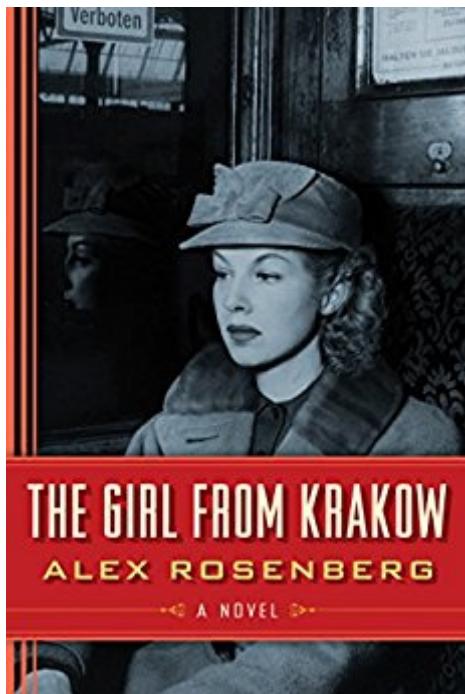


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The Girl From Krakow: A Novel



Synopsis

It's 1935. Rita Feuerstahl comes to the university in Krakow intent on enjoying her freedom. But life has other things in store - marriage, a love affair, a child, all in the shadows of the oncoming war. When the war arrives, Rita is armed with a secret so enormous that it could cost the Allies everything, even as it gives her the will to live. She must find a way both to keep her secret and to survive amid the chaos of Europe at war. Living by her wits among the Germans as their conquests turn to defeat, she seeks a way to prevent the inevitable doom of Nazism from making her one of its last victims. Can her passion and resolve outlast the most powerful evil that Europe has ever seen? In an epic saga that spans from Paris in the '30s and Spain's Civil War to Moscow, Warsaw, and the heart of Nazi Germany, *The Girl from Krakow* follows one woman's battle for survival as entire nations are torn apart, never to be the same.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

So I just finished reading, "The Girl From Krakow". I approached it with some apprehension as the reviews seemed mixed. I must say though that having finished the book now, I liked it very much.

The book is about the complexity of life and is set in Europe and Russia prior to and during World War II. Although the main character is Jewish, the story is more about how the war changed everyone, displaced them from their homes, and forced people to make sacrifices and compromises in order to survive. After the war, no one seemed untouched, and all the characters seemed guilty with respect to some choice they made. I often read these historical fiction books because I see in them so much relevance to today. I pray for the fortitude to make my own best decisions in the years to come. Jennifer

I read this book as part of Kindle First. While the book was engaging enough, I must admit I only made it through to find out if there was any redemption. Sadly, though there is a bit, it rings as hollow as the characters in this book. I read a lot of historical and WWII fiction, and the book is compared to Sarah's Key or All the Light in the description. There is no comparison. While those books have deep character development, engaging storylines, and the little bit of beauty a good work of fiction needs, this just doesn't. I appreciate historical details (for example, I love Michener), but not a recitation of them. The bones/ outline could have worked, as I liked how the author connected all the threads at the end. However, the execution was very, very lacking. Everything becomes rushed at the end in order to tidy up the plot. Overall, this book felt empty--unless you are looking for lectures on nihilism or atheistic philosophy. There are plenty of those built into the story. I suppose in the end the main character's world without truth, beauty, meaning or soul results in a book without the same. Skip it.

What a riveting book. I could not put it down. And a very surprising ending too. I love history, and for whatever reason, the history of WWII in Europe holds a special interest to me. While this is fiction, the background events are real. I was in Warsaw last Summer and saw the remembrance of the Warsaw Uprising. It is truly a moving experience. That is part of the story told by Mr. Rosenberg. A great sequel to this work of fiction is Anne Applebaum's non-fiction work, "The Iron Curtain: the crushing of Eastern Europe".

This was a wonderful read. It covers the Polish and Czech involvement before, during and after the second world war. The story is well plotted, the people likable despite their flaws, and the ending is - Flawless. This is a book that will add to your knowledge of the human cost of WWII and the resilience of the human soul. That said, I went to look over other reviews and see that this was loved or hated by most readers. There are a couple of intense sexual scenes that have offended some. I

found them easily skipped and/or poignant. And the ending - in my opinion, Rita was deep enough, honest enough, self-aware enough to make exactly the decision that ends this excellent book. Her love of Stefan was greater than her love for him. A well researched, well done novel about areas of Europe not usually covered when one thinks of the holocaust. Thank you, Alex Rosenberg, for broadening our view of a world at war to include Poland.

I couldn't stop reading this story. A true account of the horrible & ghastly account of man's inhumanity to mankind! Many times it brought tears and anguish to this reader, I had to read on. The courage and guile displayed by many of the helpless captives to just stay alive, left me holding my breath! I felt very strong about the reality of this story, because as a black man and having witnessed many racist behaviors as a young man in the 1950's, I personally know these behaviors can exist! This is not for the faint hearted reader! Lots of geographical and historical information. But a wonderful and compassionate takeaway to this story, in light of all the savagery and brutality involved! A must read for historical buffs. Calvin ray

A story of perseverance, love, and what a person can survive in the face of unimaginable circumstances. The historical details were more than just a backdrop. They really were the story. The girl from Krakow was just our guide.

This story in this novel takes place in eastern Europe just before and during WWII. It describes the extreme difficulties in living in a war zone before, during, and even after the war is over. One main character is Margarita Trushenko, a Jew who lived in Poland. She bounced around from place to place in the eastern Europe, trying to survive. She had to change her name a couple of times, using Rita and other last names. She had to split up with her not-too-loving husband Urs, and was forced to send her pre-school child alone to her parents. She was on the Russian side of the war and had Stalin to deal with there. Urs changed his name as well and became a medical person on the frontline of the battle. The book is highly detailed and jumps back and forth between characters and time, which I usually find disturbing and sometime hard to follow. In this case however, the stunning story of how awful and frightening WWII was kept me reading. Watching the news on the war(s) going on in the Middle East these days, with the destruction of cities and the loads of refugees, brings home the fact that such disasters and their causing of human suffering are still with us.

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