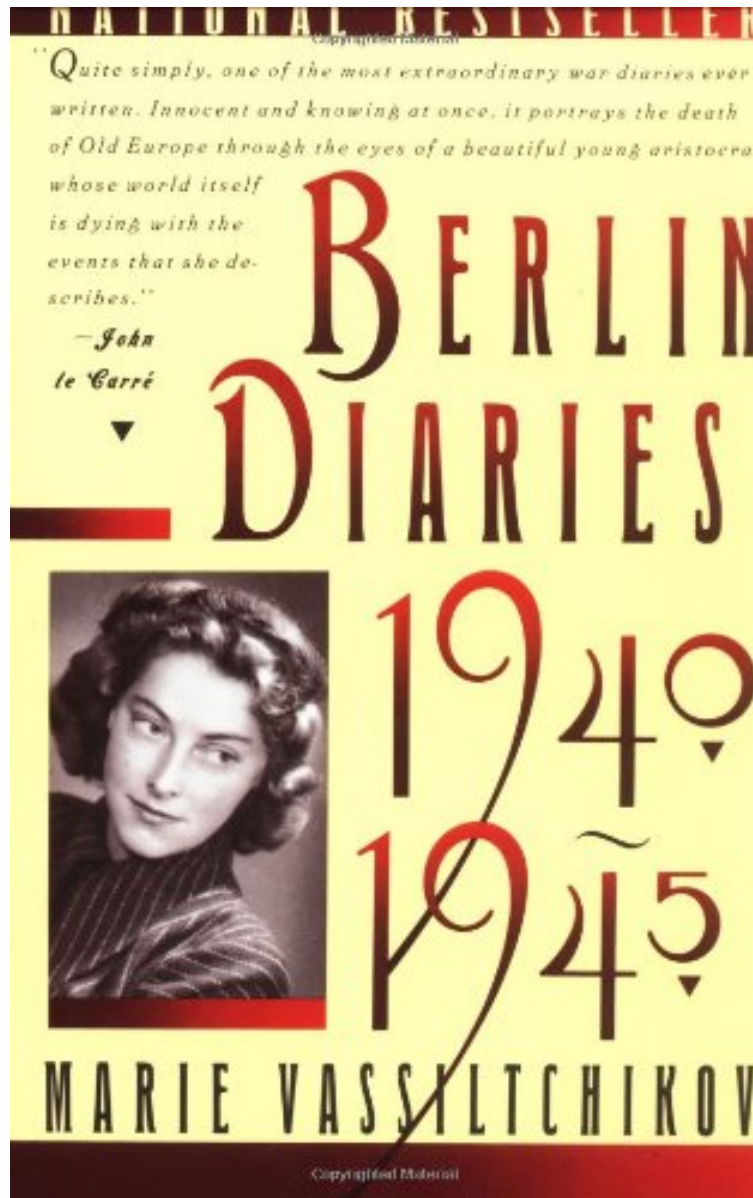


Berlin Diaries, 1940-1945

Marie Vassiltchikov

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#245522 in Books Marie Vassiltchikov 1988-06-12 1988-06-12Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x .80 x 5.20l, .74 #File Name: 0394757777368 pagesBerlin Diaries 1940 1945 | File size: 73.Mb

Marie Vassiltchikov : Berlin Diaries, 1940-1945 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Berlin Diaries, 1940-1945:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Excellent insights into life in Germany during World War IIBy Richard Niell DonovanI like to read of books about World War II, because it was the biggest story during my lifetime.

