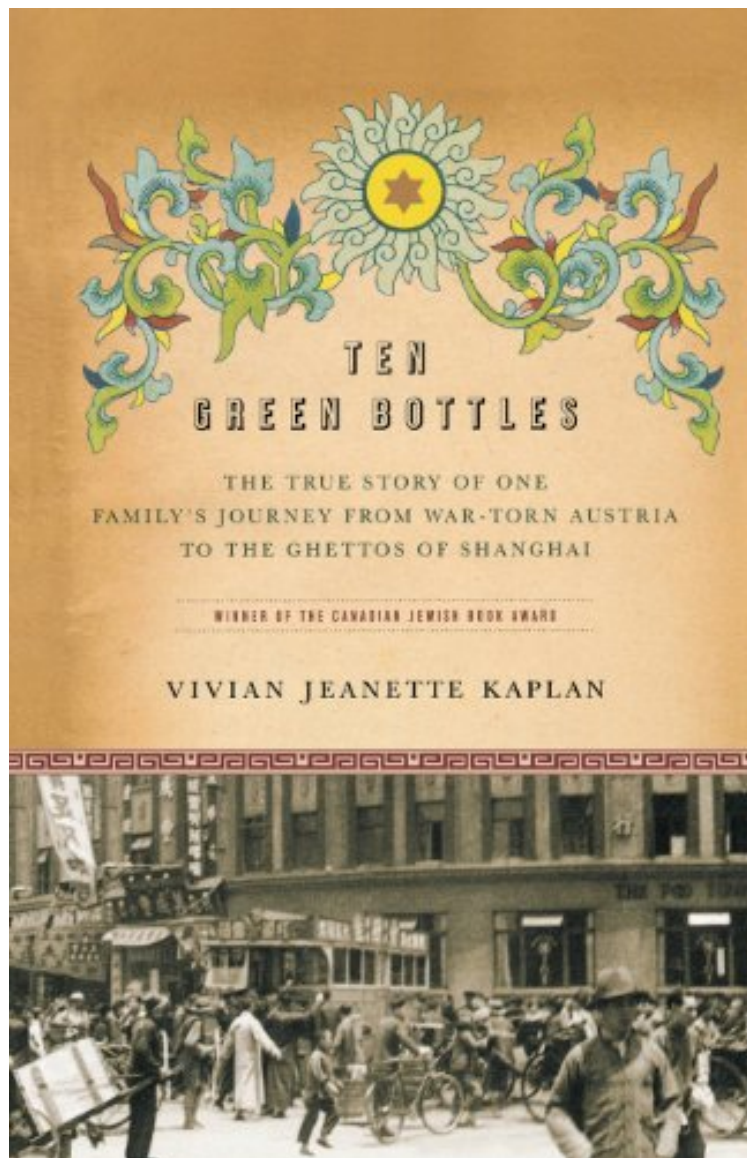


[Download] Ten Green Bottles: The True Story of One Family's Journey from War-torn Austria to the Ghettos of Shanghai

Ten Green Bottles: The True Story of One Family's Journey from War-torn Austria to the Ghettos of Shanghai

Vivian Jeanette Kaplan

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Vivian Jeanette Kaplan : Ten Green Bottles: The True Story of One Family's Journey from War-torn Austria to the Ghettos of Shanghai before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ten Green Bottles: The True Story of One Family's Journey from War-torn Austria to the Ghettos of Shanghai:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Beautifully Written, Amazing StoryBy Charlottekrn BookfairEloquently written, beautifully described, Vivian Kaplan penned the biography in honor of her family. The author describes the rise of anti-Semitism in Vienna, and the slow death knell for the Jews as one freedom after another was discarded. Ms. Kaplan relates the fear in the Jewish community and the desperation to escape. The author recounts her family's eventual departure to Shanghai, an unknown place, but the only city willing to accept Jews without restrictions. Ms. Kaplan writes of her family's struggles in Shanghai, of the Jewish community in which they lived and of the German pursuit of Jews in Japanese territory. Recommended.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A True Story of SurvivalBy R.A. GurBeing Jewish, but lucky enough to be born in the U.K. at the start of WWII, it is particularly horrifying to comprehend the stark reality of life for the upstanding Jewish community in Vienna in the thirties - especially when told in first person.Much less known about but no less shocking is the life that followed in Shanghai, even although it was literally lifesaving...Well written, easy reading of a nightmarish subject, but sometimes I personally found I could only "take" it in small "doses" at a time.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Ten Green Bottles: Purchased at .comBy depThis is the second book I have read written by some of the Jewish refugees of Shanghai. The author of this book is Vivian Kaplan, the daughter of Nini Karpel, her mother, who the story really focuses on. Nini's father died when she was very young, leaving behind her mother, baby brother, and two sisters. Life in Vienna was unremarkable for Nini and her family until the mid 1930's, when anti-Semitism became more and more of a problem. Also in the background was Germany threatening to take over Austria, which meant more persecution of the Jews. In 1938 the Anschluss was complete, with Germany taking over Austria. With all the persecution of the Jews becoming worse and worse, Nini's mother realized they could not stay in Vienna, eventually they would be sent to a concentration camp which they probably not survive. In a moment of desperation, Nini approaches a lawyer, Herr Berger, one of the few Austrian lawyers willing to help the Jews at that time. I don't want to give away the whole story, but I found this a very good book, although I had a bit of trouble getting into it. A good read about a time in history that was never fully explored until recently.

