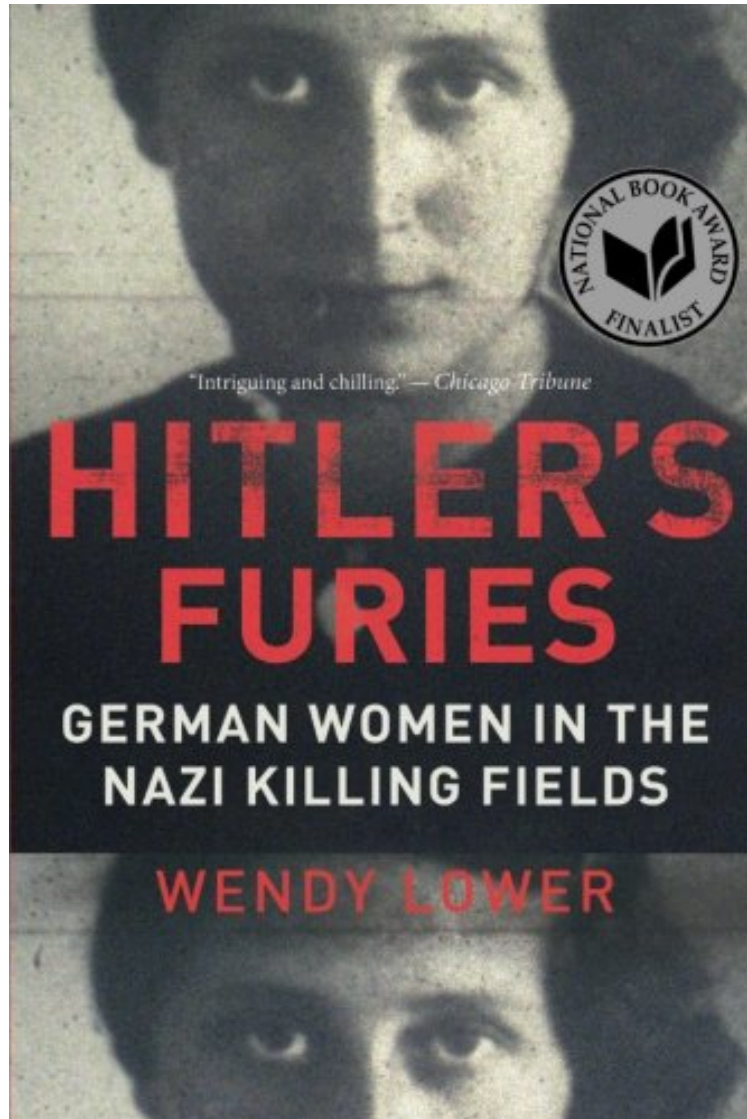


(Ebook pdf) Hitler's Furies: German Women in the Nazi Killing Fields

Hitler's Furies: German Women in the Nazi Killing Fields

Wendy Lower

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Wendy Lower : Hitler's Furies: German Women in the Nazi Killing Fields before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hitler's Furies: German Women in the Nazi Killing Fields:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An eye opener.By Andrea VallejosAn interesting read, but it could be overly academic at times and very dry. There was also a lot of repetition of points/theories.Otherwise, a very insightful and occasionally sad/scary read - knowing the kind of violence and debauched behaviour that some of these women got up to and not really for any reason other than "they could get away with it" - leaves you with a bitter taste in your mouth sometimes.It's well written, just a little high-brow at times (for me - I'm no academic, I just really enjoy

historical nonfiction and biographies/autobiographies etc.) 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. well written and a good speaker. wish more books like this was available ...By bnnykinHitlers Furies Shocking eye opener. well written and a good speaker. wish more books like this was available on regular cds 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Runner girlInteresting read!

Compelling . . . Lower brings to the forefront an unexplored aspect of the Holocaust. Washington PostIn a surprising account that powerfully revises history, Wendy Lower uncovers the role of German women on the Nazi eastern front not only as plunderers and direct witnesses, but as actual killers. Lower, drawing on twenty years of archival research and fieldwork, presents startling evidence that these women were more than desk murderers or comforters of murderous German men: they went on shopping sprees and romantic outings to the Jewish ghettos; they were present at killing-field picnics, not only providing refreshment but also shooting Jews. And Lower uncovers the stories of SS wives with children of their own whose brutality is as chilling as any in history. Hitlers Furies challenges our deepest beliefs: women can be as brutal as men, and the evidence can be hidden for seventy years. Disquieting . . . Earlier books about the Holocaust have offered up poster girls of brutality and atrocity . . . [Lowers] insight is to track more mundane lives, and to argue for a vastly wider complicity. New York Times An unsettling but significant contribution to our understanding of how nationalism, and specifically conceptions of loyalty, are normalized, reinforced, and regulated. Los Angeles Review of Books

