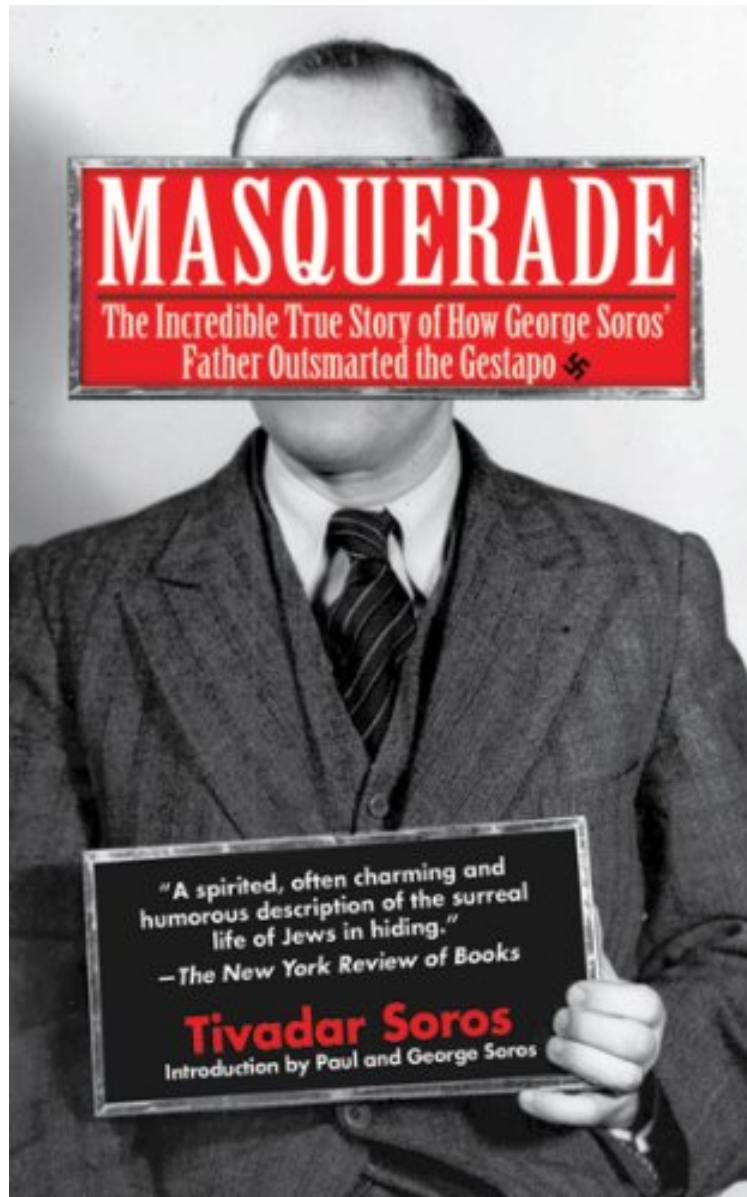


Masquerade: The Incredible True Story of How George Soros' Father Outsmarted the Gestapo

Tivadar Soros

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Tivadar Soros : Masquerade: The Incredible True Story of How George Soros' Father Outsmarted the Gestapo

before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Masquerade: The Incredible True Story of How George Soros' Father Outsmarted the Gestapo*:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not quite the historical detail I was hoping for but ...By Les Kutas
Not quite the historical detail I was hoping for but still an interesting read providing insight into a philosophy of life as shaped by an overwhelming desire to survive. Gives you a glimpse of how the younger Mr. Soros life must have been shaped.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. What a terrible experience for Tivadar Soros and so many Jewish people
By Don Gnuse
I am half way through reading this book. What a terrible experience for Tivadar Soros and so many Jewish people.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Easy read.
By Customer
A drawing in is very easy for those of us born in the 1960's. One generation removed from the 2nd world war.

