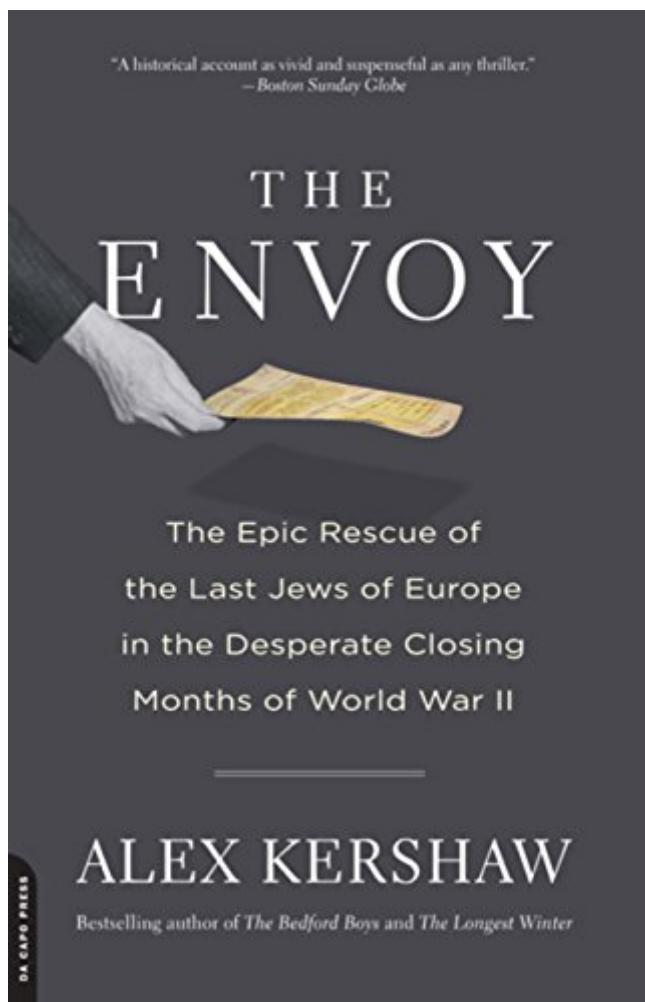


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The Envoy: The Epic Rescue Of The Last Jews Of Europe In The Desperate Closing Months Of World War II



Synopsis

December 1944. Soviet and German troops fight from house to house in the shattered, corpse-strewn suburbs of Budapest. Crazed Hungarian fascists join with die-hard Nazis to slaughter Jews day and night, turning the Danube blood-red. In less than six months, thirty-eight-year-old SS Colonel Adolf Eichmann has sent over half a million Hungarians to the gas chambers in Auschwitz. Now all that prevents him from liquidating Europe's last Jewish ghetto is an unarmed Swedish diplomatic envoy named Raoul Wallenberg. The Envoy is the stirring tale of how one man made the greatest difference in the face of untold evil. The legendary Oscar Schindler saved hundreds, but Raoul Wallenberg did what no other individual or nation managed to do: He saved more than 100,000 Jewish men, women, and children from extermination. Written with Alex Kershaw's customary narrative verve, The Envoy is a fast-paced, nonfiction thriller that brings to life one of the darkest and yet most inspiring chapters of twentieth century history. It is an epic for the ages.

Book Information

File Size: 2950 KB

Print Length: 326 pages

Publisher: Da Capo Press (October 26, 2010)

Publication Date: October 26, 2010

Language: English

ASIN: B0046A8SF4

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #241,063 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #13 in Books > History > Europe > Scandinavia > Sweden #17 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Europe > Austria & Hungary #254 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > World > Jewish > Holocaust

Customer Reviews

What a man! What a story! I was blown away. We couldn't put the book down. This one is a keeper;

we won't be donating it, as we have so many other books. I have nothing but praise for the hero in this book, he truly was one of a kind.

