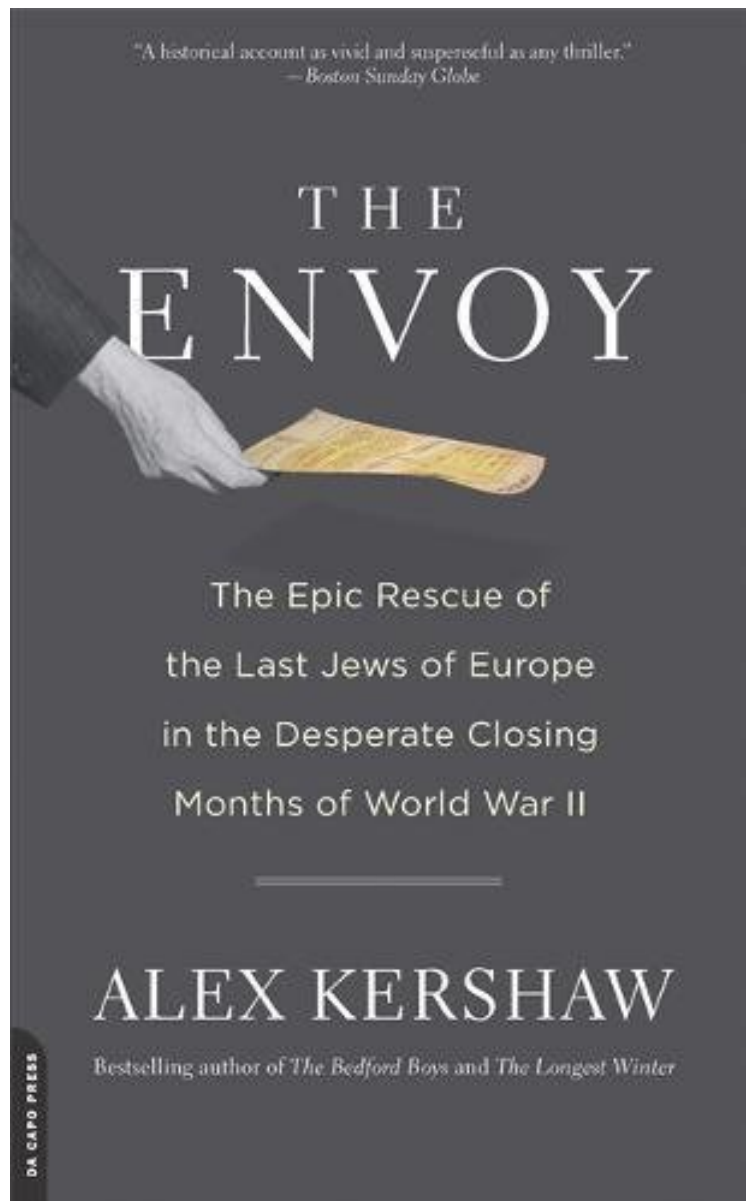


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The Envoy: The Epic Rescue of the Last Jews of Europe in the Desperate Closing Months of World War II

Alex Kershaw

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Alex Kershaw : The Envoy: The Epic Rescue of the Last Jews of Europe in the Desperate Closing Months of World War II before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The

