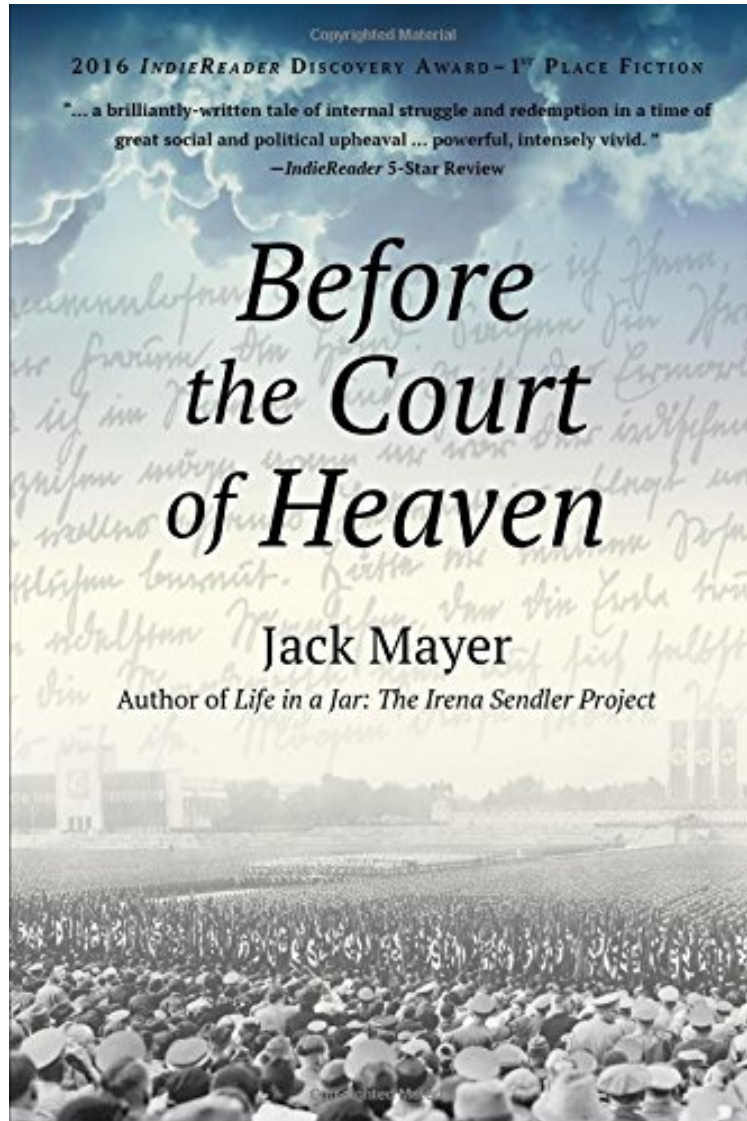


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## Before the Court of Heaven

Jack Mayer

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#350694 in Books Jack Mayer 2015-10-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.02 x 1.18 x 5.98l, 1.68 #File Name: 0984111344530 pagesBefore the Court of Heaven | File size: 32.Mb

**Jack Mayer : Before the Court of Heaven** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Before the Court of Heaven:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Everyone enjoyed it more than we expectedBy RRHI recently read this book with a men's book group. Everyone enjoyed it more than we expected. The book starts out with a murder and a trial, all very historical in the Weimar Republic and then transforms into more of a novel with adventure, a love story, suspense and wonderful character development. Ernst was complex but I particularly enjoyed the character Puck, a counterfeiter extraordinaire. The rise of Nazi Germany, the French Resistance and the Jewish persecution all

added historical relevance. One of the best books we have read in 3 years together. Jon H2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. I really loved Puck. The way a simple violent act can ...By Myrna HammerlingMy deepest compliments go to Jack Mayer. I haven't finished a 500 page book so rapidly in a long time. The intertwining of Jack's imagination and history was seamless. I really loved Puck. The way a simple violent act can have the chaotic results in a chaotic time, with terrible unexpected consequences. It ties in with the kinds of group hatred generalizations we hear today so shamelessly.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A moving and timely book!By Cathy BBefore the Court of Heaven will stay with me for a long while; it is truly food for thought, and very relevant to the issues we face today as our democracy is challenged by those who fear the integration of the many races, ethnicities, religions and philosophies which make our country strong and progressive. I was very impressed by the author's attention to detail, which made the history and the fiction feel so authentic; but I was also wowed by the beautiful descriptions and prose. This book is not black and white, and gives us a sense of how good people can do evil, and evil people can also do good. Read this book slowly and thoughtfully; you will learn something about history, and something about yourself!

Historical Fiction based on a true story of Weimar Germany and the rise of the Third Reich. Winner of 13 book awards.2017 Independent Press Award - Winner - Historical Fiction