To Nini Karpel, growing up in Vienna during the 1920s was a romantic confection. Whether schussing down ski slopes or speaking of politics in coffee houses, she cherished the city of her birth. But in the 1930s an undercurrent of conflict and hate began to seize the former imperial capital. This struggle came to a head when Hitler took possession of neighboring Germany. Anti-Semitism, which Nini and her idealistic friends believed was impossible in the socially advanced world of Vienna, became widespread and virulent.The Karpel's Jewish identity suddenly made them foreigners in their own homeland. Tormented, disenfranchised, and with a broken heart, Nini and her family sought refuge in a land seven thousand miles across the world.Shanghai, China, one of the few countries accepting Jewish immigrants, became their new home and refuge. Stepping off the boat, the Karpel family found themselves in a land they could never have imagined. Shanghai presented an incongruent world of immense wealth and privilege for some and poverty for the masses, with opium dens and decadent clubs as well as rampant disease and a raging war between nations. Ten Green Bottles is the story of Nini Karpel's struggles as she told it to her daughter Vivian so many years ago. This true story depicts the fierce perseverance of one family, victims of the forces of evil, who overcame suffering of biblical proportion to survive. It was a time when ordinary people became heroes.

From Publishers WeeklyFor a brief period between 1938 and 1941, roughly 20,000 Jews found refuge from the Nazis in the one place not requiring visas, police certificates or proofs of financial independence: Shanghai. In this spellbinding memoir, Kaplan recounts her family's transition from the "delight" of Vienna to "a mysterious blob on the map, China." Writing in a fictional present tense, Kaplan narrates this evocative, moving saga in the voice of her mother, Nini. The halcyon early years of cafes and skiing end as the Nazis rise to power. Still, in 1936 when Nini meets her future husband, Poldi, a Polish refugee, she is "adamant that [persecution of Jews] could never happen here." It does. By 1939, her family will make the month-long, 7,000-mile journey to Shanghai. Amid "pervasive poverty... overpowering heat... [and] strange faces," Nini and Poldi find an anxious and precarious normality, but after Pearl Harbor, they struggle terribly. With the war's end comes the shock of learning what became of family and friends left behind in Europe. Although Vienna is rebuilt and a daughter (the author) is born, Communist troops arrive, and Nini and Poldi move again, this time to Canada. Kaplan's intimate knowledge of her parents' story makes it seem as if she experienced it herself, and her remarkable achievement will make readers feel that way, too. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistNini Karpel, her ailing mother, and her young brother left Vienna in 1939 after Germany invaded Austria, fleeing to Shanghai, China, then occupied by Japan--a month-long, 7,000-mile trip across the Pacific. Kaplan, who was born in Shanghai, has written this memoir in the first-person voice of her mother, Nini Karpel, who married Poldi Kosiner there in 1940. By listening to her mother's retelling of the events, Kaplan became familiar with the story. She describes the voyage, first impressions of the city and the ghetto of Hongkew, missing baggage that was never found, coolies working as beasts of burden, and seeing the severed heads of Chinese who were captured by their Japanese enemies. They faced disease, hunger, poverty, and fear; they enjoyed their reunion with other family members; and they were pressured by nuns to

convert to the Catholic faith. The family moved to Canada in 1949. Kaplan has written a remarkably vivid and richly detailed account of Jewish refugees struggling to stay alive. George Cohen Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved Spellbinding . . . evocative . . . remarkable achievement. China experience.....sets this book apart Publisher's Weekly Riveting . . . moving and memorable Kirkus sKaplan's prose is simply stunning . . . Kaplan's descriptions bring wartime Shanghai, its people and smells, to life . . . Although nonfiction, Ten Green Bottles reads like a novel. Kaplan captures the mood and feelings of her mother experiences as if they were her own. Canadian Jewish News Kaplan writes in the first-person voice of her mother . . . a decision that gives her book an emotional power and vivid immediacy. Maclean's Her powerful, harrowing story grips the reader. In an odyssey of horrors that takes place over a decade . . . what shines through is the family's indomitable will to survive. Ottawa Citizen