



Newborn Nazi

Rhoda D'Ettore

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"This family is amazing! A Nazi spy. A future SS officer. A brother in America oblivious to everything. And a sister who would kill us all."

Germany, 1934 -- SS officers entered the house of Hedwig Schultz and ripped her 14 year old brother, Edmund, from her arms. He has been selected for an elite division of the Hitler Youth that will train him for indoctrination into the feared SS.

Horried, Hedwig enlists the help of her brother in America to thwart Nazi plans regarding the Final Solution of the Jewish people. It becomes a cat and mouse game as the family enters a world of Nazi spies, double agents and the Underground movement. All the while, Hedwig must prevent their brother, Edmund, from becoming suspicious. One report of treason to his Hitler Youth instructors would result in death... or worse.

Newborn Nazi Details

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From Reader Review *Newborn Nazi* for online ebook

John Dizon says

Newborn Nazi by Rhoda D'Ettore is a hip, time-sensitive look at a totalitarian regime of nearly a century past. When we start thinking Nazi Germany, our eyes start rolling towards CNN, Al Jazeera and the BBC, and we seriously pause to reflect whether it's happening again. "The boy is coming with us," announces Lieutenant Reinhard as he takes young Edmund Schultz away, "it is the law." Boko Haram? The Islamic State? Immigration Control and Enforcement? Or maybe you have problems with the gay scoutmaster you didn't know was running your son's local Boy Scout den. Take your pick, it all comes to the same amount. Whether it's Barrie Obama's secret police or Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi's Islamic executioners, heads will roll and the job will get done. Welcome to 1934---uh, 1984---erm, make that 2014. Big Brother is here to stay.

Anyone who's read D'Ettore's *Goin' Postal* can see this isn't *Ma and Pa Kettle Meet The Nazis*. The author ripped the top off Everyman's local post office like an ant farm, exposing the psychotic actions and reactions of our trusty postal workers for everyone to see. Charlie Chaplin's *The Great Dictator* was so far ahead of its time that it was banned in the UK for its anti-German sentiments: well, who's laughing now? It was such a parody that Hitler himself couldn't get enough of it. D'Ettore indulges herself as well, having the big bad Nazis haul off poor little Edmund before chasing after all the Schultzes' Jewish neighbors. The righteous family hides the Jews, enlists the aid of their American friends, and continue to pray for Edmund's safe journey. Of course we know how it all ends up, but that's not what the story's about. Do your religious beliefs make you a target? Ask the folks at Hobby Lobby. By the way, better pick up your Xmas manger scenes early. There's lots of places you won't be able to put them up anymore. It's the law, y'know.

Pick up a copy of *Newborn Nazi* by Rhoda D'Ettore and start being afraid. Be very afraid.

Deborah Mitton says

I have always been fascinated with books whose subject was pre-Nazi Germany, WWII, Jewish struggles, and trials afterwards. So this novel was required reading from me.

I always wondered why Hitler came to power; why other Germans didn't stop him? This novel touches on this subject well.

First, I have to say that I am envious of the author's ability to do such realistic dialogue; both harsh and humorous, she makes it appear effortless. She has an amazing skill, jumping from SS interrogations to girl talk was unproblematic.

The revelation of past, WWI spying and WWII double agents and espionage are believable and follow in quick order that your head is spinning with all the action.

Awesome read so those who like action packed thrillers.

Deborah says

Let me say first and foremost, that D'Ettore is an awesome story-teller.

I won't go into the reasons that I read this book, but suffice to say that it was so far outside my usual reading choices I began it with trepidation.

In no time at all, I was sucked into the story.

At the outset we meet Hedwig and her husband Fritz, trying unsuccessfully to thwart the German officers who have arrived to take the teenager Edmund away from them to be inducted into the Hitler Youth Programme. Once Edmund is removed from their home, Fritz is rewarded with a bullet to the head for his defiance, leaving Hedwig a young widow.

The story takes place in both Germany itself, and in the US, where Hedwig's brothers live.

It is loosely based (with a large degree of licence) upon the author's family history, and afforded me a fascinating insight into how the ordinary folk of Germany were drawn into the Nazi party little by little, by playing upon their national pride, and hiding the gruesome realities of the regime until it was far too late for them to back out.

