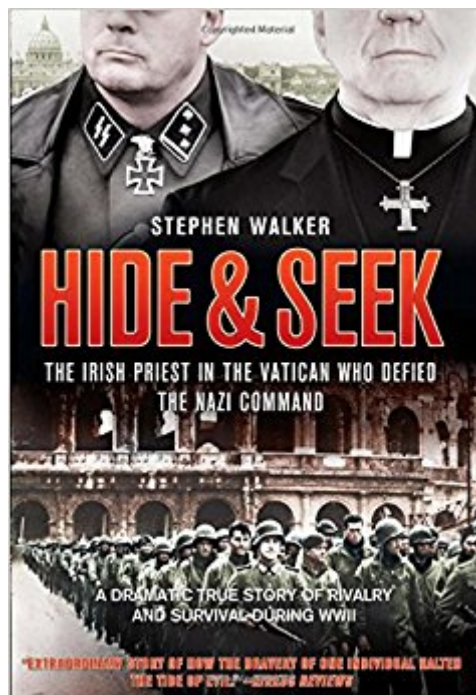




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Hide & Seek: The Irish Priest In The Vatican Who Defied The Nazi Command



Synopsis

The fascinating and untold story of intrigue, resistance, and escape during World War II that opens the window on the war in Italy from the perspective of an Irish priest in the Vatican. Contains the mystery, the violence, the suspense, and ultimate victory..

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

• Stephen Walker has produced a really thrilling book, all the more so because he has taken care to reflect the complexities of his central characters. • "Fergal Keane" Remarkably affecting . . . the old stories are, it seems, still the best ones. • "The Sunday Telegraph" Stephen Walker has shone new light on the story. • "The Irish News" A fascinating account of one of the most amazing Irish stories of World War Two. • "Sunday World" Walker's book reads like a thriller. • "Books Ireland" An inspiring story of sacrifice and humanity. • "Irish Mail" O'Flaherty operated under the nose of the Gestapo and barely missed being kidnapped and assassinated. . . . Another extraordinary story of how the bravery of one individual halted the tide of evil. • "Kirkus Reviews"

Hide & Seek chronicles the intensely personal war between wartime Rome's Nazi SS Chief Herbert Kappler and the Vatican's Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty, a fiercely fought rivalry that culminated in Kappler attempting to kidnap and murder his Irish opponent, who was determined to fight Rome's Nazi rulers. Called Ireland's Oscar Schindler, O'Flaherty masterminded a large-scale operation from inside the neutral Vatican, to hide and help Jews,

downed airmen, and escaped Allied prisoners. Using safe houses and church buildings, the priest sheltered around five hundred Jews in the Holy See and many thousands more Jews and Allied escapees in and around Rome. After a Resistance bomb killed thirty-two German soldiers, an enraged Hitler ordered revenge. Kappler planned and oversaw the firing squad execution of 335 people in the Ardeatine Caves outside Rome. The massacre became the worst atrocity committed on Italian soil during the war. After the war, the Nazi colonel was found guilty on all the charges relating to the massacre and sentenced to life. Amazingly, O'Flaherty began visiting his former rival in prison, engaging in a long-run conversation that led to Kappler's conversion and baptism by the Irish Monsignor.

I had already read the book "The Scarlet and the Black" and had seen the movie by the same name when I came upon this book. I was already intrigued by the story, so when I saw this book, I decided to read it as well. "Hide and Seek" also focuses on Msgr. O'Flaherty and Colonel Kappler and covers much of the same territory as does "The Scarlet and the Black," but that book ends with the end of WWII. "Hide and Seek" goes beyond the end of the war and has approximately 100 more pages on what happened in the lives of Msgr. O'Flaherty and Kappler (and some others as well) after the war until their deaths. That is quite a story in itself. "Hide and Seek" also focuses much more on the massacre at the Ardeatine Caves because that war atrocity had a great impact on what happened to Colonel Kappler after the end of the war. "Hide and Seek" cites sources, although many of them are secondary; "The Scarlet and the Black" does not even do that. This book also has a bibliography and an Index, which are helpful. I enjoyed both books, but felt that "Hide and Seek" was better from the point of view of the additional material focusing on the aftermath of the war and because of the citations and other support material which help readers see the sources of the material in this controversial story. It also includes a good folio of photographs, but I would have hoped for more. Also, I felt that "The Scarlet and the Black" was almost like reading a movie script, especially after seeing the movie which closely follows that book. Both were good, but if I had to recommend reading just one it would be "Hide and Seek."

Reads like a "sit on the edge of your seat" thriller. It's all the more gripping because, this story is true.

I enjoy books on history. And was motivated by this book to purchase more on the subject of this priest who assisted so many people throughout his life.

A wonderful book

Good, but a little boring

Another person in our facility had asked me to order a book about this event in history. She stated that she had read "The Scarlet and the Black" once before, and wanted to read it again. However, the copy I had ordered for our library was out. So, I looked at the other choices offered by and found this book. She has read it, and stated that she has learned so much more about the setting, the people, and the events that occurred. She said that this book puts what happened into a more complete context with wider focus and understanding for her. She also said she really wants to read it again because there was so much information. This one looks like a real plus for people who like history.

Fascinating portraits of two dedicated, intelligent and sophisticated adversaries.

Excellent Book for anyone who loves History. Great insight into Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty and the Vatican in World War II. He was a hero who saved a lot of people from the Nazi's. The story is 100% true. A great read!!

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