

Early Amazon customer reviews

Why did the nation follow the Nazis?

....."a cause that gave her life meaning." These seven words capture the essence of this unique novel about the 'unofficial' First Lady of Nazi Germany, Magda Goebbels, wife of Josef Goebbels, Adolph Hitler's Minister of Propaganda. Author Byron Williams skillfully uses the game of solitaire and a deck of cards as a vehicle to characterize how a "normal" German could have been taken into the Nazi movement. The story, set in the Fuhrerbunker in Berlin the final days of World War 2, uses flashbacks of Magda's past to bring the reader up to the tense final hours in Hitler's bunker. The story is told so credibility that the reader feels it's not a novel but true history...

I recommend "Solitaire" to anyone has wondered 'how did the Nazis convince the German people to follow them into a world war?' Byron Williams takes us on that journey.

Reads like a spy Thriller

I've read quite a few books and articles about Magda Goebbels, and have been interested in particular in her love affair with the Zionist leader Haim Arlosoroff who was assassinated in the 1930'd in Tel Aviv (From time to time there are reports in the Israeli press suggesting that Goebbels may have been behind the assassination). Williams integrated even that mysterious chapter in Magda Goebbels's life in his fascinating narrative about her and her times which reads like a cross between a spy thriller and a romance novel and which could be a great basis for a miniseries on HBO or Netflix. It has all the ingredients. Highly recommended!

Great Read!

Through the creative use of playing cards, Byron Williams' well-researched novella took me on a retrospective journey of the life of Magda Goebbels. How could someone grow up Jewish to become the female face of Nazi Germany who ultimately killed her six children? Though it is "fiction" Williams demonstrates that once again truth is stranger!

Thoroughly enjoyed this book!

This timely novella shows us how not everyone simply gets swept into mass movements ... some angle to be in the vanguard. "Solitaire" is an historically accurate, fast paced, and entertaining character study. The book uses a unique story telling device to allow a solitary Magda Goebbels to reflect on the choices which brought her (and her children) to their end. Highly recommended.

Bedtime Children!

Truman Capote wrote "In Cold Blood" as a non-fiction novel, to capture the banality of evil of the killer. Byron Williams achieves a similar effect in Solitaire to document Magda Goebbels icy detachment from murdering her six children and her own imminent suicide in the Fuhrerbunker April 1945. The enormity of Magda's maternal betrayal could never be adequately plumbed in a history book !

Aces!

"I loved it! The artifice of the deck of cards was perfect. I can absolutely see this as a Netflix original. I loved that so much history was included in Williams' writing, yet it never got bogged down. Pitch perfect!