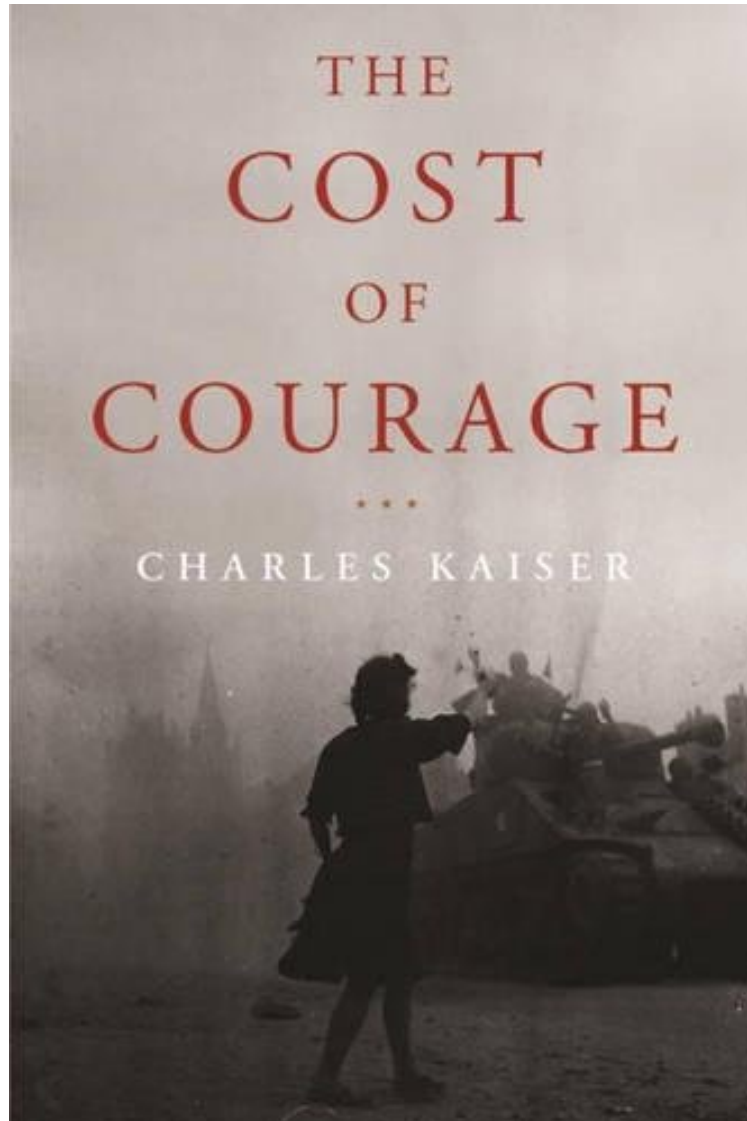


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The Cost of Courage

Charles Kaiser

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Charles Kaiser : The Cost of Courage before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Cost of Courage:

72 of 76 people found the following review helpful. WWII history at its best By Rick Whitaker The Cost of Courage does two things simultaneously: it briefly and excitingly reminds the 21-century reader of the main thrust of WWII, now more than 60 years in the past; and it vividly tells the true story of a particularly fascinating, deeply engaged French family in Paris during the War. Three of the family's siblings were Resistants, and their covert and dangerous activities during the War directly caused the most dire possible outcome not for them but for other members of their