"This is a brilliantly-written tale of internal struggle and redemption in a time of great social and political upheaval. The author does a chillingly good job of illustrating just how seductive the nationalist message was in a beaten and humiliated Germany, how it used and twisted values like patriotism, loyalty and honor to win over people who otherwise might have lived out their lives as ordinary, decent, humane people. Before the Court of Heaven is a powerful, intensely vivid look at Europe between the World Wars, and one man's attempt to make sense of his life, his deeds, and their meaning, to himself and to others." - IndieReader 5-star "Jack Mayer has written a strong, affecting novel that offers an arresting portrait of a deeply troubled time. His evocations of Ernst Werner Techow and other historical figures are beautifully and thoughtfully rendered. He has a remarkable grasp of period details, and he used these details to create an atmosphere of dense particularity and clarity. This is a story of immense human failure and touching redemption, and it stands among the finer recent portrayals in fiction of the most troubling era of modern history. Mayer's novel should have a widely sympathetic readership. I recommend Before the Court of Heaven wholeheartedly." - Jay Parini"Haunting echoes of Boris Pasternak's Doctor Zhivago and Irwin Shaw's The Young Lions waft through this excellent novel of the turbulent times encompassing Europe and the far reaches of the globe between World Wars I and II. Similar to those groundbreaking tales, Mayer's story is most concerned with lives rent asunder by historically catastrophic events... By keeping his focus on a small set of human beings caught up in the upheaval of entire populations, he is able to weave a narrative that is as poignant as it is riveting. The author does a superb job of pulling readers into Ernst's hopes and fears as he grapples with familial obligations, divided loyalties, and trials by fire and by courts both earthly and heavenly... Mayer's sweeping saga is simultaneously a compelling chronicle of history, a gripping tale of high adventure, and an enthralling love story in the classic tradition." - Recommended by the US of Books"A fully engaging read from beginning to end, Before the Court of Heaven is a deftly crafted novel that showcases author Jack Mayer's truly impressive storytelling talents as a novelist. A terrifically entertaining read that is enhanced with close attention to historical detail, Before the Court of Heaven is very highly recommended." - Midwest Book er's Bookwatch, February 2016"...a compelling work ... This is an excellent work of historical fiction, one that nevertheless provides the reader with an important and accurate lens into the past." - Francis Nicosia, Raul Hilberg Distinguished Professor of Holocaust Studies, University of Vermont"Period details come to life . . . Techow is the fascinating central figure whose story is deftly embellished. Before the Court of Heaven displays a remarkable talent for imagining the unknowable parts of Techow's psyche. It's a distinctive story poised between the drama of a Damascene conversion and a quieter, steadier about-face. Violence and atonement meld with affecting results." - 5-Star Clarion "Before the Court of Heaven is enthralling historical fiction based on the true story and subsequent legends of Ernst Techow ... The novel is gripping from the very first line. This is an immersive, exciting, and often heart-breaking story." - BlueInk (Starred )On June 24, 1922, the terrorist Ernst Werner Techow murdered Walter Rathenau, the Jewish Foreign Minister of the Weimar Republic. Eleven years later, Hitler was sworn in as Chancellor. Before the Court of Heaven is a powerful chronicle of those fateful eleven years. But its much more, and you may choke when reading the (authentic) letter written by Rathenaus mother to Techows mother . . . Repentance, forgiveness, atonement, redemption. The Talmud said it best: To save one life was to save the universe. . . . A luminous book. Ray Ortali , Emeritus Professor of French, University at Albany and Publisher, We Love Books Company eMagazineBefore the Court of Heaven is an engrossing novel that compels you to keep reading . . . Mayers impressive skill as a writer allows him to seamlessly weave an engrossing, fictional account of one mans journey into a well-researched and nuanced portrayal of life in Weimar Germany and Nazi occupied Europe. Far beyond a simple page-turner, however, the book is also an impressive rendering of the historical realities of a dark era and the real uncertainties of the people living through it. Rebecca Ayako Bennette, Director of Jewish Studies and Associate

Professor of History (German), Middlebury College Before the Court of Heaven is a remarkable feat of historical and moral imagination: it is a captivating historical novel of life in Weimar Germany the brief period when Germany, . . . enjoyed a fragile democracy and during Germany's collapse into fascism and World War Two. The novel goes personal: seeking to answer the question that has occupied historians and thinkers since the rise and fall of Nazism: when and how does political disaffection and resentment lead to violent radicalism. Mayer has created a spellbinding historical novel and a moral tale of enduring profundity." Robert S. Schine, Curt C. and Else Silberman Professor of Jewish Studies, Middlebury College Jack Mayer's powerful historical novel provides a vivid portrait of a decaying democracy and the choices individuals must make in that context and their inevitable unintended consequences. Mayer's masterful command of the historical details of Weimar Germany's collapse and his thoughtful rendering of the book's central characters make this a rewarding and compelling read. The journey of the novel's protagonist . . . reveals the capacity for evil and good that can exist in one human being, as well as his or her potential for redemption. While set in another place and time, Before the Court of Heaven prompts reflection on contemporary moral challenges. Not to be missed. - Allison Stanger, Leng Professor of International Politics and Economics, Middlebury College Jack Mayer has hit his stride as a sophisticated and convincing writer of historical fiction. His writing is vivid in the description of people and places and the . . . violent upheavals in Germany that constitute the political landscape of this novel." Marjorie Lamberti, Charles A. Dana Professor Emerita of History, Middlebury College". . . a captivating read. . . Mayer's novel takes its readers through the most tumultuous and painful decades of German history as its tormented protagonist develops. . . At times supporting basso continuo, at times gripping counter-point, Techow's tragic love story with his childhood friend Lisa provides an additional layer of humanity that recommends the novel to the silver screen. Mayer's characters and their stories, . . . make the early 20th century come alive, and they stay with you long after you have finished their story. Bettina Matthias, Professor of German, Middlebury College From the Author BEFORE THE COURT OF HEAVEN is a cautionary tale for our time. How a democracy can become a dictatorship, how ordinary people can become complicit in extraordinary crimes.