From Booklist Lower, a consultant for the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., sheds some much-needed light on an aspect of WWII history that has remained in the shadows for decades. The consensus in Holocaust and genocide studies, the author writes, is that the systems that make mass murder possible would not function without the broad participation of society, and yet nearly all histories of the Holocaust leave out half of those who populated that society, as if womens history happens somewhere else. Based on two decades of research and interviews, the book looks at the role of women in Nazi Germany, in particular women who participated in the Nazi extermination of the Jews. Not merely subservient observers, some women the author dubs them Hitlers Furies, a reference to the mythological goddesses of vengeance actively took part in the murders of Jews and in looting and stealing from Jewish homes. Lower writes about horribly violent female concentration-camp guards; of young girls trained in the use of firearms; of brutality that would rival anything perpetrated by their male counterparts. Surprising and deeply unsettling, the book is a welcome addition to the literature on the Holocaust. --David Pitt National Book Award Finalist National Jewish Book Award Finalist "Disquieting . . . Ms. Lowers book is partly the study of a youthquake . . . Earlier books about the Holocaust have offered up poster girls of brutality and atrocity . . . [Lowers] insight is to track more mundane lives, and to argue for a vastly wider complicity." New York Times "Intriguing and chilling . . . feminism run amok." Chicago Tribune "Compelling. . . By focusing on the role of ordinary women rather than the already notorious female concentration camp guards Lower brings to the forefront an unexplored aspect of the Holocaust. . . Lowers careful research proves that the capacity for indifferent cruelty is not reserved for men it exists in all of us." Washington Post "A virtuosic feat of scholarship." Kirkus s "Well-researched . . . As gripping and eye-opening as it is chilling." People "Often harrowing and even disturbing... [Hitler's Furies] shines a stark light on the ordinary women who accompanied the ordinary men of Christopher Brownings landmark study." New Statesman (UK) "Lower sheds some much-needed light on an aspect of WWII history that has remained in the shadows for decades . . . Surprising and deeply unsettling, the book is a welcome addition to the literature on the Holocaust. Booklist Hitlers Furies will be experienced and remembered as a turning point in both womens studies and Holocaust studies. Timothy Snyder, author of Bloodlands Hitler's Furies is the first book to follow the biographical trajectories of individual women whose youthful exuberance, loyalty to the Fhrer, ambition, and racism took them to the deadliest sites in German-occupied Europe. Drawing on immensely rich source material, Lower integrates women perpetrators and accomplices into the social history of the Third Reich, and illuminates them indelibly as a part of post-war East and West German memory that has been, until this book, unmined. Claudia Koonz, author of Mothers in the Fatherland Hitlers Furies is a long overdue and superb addition to the history of the Holocaust. The role of women perpetrators during the Final Solution has been too much glossed over. Lowers book provides an important and stunning corrective. It is a significant addition to our understanding of the role of ordinary Germans in the Reichs genocide. Deborah Lipstadt, author of Eichmann on Trial Lower shifts away from the narrow focus on the few thousand female concentration camp guards who have been at the center of previous studies of female culpability in Nazi crimes and identifies the cluster of professions nurses, social workers, teachers, office workers that in addition to family connections brought nearly one-half million women to the German East and into close proximity with pervasive Nazi atrocities. Through the lives of carefully-researched individuals, she captures a spectrum of career trajectories and behavior. This is a book that artfully combines the study of gender with the illumination of individual experience. Christopher R. Browning, author of Ordinary Men From the Inside Flap Wendy Lowers stunning account of the role of German women on the World War II Nazi eastern front powerfully revises history, proving that we have ignored the reality of womens participation in the Holocaust, including as brutal killers. The long-held picture of

German women holding down the home front during the war, as loyal wives and cheerleaders for the Führer, pales in comparison to Lower's incisive case for the massive complicity, and worse, of the 500,000 young German women she places, for the first time, directly in the killing fields of the expanding Reich. *Hitler's Furies* builds a fascinating and convincing picture of a morally lost generation of young women, born into a defeated, tumultuous post-World War I Germany, and then swept up in the nationalistic fervor of the Nazi movement—a twisted political awakening that turned to genocide. These young women—nurses, teachers, secretaries, wives, and mistresses—saw the emerging Nazi empire as a kind of wild east of career and matrimonial opportunity, and yet could not have imagined what they would witness and do there. Lower, drawing on twenty years of archival and field work on the Holocaust, access to post-Soviet documents, and interviews with German witnesses, presents overwhelming evidence that these women were more than desk murderers or comforters of murderous German men: that they went on shopping sprees for Jewish-owned goods and also brutalized Jews in the ghettos of Poland, Ukraine, and Belarus; that they were present at killing-field picnics, not only providing refreshment but also taking their turn at the mass shooting. And Lower uncovers the stories, perhaps most horrific, of SS wives with children of their own, whose female brutality is as chilling as any in history. *Hitler's Furies* will challenge our deepest beliefs: genocide is women's business too, and the evidence can be hidden for seventy years.