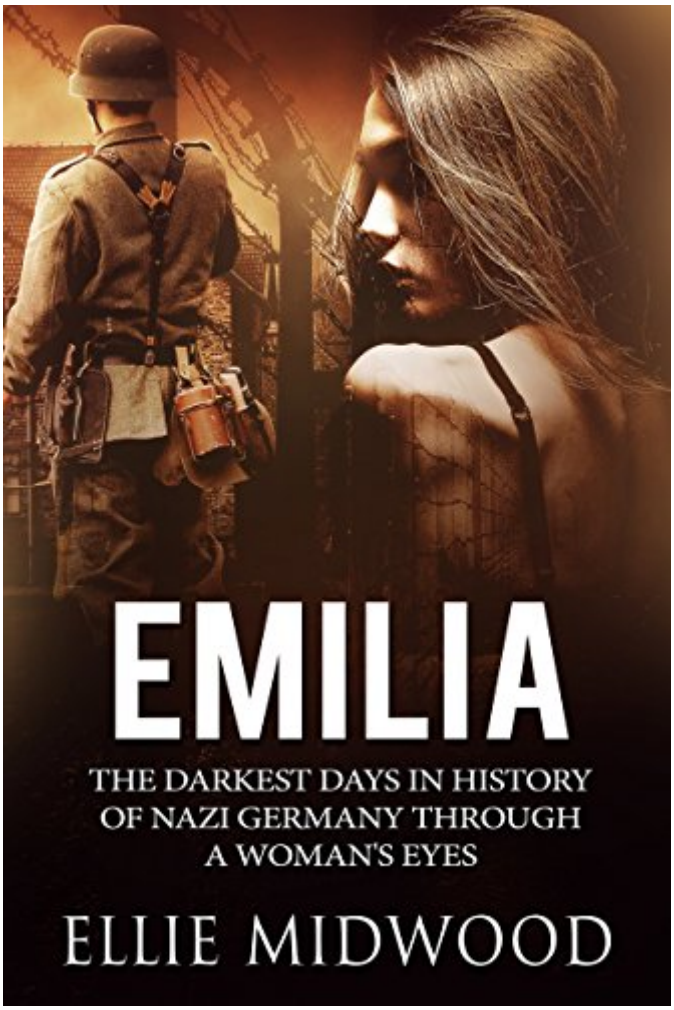
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Emilia: The Darkest Days In History Of Nazi Germany Through A Woman's Eyes



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Synopsis

Silver Medal Winner of the International Book Award contest Readers' Favorite in the Historical Fiction category (2017)This story is dedicated to all the victims of sexual slavery in German concentration camps, who had to endure inhumane suffering under the Nazi regime.For many years after the atrocities had been committed, both sides Ã¢â ¬â œ the abusers and the abused Ã¢â ¬â œ still vehemently denied certain aspects of the Holocaust, and even the victims refused to admit the ugly truth about their incarceration, some out of fear, some out of shame, until several women decided to break an unofficial oath of silence, and brought their stories to life. This book is based on one of those stories. Emilia is a young Jewish woman, whose life slowly turns into a nightmare as she finds herself facing a dreadful choice: to secure her familyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s very existence by offering herself to one of the men who had put her behind the walls with barbed wire, or perish together with the least fortunate ones. Only, the Krakow ghetto and her very first abuser pale in comparison to what is yet to come, as sheÃ¢â ¬â„¢s being sent to a place that soon will turn into her own personal hell and that will scar her for lifeÃ¢â ¬Â¦

