family from Nazi Germany

Exit Berlin: How One Woman Saved Her Family from Nazi Germany

Charlotte R. Bonelli

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Charlotte R. Bonelli : Exit Berlin: How One Woman Saved Her Family from Nazi Germany before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Exit Berlin: How One Woman Saved Her Family from Nazi Germany:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful and important book! By Karen G-KA side from being beautifully written and intensely engaging, Exit Berlin is one of the most important books written about this horrible

period of time in our history. This is for several reasons. There are few, if any, books written from the perspective of Jews in America during the Shoah (Holocaust). Through the hundreds of letters and replies to which she had access, author Charlotte Bonelli has shared an eyewitness account of one family's desperate attempts to escape the Nazi terror and one woman's desperate attempt, with the help of her cousins, to help these relatives, many of whom she did not even know. The author's extensive research into US and world events to provide a context for those letters, and the additional information she gained from traveling to Europe to interview descendants of the letter-writers, provides the reader with facts about contemporary US history, the depression, immigration law, the US economy, conditions in some other countries to which Jews fled, and more. At the same time, the book is a study in the lost art of letter writing. In today's society we rely on instant communication, such as email and text messaging, and a delay in a response of more than 5 minutes causes the sender to wonder if the message is being ignored. The author beautifully shares with us a time in which sending a letter to a loved one sometimes meant an 8 week delay until you knew it was received; a time when postage was so expensive relative to income, the sender, desperate to be sure a response was not delayed because of the cost, might enclose the return postage. Set in the context of trying to flee for their very lives, such a wait must have been harrowing. This book was beautifully written and easy to read. It was more than a collection of letters. It was a book that everyone should read in order to learn more about what these few people in the US knew was going on in Europe as the Holocaust was brewing and in full swing, and what these few people tried to do in their own small, but large, way. As I read, I could almost hear the words being spoken. Schindler's List told the story of one man trying to rescue as many people as he could from the inside. Here is a story of one woman, with the help of her cousins, trying to rescue them from the US. Steven Spielberg, take note! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A fascinating glimpse into the life and times of a German Jewish refugee as seen through her correspondence. By Carolyn S. Charlotte Bonelli has done excellent work in bringing to life the world of Luzie Hatch, as discovered in a large collection of letters found after her death at the age of 89 in New York. Ms Bonelli has written a fascinating, well researched book that is eminently readable. We can be very thankful that this collection fell into her very capable hands, thus preserving and re-creating for us the important, tragic, moving and uplifting story of Luzie and her family. I strongly recommend it to anyone interested in the Holocaust and the history of the second World War. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A fascinating, exciting, and touching true story. By J. A. Stearns Exit Berlin is expertly crafted as Charlotte Bonelli weaves her historical commentary very gently between the myriad of letters sent among the Hecht Family, all of whom were desperate in their attempt to get to America to escape Hitler's growing monstrous methods. This revelation of what was actually happening in pre-WWII to the Jewish people in Germany was clear and heartbreaking and opened my eyes to the suffering mostly unknown to the rest of the world. This book should be mandatory reading when learning about the War and its beginnings.

The agonizing correspondence between Jewish family members ensnared in the Nazi grip and their American relatives Just a week after the Kristallnacht terror in 1938, young Luzie Hatch, a German Jew, fled Berlin to resettle in New York. Her rescuer was an American-born cousin and industrialist, Arnold Hatch. Arnold spoke no German, so Luzie quickly became translator, intermediary, and advocate for family left behind. Soon an unending stream of desperate requests from German relatives made their way to Arnolds desk. Luzie Hatch had faithfully preserved her letters both to and from far-flung relatives during the World War II era as well as copies of letters written on their behalf. This extraordinary collection, now housed at the American Jewish Committee Archives, serves as the framework for Exit Berlin. Charlotte R. Bonelli offers a vantage point rich with historical context, from biographical information about the correspondents to background on U.S. immigration laws, conditions at the Vichy internment camps, refuge in Shanghai, and many other topics, thus transforming the letters into a riveting narrative. Arnolds letters reveal an unfamiliar side of Holocaust history. His are the responses of an average American Jew, struggling to keep his own business afloat while also assisting dozens of relatives trapped abroad most of whom he had never met and whose deathly situation he could not fully comprehend. This book contributes importantly to historical understanding while also uncovering the dramatic story of one besieged family confronting unimaginable evil.

Millions perished in the Holocaust, and for those few who managed to find refuge in a world of closed doors, it took relentless effort and persistence in the face of great peril and untold frustrations. Charlotte Bonellis collection of correspondence, Exit Berlin, tells a moving story and is an important historical record of one familys struggles to escape. I recommend it highly as a unique account of dedication and steadfastness against big odds in a trying time. W. Michael Blumenthal, Former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury and Director of the Jewish Museum Berlin