The plot is truly a tale of Hollywood proportions, and would make a fantastic movie. From what appears to be a straightforward starting point, I was sucked into the unexpected twists and turns at the speed of a rollercoaster, never knowing what might happen next.

Real events from that time period are entwined in the plot with new slants, conspiracy theory style, and plot threads began are abandoned in a truly realistic way that echoes real life, to be replaced by yet another stunning revelation that leads down a new path.

I freely admit, I am no student of history, and I have no knowledge of the accuracy of the facts, but as someone who reads for pure entertainment, that bothers me not at all.

So the reason for the 4 stars?

The writing technique. Aspects such as sentence construction, correct use of words, punctuation, fluency of dialogue, use of tenses – all of these things are in need of attention.

So if the technicalities of the written word bother you, this is not a book for you. If, on the other hand, you are willing to overlook them and read just the story, then my advice is: go for it.

John Hennessy says

There's a number of reviews here and as I scan through them, I am not sure what I can add.

What I can say for my own part is that Newborn Nazi starts with and continues for many of its pages at a blistering pace. This is a remarkable feat given the rather dry and unsettling nature of the SS.

It is a very dark tale, but told with great style and panache. The author, Rhoda D'Ettore, is an exceptional story teller.

The book has a little 'middle of the story' lag but maybe this is welcome.

After a particularly delicious build up between Hedwig and Johann, I still could not predict what was coming. After the event, I was unsure where the story would go.

But herein lies the author's talent. Through a myriad of excellent main and support characters, the author

weaves a multi-layered and intelligent story.

At times, the dialogue is a little too much, but given the length of the story, blocks of heavy narration may have been off putting, so I congratulate the author for making a motley crew so engaging to read.

The ending is interesting, not what I expected, and very well done.

If you want a story that takes you away from a YA story filled with werewolves and mermaids, go for this very unique tale.

I loved it and think you will too!

Lesley Hayes says

In this year of the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau I have read a number of books about the Holocaust. Most of them have been from the point of view of the Jewish victims, so I wasn't sure what to expect from this novel by Rhoda D'Ettore. Knowing that it featured the perspective of the Germans prior to and during the 1939-45 war, specifically certain members of the Nazi Party, I slightly dreaded that it would take me into areas I would prefer not to read. However, by the end of the first chapter I was thoroughly engaged with what turned out to be a gripping and at times inspiring story. This author certainly knows how to spin a tale. The characters were for the most part completely credible, and the action didn't let up for a moment. Although it's a period in history I know something about there was a lot of new information here for me. I'm not sure all of it was accurate, but it was germane to the plot and perhaps some poetic license can be forgiven. It was also a real insight into how it might have been possible for so many ordinary German people to be initially beguiled by Adolf Hitler and to remain in apparent or perhaps convenient ignorance about the fate of the Jews. I kept seeing chilling parallels with much of what goes on in our modern world, and for this I was grateful to the author. I like books that make me think as well as entertain, and this ticked both those boxes for me. I was surprised by the ending, and even more surprised by my reaction to it. Without giving anything away of the plot, I will confess that I sobbed for about five minutes, shocked by how moved I had been by the entire story. Well done, Ms D'Ettore. You are a great storyteller.

Erin says

Find this and other reviews at: <http://flashlightcommentary.blogspot...>

I put little thought into taking on Rhoda D'Ettore Newborn Nazi for review. I don't mean to minimize the book in any way, but drawn as I am to WWII, it wasn't exactly a hard sell. In fact the only aspect that gave me pause was the cover. Not to get too far off track, but I don't feel the image does justice to the narrative and strongly urge readers to look below surface when considering the title themselves.

In looking back, there were a lot of things I really liked about this piece. D'Ettore achieves a great balance between the masculine and feminine elements of the story and that's not something I can say about many fictional accounts of the period. She put a great deal into chronicling the experiences of Germans who opposed the Nazi Party both in America and the fatherland and crafted a very tangible sense desperation

around those caught in the crossfire.