I knew a little about Raoul Wallenberg and Adolf Eichmann before I read this book. I was aware that Wallenberg saved thousands of Jews during the war and I knew enough to name my son Raoul in his honor. What I didn't know was how much he risked his life doing so, his struggles with the SS and Hungarian Arrow Cross, and his mysterious disappearance after the Soviets arrested him. This book tells the story of the Jews in Hungary during the war, their struggle to survive, first under an anti-semitic regime, then under the Nazis themselves, and finally under the local Nazis in the form of the Arrow Cross party, the evil that is Eichmann, and the desperate efforts of a few to save the Jews. Although anti-semitism was rampant in Hungary before the war, the Jews were somewhat spared the fate their brethren suffered in Poland, Ukraine, Netherlands, and other German-occupied countries during the war. Until 1944 when the Nazis, in particular Adolf Eichmann, decided that all Jews in Hungary, at all costs, should all be deported to the death camps. In came the Swede Wallenberg, who together with other diplomats in Budapest, tried to save as many Jews as they can by issuing (sometimes) fake documents to make it appear that the Jews were under the protection of Sweden or Switzerland. In a continuous tug of war with Eichmann and the notorious Arrow Cross thugs, Wallenberg would eventually succeed in saving around 100,000 Jews from deportation to the death camps. Sometimes he would save the victims in the nick of time, just before they board the train to Auschwitz, or just before they were to be shot. The last few months before the Russians came were especially horrifying with the Hungarian Nazis murdering and terrorizing the Jews in a reign of terror. The final third of the book tells what happened to the main protagonists Eichmann and Wallenberg, and some of the survivors, after the war. Everyone knows what happened to Eichmann, but unfortunately the end of Wallenberg's story remains a mystery, partly due to the Russian's stubborn refusal to cooperate, and partly due to the Swedish government's spineless abandonment of one of its most heroic and remarkable citizens. This is a well-written and inspiring book and I highly recommend it.

Kershaw has done it! There are acts of bravery in wartime; they are usually accounts of the battlefield or a resistance group. Rarely has there ever been such prolonged exposure to danger on behalf of the persecuted as Raoul Wallenberg's rescue of thousands of Hungarian Jews. For months this Swedish diplomat repeatedly 'stuck his head in the mouth of the lion' to save those headed for the Nazi death camps. Battling the Nazis and the Hungarian fascist Arrow Cross, this

determined envoy pressed ahead where fainter men refused to venture. This gripping account is in a class of its own. This brave Swede remains a sterling example of self-giving without thought of personal risks. Read it and be inspired!

Once again Alex Kershaw has written a searing account of a well known period of our history. Through the use of first person accounts, Alex brings the Holocaust alive beyond the horrific numbers that are hard to grasp. The Envoy is a tough read at times, but hard to put down.

This book was a tremendous record of such a dreadful tragedy. It is not something you could enjoy but it was such a well written and moving account that I have now listened and re-listened to in the audio version. The astounding record of Raoul Wallenberg is and should be an inspiring example of incredible courage. And the Jews themselves are also an example of such tremendous courage. It is an amazing thing that those who went through that horror and survived should have ever found the strength to do so and they like Wallenberg should all have been celebrated and cared for and honoured and never forgotten.

A story very well worth knowing, presented in dramatic fashion. Raoul Wallenberg was a quiet hero, and this book creates a greater level of understanding about him as a person, as well as setting forth what he did. I would recommend this to anyone interested in hearing about the fate of the Hungarian Jewish community at the end of WWII, which is an even more moving story in light of the current level of anti-Semitism there.

One of the most thought-provoking and enlightening books I've ever read. I had long heard of Raoul Wallenberg, but had no idea of the extent of his bravery and depth of caring. What the Nazis during the Holocaust was horrible, but to learn of the day-to-day misery of those living in Budapest was beyond comprehension. I know that this book will stay with me forever, and I recommend it, especially as a part of a history class in school.

Before reading this book, I thought I had read enough about the Holocaust. I was mistaken. I am grateful to the author for this book about a beautiful man. Wallenberg habitually risked great danger, but the author explains that he understood fear. Even if scared, he astonished people with a determination that sometimes won over foes as well as friends. It may seem ridiculous to say that Wallenberg was a saint, but read his history and find out.

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