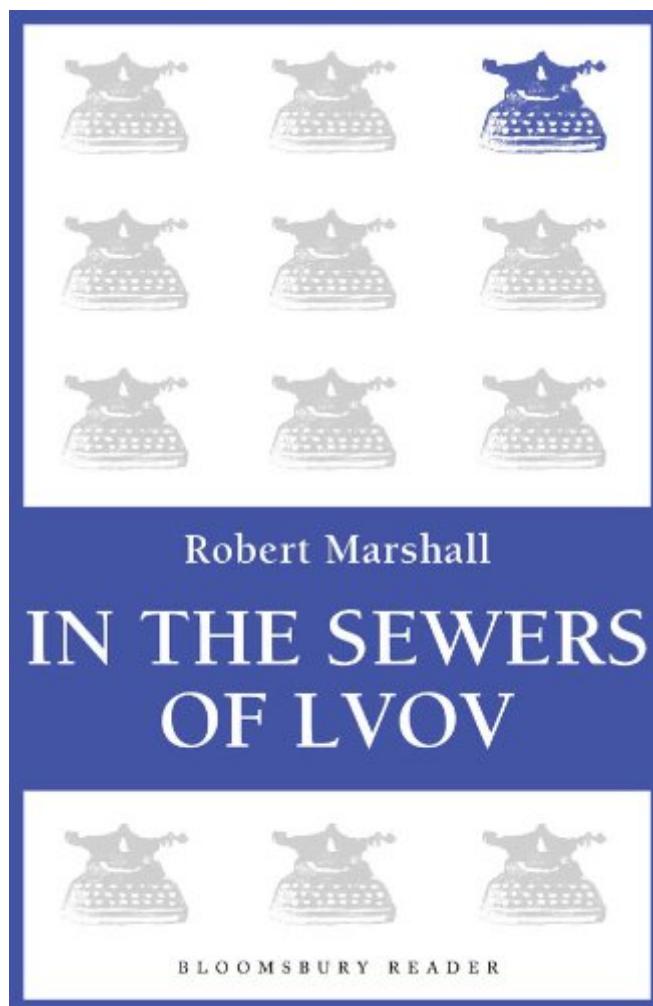


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In The Sewers Of Lvov (Bloomsbury Reader)



Synopsis

It was the last refuge of the desperate Jews-the warren of sewers underneath their city. Above, the Nazis implemented the destruction of their friends and relatives in a final Aktion against the ghetto in the Polish city of Lvov. A small band of Jews, however, escaped into the grim network of tunnels, there to live for fourteen months with the city's waste, the sudden floods that washed some of them away, the fumes and the damp, the rats, the darkness, and the despair. Their only support was a sewer worker, an ex-criminal who constantly threatened to leave them if they ran out of money. Many died; some of cyanide in mass suicide, some of falling into the rushing waters of the river, some simply of exhaustion. A baby was born and then murdered almost immediately. The group quarrelled, split into factions and threatened each other at gun point. The survivors found themselves at one point, trapped in a chamber filling to the roof with storm water. Yet survive they did, even infiltrating themselves into the camps above to find their missing relatives. When the Russians liberated Lvov, they emerged from the sewers filthy, bent double, emaciated, unrecognizable. When they opened their eyes their eye seemed blood red. Robert Marshall, author of All the King's Men, has written the harrowing story of the survivor's ordeal based on a long series of interviews and a hitherto private diary, creating a blazing testimony to human faith and endurance. In the Sewers of Lvov was the inspiration for Academy Award nominated In Darkness.

Book Information

File Size: 1182 KB

Print Length: 258 pages

Publisher: Bloomsbury Reader; 1 edition (August 31, 2012)

Publication Date: August 31, 2012

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B0091DC6XQ

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #71,321 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #75

inÃ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > World > Jewish > Holocaust #167 inÃ Books > History > World > Jewish > Holocaust #260 inÃ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Military > World War II

Customer Reviews

Very much enjoyed this book. It is well researched, drawing from interviews of several of the survivors. It is the story of a small group of people who managed to survive the liquidation of the Lvov ghetto by hiding in the sewers for 18 months. Aided by a polish sewer worker and true hero, Leopoldo Socha, the book deals with the delicate balance of mans worst and best inpm pulses. While the accounts of the survivors, did not always agree when interviewed years later, the author takes great pains to arrive at an ultimate truth. It is the story of courage in the face of horrific circumstances and is deeply moving. I have read a great deal about the camps, but did not know as much about the ghettos and the actions the Nazis took there. I had heard and been taught mostly about Warsaw, but knew nothing about Lvov. This is an important bit of history, and shouldn't be missed by anyone who has an interest in the Holocaust. There was a movie made, in Polish called "In Darkness" which I had heard of, but wanted to read the book first, so that I could get a more accurate accounting. The movie actually honored the truth of the book to a surprising degree and is well worth seeing. There is also another book called The Girl In the Green Sweater by the young girl who survived the atrocities in this story. At some point, I intend to read this as well, as I think the the first person perspective of a child in such extreme circumstances would make for a very interesting read. In fact this was probably one of the most haunting aspects of this book. As the mother myself, imagining young children in these circumstances was almost impossible for me to conceive. Their courage, luck and ultimate survival is amazingly inspirational in the face of seemingly hopeless odds. So has humanity is equally inspiring. It's ironic that a story so horrific can leave one uplifted, but this one did just that for me.

An extremely gripping story. Fast paced and easy reading, although a difficult subject. Well worth taking them time to read.

Having recently seen the movie "In Darkness" and noting that it was based on 2 books, I purchased both, namely "The Girl in the Green Sweater" and this book. Reading these books makes one realise how fortunate one was to be born at the end of 1945 and never to have experienced the horror and fear that these people experienced. These are stories that everyone needs to hear/read

about as they not only tell of the people in the sewers spirit of survival and endurance but also the courage and risk that others took to help and save them.

This a fascinating story of the ends that ordinary people will go to in order to survive their the Nazi's aim of there destruction. I don't think it is possible to understand how human beings can survive under the circumstances that the subjects of this true-life story. It also shows that there were indeed righteous people among the non-Jewish Poles who willingly risked their lives to save Jewish strangers. The book is suspenseful and fast paced.

This was an amazing book about survival in WWII. This is not your average survivor's account of WWII. If you are looking for a WWII story that is not about Auschwitz then this is the book for you.

This is an account of life that we do not hear about as much as the concentration camps. It shows that there are good people helping those who would be killed if found. It shows what people did to survive and live throught the war. It is fascinating and uplifting.

very interesting first hand account of the historical events

The people who want to deny the Holocaust ought to read this book. I was impressed with the amount of suffering those Jews were willing to endure for freedom and safety for their children. It is an example of how very important it is to defend liberty and a democratic way of life.

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