The Nazis came late to Hungary because, until early 1944, Germany and Hungary were allies. But when they did arrive, their orders were to put the Final Solution into effect with deliberate speed. Soros, a Jewish lawyer in Budapest, secured fake Christian identities for himself, his wife, and his two sons following the German invasion of Hungary on March 19, 1944. In a narrative reminiscent of the great Primo Levi, Soros recounts his experiences with a beguiling humor, deep humanity, and a wisdom that is humbling. Superbly translated by Humphrey Tonkin, *Masquerade* is a unique account of how one man managed not only to survive but to retain his integrity, compassion, family unity, and humor by dancing around death. Like Klemperer's *Diary of the Nazi Years*, this very personal, low-key testament of the Holocaust is a gripping depiction of normal daily life under the Nazi yoke told by a man who triumphed by leading an ordinary life under extraordinary and terrifying circumstances.

From Publishers Weekly
A hopeful book about the Holocaust is a rare find. Billionaire financier George Soros, the author's son, is known for his optimistic, bold philanthropic support of open societies in post-Communist Eastern Europe. After reading this sober but surprisingly cheerful memoir, it's clear where George got these traits. Few Holocaust memoirs begin with statements like "Life is beautiful and full of variety and adventure. But luck must be on your side." But survival took wiles and connections as well. As life worsened for Hungarian Jews in 1944, Soros, a Budapest lawyer, managed to find false Christian papers and hiding places for his family. The Soros family struggled daily against possible discovery and death. Soros relates the fascinating details of his search for hiding places and skilled document forgers. The book's remarkable, upbeat tone predominates: even as Hungary falls to homegrown fascists and his acquaintances are killed, Soros views his travails as a game he will win. The book is a tribute to the power of the individual to maneuver through devastating, dangerous circumstances. Originally published in Esperanto in 1965 (the author died in 1986), the book was recently rediscovered by Paul Soros's daughter-in-law. Those interested in the Holocaust and in the psychology of survival will find it compelling, as will those seeking inspiration. Eight pages with photos not seen by PW. (Sept.) Forecast: Name-recognition and national TV and radio interviews will jump-start the 25,000-copy first printing, and the book's genuine appeal will sustain respectable sales. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.
From Library Journal
For European Jews, surviving the plague of Nazism that swept the continent in the first half of the 20th century became a test of resourcefulness, ingenuity, and sometimes just plain chutzpah. When the fascists took over Hungary in 1944, Soros was a Jewish lawyer with a family and friends. Under his strong guidance, his family voluntarily ceased to exist as Jews. Forging new identity papers, they adopted the guise of Christians and dispersed themselves throughout Budapest and beyond, dropping out of sight by blending into the background. With humor and wisdom, Soros tells the story of how he and his family managed to live relatively normal lives during the 11 months of fascist occupation, even while many around them were arrested and killed. This is an intelligently written narrative that is both compelling and uncomfortable, an autobiographical account that is like Anne Frank's diary but less poignant and more optimistic: the Soros family did, after all, survive. Recommended for all public and academic libraries. [Soros, father of philanthropist George Soros, fled West with his family at the time of the Hungarian revolution and lived in New York until his death in 1968. His book was originally written in Esperanto and is now appearing for the first time in English. Ed.] Michael F. Russo, Louisiana State Univ. Libs., Baton Rouge.
-Michael F. Russo, Louisiana State Univ. Libs., Baton Rouge
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From Booklist
When the Germans invaded Hungary in March 1944, Soros, a Jewish lawyer in Budapest, acquired fake identities for himself, his wife, their two sons, and his mother-in-law, and he got an architect to renovate a building in which the family could hide. The Russians liberated them in January 1945. This book is the story of how the family survived these 10 months in which more than half of Hungary's Jews perished. Soros was able to find forgers who created false documents--labor permits, military papers, identification cards with photographs, and ration cards--for his family and many of his friends. He later made arrangements to lodge his family and friends in other locations in the city and beyond. While relating his personal experiences, Soros chronicles the fate of less-fortunate Jews living in the ghetto, tormented by overcrowding, filth, and hunger, presenting a graphic account of the life and survival in Nazi-occupied Budapest and a remarkable portrait of this most resourceful man. George Cohen
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