family. The pain stemming from the War was so extreme that the surviving members of the family refused to speak about it for many years. They agreed to tell the whole story only because Charles Kaiser, their friend, earned their trust. The resulting book is a true masterpiece, a first-rate thriller, a book of serious historical research, and a really valuable contribution to our shared understanding of both WWII in general and the French Resistance in particular. This is a great book, and as important as Marcel Ophuls's great 1969 documentary film *The Sorrow and the Pity*. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. TRUTH FROM THE INSIDE-OUT By Reader. . Wooster, Ohio Reading Charles Kaiser's *THE COST OF COURAGE* plunges the reader from being a spectator of German occupation of France into inside the personal lives: emotions, human limitations, and unbreakable commitment to life, freedom, honor, sacrifice, risk for the love of France, herself. The reader becomes immersed like disease-fighting antibodies into a cancer-inflicted body settling for nothing less than preserving life, restoring total health - no matter what the cost. Common people - refusing defeat in any form - create an arsenal of Resistance networks which ultimately seriously weakens their oppressive captors. Their individual stories are astounding. However, they chose to remain silent individually - so that "free-France" remains proof of their solidarity of purpose and integrity. Charles Kaiser takes the reader into the life death dramas of suffering, deprivation, and yet heroic acts of courage fuelled by duty to love without limits. As German occupation comes to an end in France, General Charles DeGaulle reminds all people of France and of all nations that France is not experiencing a "new beginning. They are just continuing forward in their national strength of character they have always possessed. In no way is that statement arrogant. It is humility with the highest cost of courage, resilience, and perseverance fleshed-out in people willing to make self-sacrifice decisions far beyond themselves. Would we - individually and as a nation - have these same uncompromisable attributes and character to withstand and conquer our inner challenges as well as any formidable real enemies all for life, Liberty, and the highest forms of democracy upon which America was birthed? 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A beautiful and poignant image of a horrific time By Jade Hughes Don't be put off by the fact that the book is written in the present tense. It may take a chapter or two to get used to it but once you get that far you are hooked. Kaiser's book is part story, part memoir, personal stories that have been told to him connected to actual facts and quotations to back them up and give them context. To live in France during WW2 was more than a challenge, you could resist, you could god your head down and hope for the best or you could become a traitor and collaborate. Kaiser tells the story of a family whose three children join the Resistance in Paris, of the risks they took and the legacy their actions left on their lives. This book is a beautiful and poignant image of a horrific time that we must never forget as well as a wonderful examination of human nature under duress.

"The result is a mix of history, biography and memoir which reads like a nerve-racking thriller." The Guardian (US) This heroic true story of the three youngest children of a bourgeois Catholic family who worked together in the French Resistance is told by an American writer who has known and admired the family for five decades In the autumn of 1943, Andr Bouloche became de Gaulles military delegate in Paris, coordinating all the Resistance movements in the nine northern regions of France only to be betrayed by one of his associates, arrested, wounded by the Gestapo, and taken prisoner. His sisters carried on the fight without him until the end of the war. Andr survived three concentration camps and later became a prominent French politician who devoted the rest of his life to reconciliation of France and Germany. His parents and oldest brother were arrested and shipped off on the last train from Paris to Germany before the liberation, and died in the camps. Since then, silence has been the Boulochess answer to dealing with the unbearable. This is the first time the family has cooperated with an author to recount their extraordinary ordeal.

"Charles Kaisers *The Cost of Courage* combines a thorough and quite accessible history of Europes six-year murderous paroxysm with a deftly told story [a] stimulating book [It] documents, through the life of an extraordinary family, one of the 20th centurys most fascinating events the German occupation of the City of Light. But it is also a subtle history of the complexity of the French Resistance and its legacies. The Wall Street Journal "In the same manner a young girl's diary once vivified the Holocaust and the fate of 6 million for a postwar audience, Kaiser tells, through the Bouloche family, the story of lives turned complicated by the bizarre realities of Vichy France. At once heroic and heartbreaking, this story leaves an indelible mark." Kirkus s (Starred) "[The Cost of Courage] is a mix of history, biography and memoir which reads like a nerve-racking thriller." The Guardian (US) "Kaiser reveals the moral ambiguity of resistance when ones enemy is as ruthless as Nazi Germany... [He] makes the most of the inherent drama in the story he tells, but his touchstone is his relentless search for truth amid the fog of war... brilliant." The Washington Post "Moving... Compelling... a story with the detailed intimacy of a journal and the powerful immediacy of a novel." The Christian Science Monitor "Dramatic... The Cost of Courage admirably explores the dynamics of a painful reckoning." Newsday "[A] vivid family portrait that examines four siblings heroic contribution to the French resistance of WWII... a riveting paean to unsung war heroes in occupied France." Publisher's Weekly "[R]emarkable... a story of recovery and resilience... The Cost of Courage is a poignant reminder that there are many untold stories of World War II, but that those who lived them will soon be gone." BookPage "Kaiser has expertly interwoven historical facts about

