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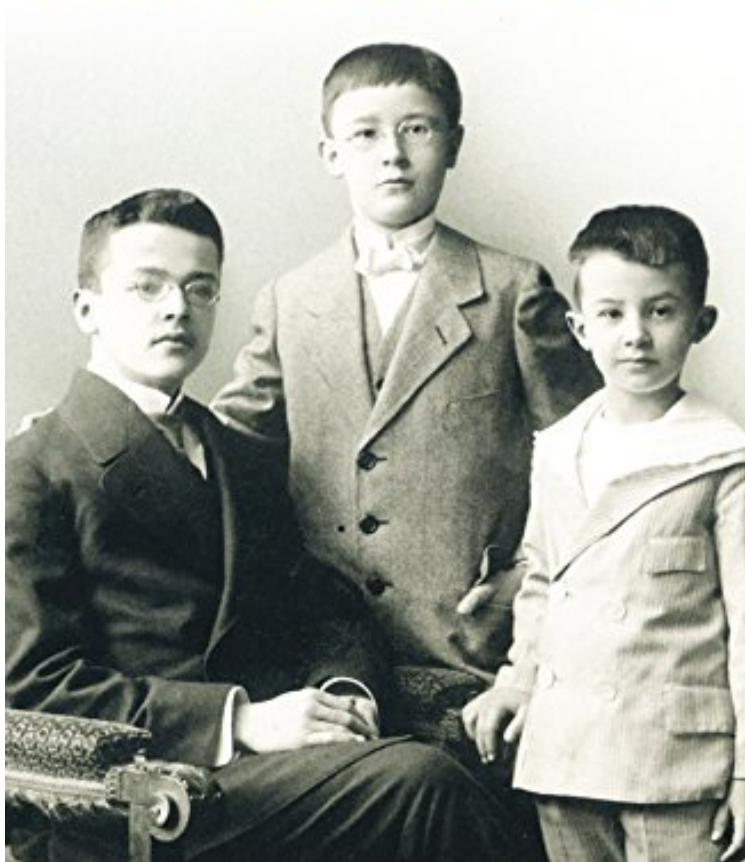
The Himmler Brothers: A German Family History

Katrin Himmler

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#932624 in Books Himmler, Katrin/ Mitchell, Michael (TRN) 2008-11-01Format: UnabridgedOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x 1.00 x 5.00l, .60 #File Name: 0330448145352 pagesPan Books UK | File size: 40.Mb

Katrin Himmler : The Himmler Brothers: A German Family History before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Himmler Brothers: A German Family History:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. An average family that spawned infamy!By Gwynn B. OwensTo write a biography of an infamous character and his immediate family when they are close relatives takes an inordinate amount of courage to look into the dark side of history. Impelled by a request from her father, Ms Himmler began her

journey believing her family's narrative. Researching newly released archives and, incredibly, discovering long overlooked family letters, documents, and photos, Ms Himmler uncovered long forgotten and unwanted truths. A frank well researched straight forward bio of a typically average, respectable with the typical values held by their community, German family of the time (late 19th to early mid 20th century). What was surprising was the intense nationalism and militarism which permeated German culture as well as the intense pride Germans held for their past. From her research one can discern the racial bias inculcate within the populace, the emphasis on marrying not for love but for the quality of potential offspring. From these cultural imperatives, the journey to those of the National Socialists was quite logical and frighteningly brief. While Heinrich's path led him to unspeakably depraved actions, his brothers and his father believed in the Nazi party, participating without coercion willingly joining the Party and advancing in it without Heinrich's overt aid. While a portrait of a specific family, it shows how inculcated cultural beliefs along with the aftermath of WW1 which humiliated German pride and the political turmoil between democracy, communism, and the extreme right, provided fertile soil for the nightmare of the Nazi platform. It also demonstrates how selective memories can be. Ms Himmler's journey to ferret out the truth is remarkable, interesting, and compelling. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Woman's Dogged Quest for the Truth. By Edward Carter I can't say anything about Katrin Himmler that others have not already said I think. Courageous is a word that is used frequently and it's immediately obvious that she is a woman seriously determined to get at the truth not just, it seems, for her own peace of mind but for her family as well, for she mentions her son more than once. For those interested in Hitler's rise and fall and the fanatics he surrounded himself with it is an excellent book. Most probably didn't know Heinrich Himmler had two brothers. The book details their involvement in the Nazi regime as well. Katrin is related by blood to Heinrich through the youngest brother. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. An Intimate and Disturbing Look at Heinrich Himmler By Cody Carlson Katrin Himmler delves deep into her family's disturbing history with "The Himmler Brothers: A German Family History." The author is the granddaughter of Ernst Himmler, and great niece to Heinrich Himmler, Hitler's dreaded head of the SS. The book gives a good overview of the family, though the focus of the work is Heinrich. Given the family connection, Katrin is able to provide more than merely official records, but family stories and anecdotes. Sections detailing Himmler's relationship with his mistress, Hedwig Potthast, are particularly engaging and further illustrate just how bizarre the man truly was. Throughout the work, one gets the sense of a person trying to understand her family in ways that most of us do, though given the sheer horrors her great-uncle was responsible for, the journey makes for truly fascinating reading. Those wishing to learn more about one of history's greatest monsters would do well to read this important book.

Once upon a time the Himmlers were just a normal German family middle-class, hard-working, well-educated. There were three brothers, Gebhart, Heinrich, and Ernst. Heinrich grew up to become the head of Hitler's SS, mastermind of the concentration camp system, and chief perpetrator of the Holocaust. When Katrin Himmler, Heinrich's great-niece, was 15, one of her classmates asked during a history lesson if she was related to the Himmler. "Yes," she stammered, at which there was a deathly hush in the classroom and the teacher, embarrassed and unsure, quickly moved the lesson on. As she grew older, Katrin gave her family history a wide berth, but married to an Israeli whose family was confined to the Warsaw Ghetto and with a young, half-Jewish son, she realized that she could not evade the past so easily. Katrin Himmler's cool but meticulous examination of the Himmler story reveals in all its dark complexity the gulf between the "normality" of bourgeois family life and the horrors perpetrated by one member. A more nuanced portrait of Heinrich himself emerges not a lone evil executioner, but a middle-class family man, loved and fully supported by his respectable German family.

About the Author Katrin Himmler is the great niece of Heinrich Himmler, head of the SS, Gestapo, and leading organizer of the Holocaust.