I liked the insight she offered to the Hitler Youth program and felt the contrary allegiances suffered by Edmund particularly well-drawn. I appreciated the contrast in characters like Gustav and Johann, Hedwig and Heidi, and even Jacob and Alois. Through her complex characterizations, D'Ettore challenges readers to think in shades of grey and I personally found that rather extraordinary, especially in an era that is commonly painted in black and white.

There are moments in which I felt there was simply too much happening at once, but those were few and far between. Ideally, I'd also have liked to see an author's or historical note. I thought D'Ettore's incorporation of the Hindenburg disaster fascinating and would have enjoyed reading more about her decision to utilize that material, but I questioned her treatment of Ramsay MacDonald and feel an explanation might have put that uncertainty to rest.

All in all, I found *Newborn Nazi* a surprisingly enjoyable read. An intense, but moving piece about family and sacrifice.

Tara Chevreton says

The story itself is quite riveting, but the style in which the story is told is very lacking. It's all telling, no showing. It hardly ever tells us what the characters' innermost thoughts are, nor does it tell us how the characters' FEEL. It will tell us their facial expression. It will say they are proud. But it does not describe any emotion. Events are also told in rapid succession. In many spots I said, "Wow! That's a big thing and it only took two sentences to tell us?"

He pulled the trigger, exploding Fritz's forehead in all directions. Brain matter splattered all over Hedwig's face and shoulders. Gasping for breath, she held her dead husband.

That's some major action and while I know from the gasping, she must be shocked or terrified or something, it doesn't tell us what or how she feels. Me, I'd be gagging at the feel of brain matter on my cheeks, perhaps even become super aware of it. I could go on. She plans to kill a man and she acts like a robot. Never once does the story tell us what her thoughts are or what she's feeling as she decides to do this. It just tells us she slashed at him, he got up, her knife went in the sofa. That's really it. No emotion or inner thoughts at all. Every character in the story is like this: a robot.

I also found a lot of things preposterous. Two Nazi soldiers show up at her house and kill her husband while taking away her brother. A few months later when both are on the scene again, NEITHER soldier recognizes the apartment where they killed a man, or the woman, even though her brother has been right under their nose every single day since--which should have served as a reminder? Seriously? NEITHER one? And even in the forties, detectives, I'm sure, were savvy enough to check the premises after a murder. As soon as they'd seen nothing was taken or disturbed, they'd know there really hadn't been any Jewish robbers.

And I had to scoff at this: Heidi's heart of gold cared for everyone...

Except Jews, I guess. She was making anti-Jew comments just two kindle pages before that bit. Heart of gold, my patootie.

But Hedwig is really likable and admirable as she refuses to conform to the way of the Nazi party. And I'm just going to stop there. The story just gets more and more preposterous and while I enjoyed it at first, it began to get so ridiculous, it was ruined for me. You cannot shoot the prime minister of England and walk away. No, no, no. Just no.

I didn't walk away from this with nothing though. I did enjoy the first quarter, before things got too preposterous, and I picked up some interesting historical tidbits, such as Hugo Boss being a Nazi. This caught my attention and I discovered he even used POWs to work in his factories. I'm amazed he still has a name today.

Max Power says

There is a lot to enjoy in this story set in a time of uncertainty, state control and mistrust before the outbreak of World war II. While not generally a big fan of historical fiction, I was able to engage with this plot twisting tale and enjoy the clever narrative created by the author. She has clearly done her research and while I am no expert on the period, I have read enough for it to feel authentic in almost every way. The book opens straight into the action with Hedwig losing her brother to the Hitler youth and her husband to a violent assault. Not a fan of plot spoilers, I don't think this gives too much away and how Hedwig copes with the loss and what she does to get retribution is what follows. The plot crosses the Atlantic to draw in a wider perspective which works well and the author has added enough layers to the story to keep you intrigued throughout. There is a lot of dialogue in this book and at times it becomes a little stilted and stiff, perhaps the writers desire to get into the formal controlled minds of the Nazi enforcers I am not sure. That being said, it doesn't detract from what I found to be an engaging read, that interspersed well researched facts with the narrative to keep me entertained right the way through. If you like war time stories you will enjoy this one, and even if not this is well worth picking up.