I have read many books, and this is one of the most insightful. Marie Vasilchikov came from a privileged family and lived through WWII as an employee of the German government and a friend of influential people. She and many of her friends took part in a covert anti-Nazi effort, including the July 20, 1944 effort to assassinate Hitler. In this book, she gives an intimate day-by-day account of life in Berlin (and other places as well) during the war. I was surprised to learn how early the German people started experiencing shortages of food and other essentials as a result of the war. I was also surprised to see how significantly the British and American bombing impacted the lives of the German people so very early in the war. This is clearly one of the best books I have read about WWII--and I have read many.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Good history that's a page turnerBy GopalI bought this book for a course I'm taking and as I began reading I found it a little boring. However the diary gradually builds a head of steam as the Allied bombings begin, the Valkerie plot is exposed and finally the Russians advance on Germany with Berlin as their main objective. Missie must make her escape but what about her sense of duty towards friends and family, many missing? What about all her comrades swept up in Hitler's mad revenge against the Valkerie conspirators, both those who participated and those who didn't but were named anyway? And how does she and the rest Berlin adjust to a dysfunctional and quickly derailing system who face the obliteration of their treasured cities and homes foisted upon them by a lunatic leader who refuses to surrender?Missie emerges as an intelligent and keen observer who is able to describe the madness descending on Germany with a dispassion and a lack of self-pity.I was surprised by the shortage of food she had to deal with having been under the impression the standard of living remained fairly high in Germany during the war. I also found the descriptions of the effect of the relentless bombing on her and the populace to be a real education. I was unaware of how bad it was. Surely most of the survivors suffer from PTSD.I remember studying the bombed out skyline of Heidelberg when I was in post-war Germany. Now I understand what it took to create that skyline.I was to learn the attempted assassination of Hitler was largely unpopular in GermanyI was impressed with how the public servants kept at their duty of repairing the infrastructure, the communications, rail lines, roadways, etc in the face of what had to be almost impossible obstacles.The relative unpopularity of the war among the populace intrigued me. I was unclear about that and the size of the Valkerie plot supports Missie's claims about the anti-Nazi attitude of many. Hitler executed 10,000 people for their participation although I suspect many were marginal figures if not innocent. I appreciate Missie's integrity, optimism, strength of character and unusual intelligence that seems to somehow rise above her circumstances. She does not appear to have descended into bitterness or cynicism and has brought the wartime experience of the common man in Germany to life for me in a way no scholarly textbook could. I treasure what we have in the US more than ever.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. I grew up in BerlinBy Elizabeth PearsonI really enjoyed the book. I grew up in Berlin during the war, I was 10 to 12 yrs. old.I had to put the book down for a couple of days once in awhile, it affected me quite a bit, since I lived there. We didn't have contact with the Aristocrats. However it is a very good book, I would recommend it highly. My Mom and I stayed in the Zoo Bunker many a time, which was built across the Zoo Train Station. Our Apartment Building also got bombed, while we were taking shelter in the Basement.Elizabeth RodriguezLiz9123@aol.com

The secret diaries of a twenty-three-year-old White Russian princess who worked in the German Foreign Office from 1940 to 1944 and then as a nurse, these pages give us a unique picture of wartime life in that sector of German society from which the 20th of July Plot -- the conspiracy to kill Hitler -- was born.

From Publishers WeeklyVassiltchikov, who died in 1978, kept a diary of her work at the German Foreign Ministry and with the underground resistance movement during WW II. "A remarkable document alive with history, passion and truth," praised PW, "her clear-eyed account of life in wartime Germany is gripping." Photos. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. "A skillful weaving of history, memoir, and autobiography...full of colorful characters...When she began writing in 1940, Missie, as she was called, was...concerned mainly with beaux and parties....By 1945 she has no more illusions. She has foraged for food....She has smelled the decaying flesh of corpses buried in the bombed ruins of Berlin and Vienna and lost some of her best friends." -- Washington Post Book World"Neither a set of reflections nor a philippic, but a record ...The best eyewitness account we possess of the bombing of Berlin."-- Gordon A. Craig, The New York Times Book "A rare opportunity to see the Second World War from an unusual perspective: the view from Berlin and Vienna, not Washington or London. [The author] has a sharp eye and a witty tongue." -- Cleveland Plain Dealer"A vivid insider's view of Nazi Germany." -- Vanity Fair"One of the most remarkable documents to come out of the war, and nothing will ever quite match its calm and grace in utterly hideous circumstances."-- John Kenneth GalbraithFrom the Inside FlapThe secret diaries of a twenty-three-year-old White Russian princess who worked in the German Foreign Office from 1940 to 1944 and then as a nurse, these pages give us a unique picture of wartime life in that sector of German society from which the 20th of July Plot -- the conspiracy to kill Hitler -- was born.