World War II--particularly what the British, Americans and French were doing to fight the Germans--with the personal narratives of the Boulloche family and of some of their closest friends to create a well-rounded, behind-the-scenes portrayal of their wartime lives. "Shelf Awareness"[Charles Kaiser's]effort has produced a wonderful history, reading like a spy novel while serving as a testament to the efforts of many French men and women in their fight for freedom. The Cost of Courage vividly and eloquently recreates the heroism of many through the eyes of one French family. "Bookreporter.com"[R]iveting... Charles Kaiser captures the devotion the brother and two sisters have for one another and their extended family. "The Missourian" The Cost of Courage is both a history and a morality tale, the story on one level of the Boulloche family and the risks they both took and did not take to preserve their lives and their integrity. It is also a key chapter in the history of France under German occupation, when some citizens, fired by patriotism, risked all to resist the Nazis as the nation split between occupied and Vichy, southern France while others survived by sitting on their hands. Both, in tragic ways, paid the cost of their decisions. "America Magazine" The Cost of Courage is good history, loving biography, excellent reporting. It turns out the cost of courage is beyond the means of most of us. Edmund White, author of *Inside a Pearl* Even now, almost three quarters of a century after the second world war, the role played by the French resistance in German occupied and Vichy France is often overlooked. Charles Kaiser has not only unearthed the story of an extraordinary family, but set it against a world in which courage, selflessness and resilience were of greater importance than personal survival and collaboration, however trivial. It makes for a fascinating book. Caroline Moorehead, author of *A Train In Winter: An Extraordinary Story of Women, Friendship, and Resistance In Occupied France* In this poignant personal tale, Kaiser explores the emotions and breaks through the silences that haunted an amazing family after their experiences in the French resistance to Nazi occupation. The result is a compelling and heart-wrenching book about courage, love, and the complex shadings of heroism. Walter Isaacson, author of *Steve Jobs* One legacy of the Nazi occupation of France was secrecy, a shield that long hid the heroism of resisters no less than the shame of collaborators. In this gripping true-life drama, Charles Kaiser reveals the long-buried story of one prosperous Parisian family that paid a high price for the bravery of its children. Until now, only through silence could they live with the painful cost of their courage. Alan Riding, author of *And The Show Went On: Cultural Life in Nazi-Occupied Paris* A very compelling story. Robert O. Paxton, author of *Vichy France* Charles Kaiser deserves a Legion of Honor red ribbon for bringing to vibrant life the suspenseful, never-before-told true story of a family's courage, suffering and ultimate triumph amid the existential dangers and challenges of the French Resistance. Chapeau! Hendrik Hertzberg, author of *Politics: Observations Arguments, 1966-2004* Praise for *The Gay Metropolis*: "A dramatic, often affecting account of the emergence of gay people from fear and self-hatred into uncloseted, self-confident participation in society." *The Washington Post* "Truly sensational... This book should be read by thousands of young men and women who think they are alone. Charles Kaiser's sensational book will give them heart and pride." Ed Koch *About the Author* Charles Kaiser is the author of *1968 in America* (Grove/Atlantic), one of the most admired popular histories of the music, politics, and culture of the 1960s, and *The Gay Metropolis* (Houghton Mifflin and Grove), the landmark history of gay life in America, which was a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year and a Lambda Literary Award winner. He is a former reporter for the *New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal* and a former press critic for *Newsweek*. His articles and reviews have also appeared in the *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Rolling Stone*, *New York*, *Vogue*, *Vanity Fair*, *The Guardian* (UK), and *New Republic*, among other publications. He grew up in Washington, D.C., Dakar, Senegal, London, England, and Windsor, Connecticut. Since 1968 he has always lived on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, except for two and a half years he spent in France to research this book. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Andr is a handsome twenty-eight-year-old with brown hair and thick eyebrows that hover over a permanent glint in his eye. Nearly six feet tall, he walks with a tempered, youthful swagger. Before the war, friends considered him something of a dandy. Andr has been ordered back to occupied France by Charles de Gaulle, to be the general's personal military delegate in Paris. Pseudonym: Armand; code name: Hypotenuse; Andr's charge from the renegade general is to bring some order to the burgeoning Resistance movements now operating in eleven different departments in northern France... Like everyone in the Resistance arriving from England, he also carries a cyanide pill in his pants pocket. It will stay there, always unless he is arrested. When he touches it with his index finger, it feels like insurance against torture. Or, perhaps, like his destiny. Either way, he knows he will swallow it if he is captured by the Germans. A certain fatalism fuels his fearlessness. But there is one irony that probably escapes him: the only thing that might muffle his heroism could be his own survival.