Ian Moore says

When I first looked at this book I have to admit that I wasn't sure if I would enjoy it. Having studied the Nazi Party many years ago at school (many, many years ago, I might add) while I found the subject fascinating then, much has happened since. What I found when I began this novel was something akin to that same fascination I had back then, in so much as it felt like a step back in time to those dark days of our evolution.

Essentially, we have a story of rebellion against the notorious Nazi Party which, to a degree, had the entire world fooled as to its true nature at the beginning, so much so that at one point, Adolf Hitler was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize!! Rhoda manages to capture the suspense and small clues as the story progresses and our heroine, in the form of Frau Schultz (Hedwig) has passion and determination not only to strike at the very heart of a regime that she despises, but also to continue her rebellion by helping innocent people condemned through pure ignorance. I found myself rooting for Hedwig on many occasions as the story unfolded. I have to say, I really enjoyed the brief romantic interludes throughout the plots and twists of this rollercoaster ride into espionage and double agents on both sides of the Atlantic.

I have no doubt that families, brother and sisters in particular, would have been separated as younger boys were forcibly enlisted into the Hitler Youth, to be indoctrinated and brainwashed with the misguided hatred of all who did not conform. It was very easy to understand the conflict of Edmund towards his sister Hedwig

when he finally found out about her double life.

There are some that may claim that this isn't a factually correct novel, but then, it's fiction - and as a reader, I found the scenes and characters very believable. The lengths the Nazi Party would go to in the pursuit of victory and world domination knew no bounds. This book merely touches the surface of the atrocities they had planned. In my humble opinion, the author creates enough imagery and detail for a reader to imagine the scenes of soldiers bursting through doors, guns raised and I particularly liked the portrayal of Lieutenant Reinhard who, when his fate came, was long overdue. While there are some minor editing errors, it is easy to overlook them in the pursuit of the story which kept me turning the pages effortlessly.

This book surprised me in a good way and I'm so glad that I read it to the conclusion, even then, I was praying that Gustav would have made it despite his marriage. It was good to learn of the fates of the other characters as sometimes authors have a tendency to fizzle out some of their creations which can leave a reader frustrated if there isn't a sequel planned - in this instance we get to know what happens to them.

In closing then, I can recommend this novel as a really good read, it isn't as heavy as you might think and although centres a lot around the misguided Nazi Party, it does allow a reader to see that there were some good elements of that party who did their best to help against insurmountable odds at times. It also shows us the courage and risks that a few took for the safety of the many - something we should all remember and pass on to future generations. Well done Rhoda, 5* easily earned.

Marcha Fox says

A suspense filled view of Nazi Germany

Sometimes I found this book as difficult to pick up as it was to put down. I do most of my reading at night after I go to bed and the opening chapters were so intense that I could barely get through them. The suspense and tension were incredible as the author transports you to Germany during the Third Reich. I remember being told many years ago that ethical dilemmas make excellent stories and that is certainly the case here. As Hitler's regime assumed power, the brutality employed to demand compliance placed many good, law-abiding citizens in a very precarious position. This story chronicles how one particular family dealt with these challenges, how some had no choice but to obey while others stuck to their beliefs and morals regardless of consequences.

This incredible book took me through the entire spectrum of emotions. I felt their fear, determination, frustration, heartbreak and strength. It's loaded with surprises that sometimes left me gasping, yet they rang true and were not contrived. The main character, Hedwig, is a strong, determined woman who refuses to compromise her standards. All of the characters are compelling, their motivation convincing. The relationships between them are often complex yet entirely believable, especially given the precarious wartime setting. The fact the author drew the premise for this story from her own family history makes it all the more intense and unforgettable. Those of us who have lived a relatively peaceful life have no idea what much of the world faces on a day to day basis. This book had additional meaning to me because I have a dear friend who was born in Berlin in 1943 and grew up playing on post-war rubble, wondering where the next meal was coming from.

If you enjoy suspense, mystery and intrigue in an historical setting that takes you back to another place and time this book is for you. The fact I found some parts emotionally difficult is testimony to the author's ability to draw the reader into the story. This is indeed a novel that will stay with you, leaving you a slightly

different person by the time you finish, as if you, too, were part of the horror of Nazi Germany. As they say, those who fail to learn from history are destined to repeat it. Witnessing the hard choices ordinary citizens were faced with provides a much needed reminder that freedom is not something to be taken for granted.

