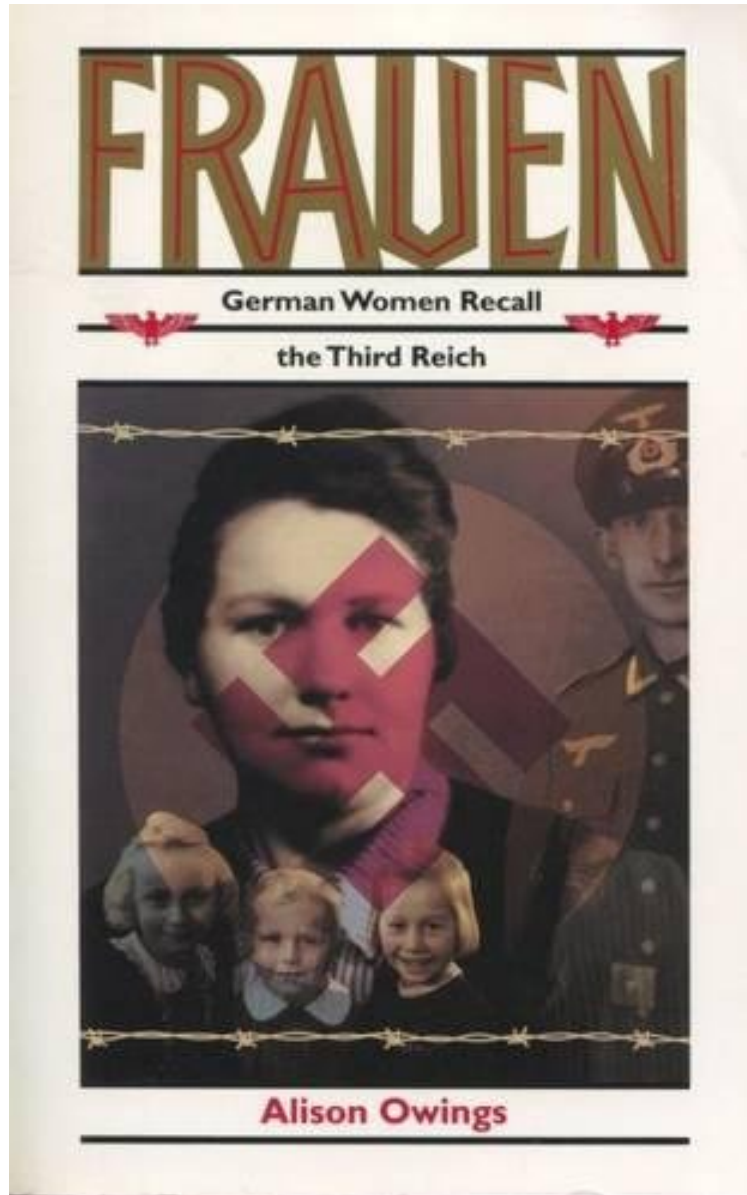


(Download) Frauen: German Women Recall the Third Reich

## Frauen: German Women Recall the Third Reich

*Alison Owings*

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**Alison Owings : Frauen: German Women Recall the Third Reich** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Frauen: German Women Recall the Third Reich:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Real Eye-Opener!By Bev ThompsonIt's very interesting to get from those who lived through the Third Reich exactly what it was like. Because of "high German" language, some of the translation is hard to understand (because it doesn't translate well), but we can definitely get the gist of it. Amazing

that so many are in such denial, while others can't face it -- even today. The guilt is there, in some cases overpowering. If you are a WWII history buff, this is definitely a must-read. However, it can be a bit repetitious, each chapter a different Frau, and the book is thick, replete with many Fraus. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Most interesting book! By TracyellnI was not disappointed in the least! Every chapter is of a different woman and her thoughts and impressions of the third Reich! This book addressed many unanswered questions of what the woman thought during and after the Third Reich! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. just got started. author's writing style is rather awkward ... By Customerjust got started. author's writing style is rather awkward to read; i will get used to it i'm sure. nothing really surprising so far, no revelations from anyone so it remains to be seen whether it will "explain" any behavior during Nazi rule/occupation of homeland.

What were the women of Germany doing during the Third Reich? What were they thinking? And what do they have to say a half century later? In *Frauen* we hear their voices most for the first time. Alison Owings interviewed and here records the words of twenty-nine German women who were there: Working for the Resistance. Joining the Nazi Party. Outsmarting the Gestapo. Disliking a Jewish neighbor. Hiding a Jewish friend. Witnessing "Kristallnacht." Witnessing the firebombing of Dresden. Shooting at Allied planes. Welcoming Allied troops. Being a prisoner. And being a guard. The women recall their own and others' enthusiasm, doubt, fear, fury, cowardice, guilt, and anguish. Alison Owings, in her pursuit of such memories, was invited into the homes of these women. Because she is neither Jewish nor German, and because she speaks fluent colloquial German, many of the women she interviewed felt comfortable enough with her to unlock the past. What they have to say will surprise Americans, just as they surprised the women themselves. Not since Marcel Ophüls's controversial film *The Sorrow and the Pity* have we been on such intimate terms with "the enemy." In this case, the story is that of the women, those who did not make policy but were forced to participate in its effects and to witness its results. What they did and did not do is not just a reflection on them and their country; it also leads us to question what actions we might have taken in their place. The interviews do not allow for easy, smug answers.

From Publishers Weekly A vivid picture of Germany under the Nazis emerges from this collection of unsettling interviews conducted by freelance TV writer Owings with 29 women of diverse backgrounds, both Aryan and Jewish. Among the women whose lives in Germany's war-torn homefront are chronicled are the widow of a resistance leader and the wife of an SS guard, who refers to her husband's work in the Ravensbrook and Buchenwald "manufacturing plants." Not only did Hitler attract the young but, according to one supporter, "he understood how to fascinate women." Some of these women claim that they privately protested mistreatment of Jews and prisoners and risked their lives to assist them. Only one non-Jewish woman, however, admits to "hearing" that Jews were gassed. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Owings, a freelance television writer who is neither a German nor a Jew, has compiled and edited a groundbreaking set of oral histories. She interviews women from many spectrums of the Third Reich: Germans, Jews, individuals of "mixed" parentage, a countess, a camp guard, women who hid Jews, Nazi supporters, Communists, and other women who witnessed and participated in everyday and extraordinary events. Owings has tried, as much as possible, to quote her interviewees directly yet still manages to create an even and engaging text. This volume is an excellent companion to Claudia Koonz's *Mothers in the Fatherland: Women, Family Life, and Nazi Ideology, 1919-1945* (LJ 11/1/86). Highly recommended.- Jenny Presnell, Miami Univ. Libs., Oxford, Ohio Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist This collection of more than 50 oral histories will fascinate anyone who has wondered how ordinary people experienced life in Nazi Germany. There is the poignant love story of a German woman in love with a Jewish man (both survived the war), and there are the dishonest diatribes of an unrepentant Nazi collaborator. Underlying all the stories is an identical subtext: Who is to blame and how could it happen? Most of these women were young at the time of the Third Reich; they recall being absorbed in their own lives and only marginally aware of and responsible for the political realities of their time. Some of them were compassionate, but circumstances were difficult. Frau Wilhelmine Haferkamp remembers that the Nazi Party threatened to expel her husband after she insisted on feeding slave laborers and prisoners of war outside her house. Frau Haferkamp persisted in making her milk soup. The author is careful not to let intimacy blind her or the reader to the real role of these women. She walks a fine line between getting inside their heads and remaining objective. A valuable work of reportage. Anne Gendler