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Customer Reviews

We would all desperately want to say of Ellie MidwoodÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s novel ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“EmiliaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• that it was dystopian. There is terror, horror, humiliation, the struggle to surviveÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â¦as in ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“The RoadÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• or ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“The HandmaidÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s Tale.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• But, disturbing as those classics are, at least they are imagined. We can awake from them, like from a terrible nightmare. But we canÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t, just as Emilia Brettenheimer cannot. Because the undeniable truth is that in the suburbs of Danzig, Poland, in May of 1941, the Nazis had already begun the long process of exterminating the Jewish people when we meet Emilia, a teenager, and her family. And we wince, fearing with them, what is to come. The story of survival in the Concentration Camps has been told, but Ellie Midwood has given us a window into it from the perspective of a young girl, who must struggle against convention and conscience in the choice between life and death. It isnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t long before we are alongside Emilia, wondering as we turn each page where her story will take her and us. We witness her transformation from child to woman. And soon we are understanding something of what it would take to survive and wondering too if we had the stuff to manage it. I am not sure that a documentary account of such an experience can fully reveal the sense of a human being confronted with such inhumanity in a world without hope or relief. It is one thing to hear of it; quite another to feel each hour of it. It is a testament to great skill that the author managed to so compelling and realistically capture in words what she could only know from others and do so with such precision and authenticity. It is not possible to read ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“EmiliaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• and not be moved. For all the horrors of those times and circumstances, this is a story of remarkable courage: a celebration of the resilience of the indomitable human spirit. The reader will come away chastened but uplifted, and very glad of the experience.

Ellie Midwood has once again written another important piece of historical fiction, transporting readers back to the dark days of Nazi Germany. Emila follows, in quick but heart-wrenching fashion, the distressing, sometimes unimaginable experiences of a young Jewish woman caught up in a storm of violence and war she does not understand and cannot control. We watch her grow and mature before our very eyes, the war between hopelessness and survival fronting her at every turn. We feel her losses, her sufferings, the pains and the abuses. Some things are her choice while most things are not. The author does a masterful job of painting a vivid enough picture of the exploitation without getting overtly graphic. There are no pithy sentiments to follow each incident, just a constant

struggle to stay focused on survival. Incidents happen quickly. The reader turns the page, and like Emila, moves onto the next destination, hardly having had time to have recover from the last situation. While the emotions of the story are weighty, leaving scars, the reading is not. It is a tale you can read quickly but never forget, the words leaving a profound impression on your spirit and heart. I highly recommend this book. There are simply some lessons in history we should never forget and Ellie Midwood is making a remarkable career out of reminding us of this history.

This book is emotional and jarring! Maybe Ellie’s most moving story yet!Told from the perspective of a Jewish woman named Emilia, her and her family are caught in the nightmarish path of the Nazi regime. To protect her family, she submits to a dreadful fate.Enduring sexual abuse and horrific violence, she holds nothing back as she tells her story. Her story is one of many, people on both sides (tormentors and victims) changing the course of history, and devastating so many lives.There were times when I had to set the book and just take it all in. And I love when a book makes me feel so affected.This story was heartbreaking for me, but I felt empowered by Emilia. She is tough and resilient, her love for her family as strong as her will.As usual, Ellie’s ability to make her characters feel so real was my favorite part of this book. I felt like I was inside the story, and at times, I didn’t want to be because it was traumatizing.Big props to the author for holding nothing back and spinning a well researched tale that left its mark on me. It’s dark and it’s gritty, and it’s a story you will NEVER forget. Emilia will stick with me for a long time.Fans of historical fiction - if you aren’t reading Ellie Midwood’s books yet, you MUST check them out! Emilia is fantastic, and I also love Ellie’s Girl from Berlin and The Austrian books.

4.5 stars. Story telling at its best is when a difficult and harrowing tale is actually easy to read. Emilia is one such story. I wasn’t sure if I would be able to cope with it when I started, but Ellie Midwood draws the reader in quickly and Emilia’s character is one we can easily empathise with. Ms Millwood’s writing has an uncomplicated narrative style and she doesn’t dwell too long over the acts of extreme violence that take place. It is realistic without being horrific and the fear that runs through the novel is palpable without being unbearable. The real power of this book is the acknowlegement that not all the Germans were Nazis and not all those imprisoned in the camps were innocent victims; its message too is that forgiveness has greater healing powers than revenge. My only reason for the 4.5 stars was the ending, which I confess I found a bit rushed, but others may not agree and that’s just my opinion. Otherwise, it’s a really great read!

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