Envoy: The Epic Rescue of the Last Jews of Europe in the Desperate Closing Months of World War II:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A True HeroBy Bev ThompsonWhat a man! What a story! I was blown away. We couldn't put the book down. This one is a keeper; we won't be donating it, as we have so many other books. I have nothing but praise for the hero in this book, he truly was one of a kind.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Amazing story of courage in the face of evilBy E. E. ValerianoI knew a little about Raoul Wallenberg and Adolf Eichmann before I read this book. I was aware that Wallenberg saved thousands of Jews during the war and I knew enough to name my son Raoul in his honor. What I didn't know was how much he risked his life doing so, his struggles with the SS and Hungarian Arrow Cross, and his mysterious disappearance after the Soviets arrested him. This book tells the story of the Jews in Hungary during the war, their struggle to survive, first under an anti-semitic regime, then under the Nazis themselves, and finally under the local Nazis in the form of the Arrow Cross party, the evil that is Eichmann, and the desperate efforts of a few to save the Jews. Although anti-semitism was rampant in Hungary before the war, the Jews were somewhat spared the fate their brethren suffered in Poland, Ukraine, Netherlands, and other German-occupied countries during the war. Until 1944 when the Nazis, in particular Adolf Eichmann, decided that all Jews in Hungary, at all costs, should all be deported to the death camps. In came the Swede Wallenberg, who together with other diplomats in Budapest, tried to save as many Jews as they can by issuing (sometimes) fake documents to make it appear that the Jews were under the protection of Sweden or Switzerland. In a continuous tug of war with Eichmann and the notorious Arrow Cross thugs, Wallenberg would eventually succeed in saving around 100,000 Jews from deportation to the death camps. Sometimes he would save the victims in the nick of time, just before they board the train to Auschwitz, or just before they were to be shot. The last few months before the Russians came were especially horrifying with the Hungarian Nazis murdering and terrorizing the Jews in a reign of terror. The final third of the book tells what happened to the main protagonists Eichmann and Wallenberg, and some of the survivors, after the war. Everyone knows what happened to Eichmann, but unfortunately the end of Wallenberg's story remains a mystery, partly due to the Russian's stubborn refusal to cooperate, and partly due to the Swedish government's spineless abandonment of one of its most heroic and remarkable citizens. This is a well-written and inspiring book and I highly recommend it.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. One Of The BravestBy LeatherneckKershaw has done it! There are acts of bravery in wartime; they are usually accounts of the battlefield or a resistance group. Rarely has there ever been such prolonged exposure to danger on behalf of the persecuted as Raoul Wallenberg's rescue of thousands of Hungarian Jews. For months this Swedish diplomat repeatedly 'stuck his head in the mouth of the lion' to save those headed for the Nazi death camps. Battling the Nazis and the Hungarian fascist Arrow Cross, this determined envoy pressed ahead where fainter men refused to venture. This gripping account is in a class of its own. This brave Swede remains a sterling example of self-giving without thought of personal risks. Read it and be inspired!

In July 1944, thirty-two-year-old Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg arrived in Budapest on a mission to rescue the last Jews of Europe. Over the next six months, he repeatedly risked his life to save tens of thousands of Jews, defying mass murderer Adolf Eichmann and crazed Hungarian fascists while enduring one of the bloodiest sieges of World War II. Tragically, when Budapest was finally liberated, the Holocaust's greatest hero had disappeared into the Soviet gulag; to this day, his exact fate is unknown.

From BooklistUntil 1944, the Jews of Hungary had been left relatively unscathed by the surrounding slaughter, despite the anti-Semitic leanings of both the Hungarian government and large segments of the population. But as Nazi military disasters mounted, there was a rush to complete the Final Solution. Nazi officials placed immense pressure upon the Hungarian government, and the roundup and attempted extermination of Hungarian Jews commenced. The effort to locate, detain, and transport the Jews to the death camps was driven, with his typical ruthless efficiency, by Adolf Eichmann. By July 1944, an estimated half-million Hungarian Jews had been deported. The effort to save the remnants is largely the story of the remarkable Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg. Kershaw recounts those efforts in a tense, fast-moving narrative that shows Wallenberg as a match for Eichmann in intelligence and determination as he utilized fake documents, safe houses, and a variety of other methods to save thousands of Jewish lives. This is an inspiring story that illustrates how one dedicated human can make an impact, even against a monstrous tyranny. --Jay Freeman Kershaw dramatically pulls the reader into the diabolical campaign of Adolf Eichmann. With the nail-biting suspense of a winning novelist, Kershaw uses solid research and anecdotal data to show how it felt to be just one step ahead of the SS. Alex Kershaw has delivered a masterpiece about Raul Wallenberg, as witnessed from every perspective.