I was gifted a copy of this book in return for an honest review.

Elle Klass says

Newborn Nazi take place in the years leading up to and during WW2 in Germany. Young Hedwig's husband is murdered at the hands of the Nazi's while they rip her youngest brother from her hands and send him to a Hitler Youth Camp. A distraught Hedwig calls her brother in the U.S. and brother Jacob comes to her rescue and settles her husband's estate putting the money into an account which she can use to live off.

Hedwig is my kind of woman. She is intelligent, conniving, and driven. She wants revenge for her husband's murder. Her need for revenge and events put into action before her and her brother's births takes Hedwig and Jacob on a wild ride through the world of espionage and double agents. Death and intrigue fill the pages of each chapter and left me hungry to find out what twist the story would take next.

The book and characters are fictional yet the story is realistic and compelling. War times are never pretty and Author D'Ettore does an amazing job digging into that world and bringing realities of the times front and center.

Newborn Nazi is more than a story. It's a piece of literary artwork.

David Watson says

It's 1934 in Germany and the Nazis are rising to power and kids are being taken from their homes to join the Hitler youth. These kids will be trained to be the future of the Nazi party and SS officers. Edmund was 14 years old when the Nazis came for him. His older sister Hedwig tried to stop them and her husband was murdered in the process.

With her brother gone, Hedwig takes over her husband's secret mission to stop the Nazis from building concentration camps to kill the Jews. Hedwig also wants revenge for the death of her husband and she enlists her brother in America to help with those plans. Hedwig's family enters a world of spies, double agents and the underground movement to stop the Nazis. Their task is not an easy one and Edmund is torn between having to report anti Nazi behavior that he sees or helping his family.

Newborn Nazi by Rhoda D'Ettore is historical fiction thriller with enough twists to constantly keep you guessing. In the first part of this book I was positive the story was going to go a certain way with Hedwig and one of the SS officers starting a relationship. You see how the officer is changing as he starts to fall for her and I was enjoying how love was changing what appeared to be the story's main villain. Then the author surprised me by taking the story in a different direction, changing the book from what seemed like a bizarre romance to a mystery and an emotional thriller.

Hedwig is a character who you can't help to fall in love with. She is a victim of circumstance, she leads a life

that she doesn't want but does what she has to do in order to help others and do the right thing. One of the saddest part of the books is a scene where Hedwig realizes that she missed out on certain things in life and then things get much worse for her. Hedwig has the opportunity to be a good Nazi and lead an easier life but her conscience will not let her and this brings her into conflict with Edmund who believes that the Nazi way is right.

Another thing I liked about this book was how not all of the Nazis are shown as being bad. In some historical fiction books that I've read the Nazis are shown as being evil, where in Newborn Nazi some are bad while others are just doing what they need to do to survive. This book takes place over a long period of time and you watch as each character grows and their viewpoints change. I also liked how the Hitler youth camps are portrayed and how the kids are forced into believing a certain way.

Newborn Nazi takes place mostly in Germany but there are a few scenes with the main characters in America and I loved how time spent in America shapes some of the German characters. It doesn't influence them the way you think it would and shows how unpredictable this book is. Newborn Nazi carries a theme about how powerful family love is. Even under the worst of circumstances and with opposing viewpoints, some families never break up but they are forever changed. Rhoda D' Ettore puts some great research into her fiction and tells stories that have some great twists to it. If you love historical fiction you will like Newborn Nazi.

Jaysen True Blood says

In the tradition of "All Quiet On The Western Front" comes a true WWII masterpiece. A story of three four siblings: Alois, Jacob, Edmund, and Hedwig. Hedwig's husband is shot for trying to aid her in keeping her fourteen year old brother, Edmund, out of the SS. Edmund, who initially wants to be a part of the movement soon learns the dark secrets that lurk within the "schools, training, and future" offered by the Nazi party.

A dark and surreal, and very real, picture of Nazi Germany and how the upper officials within the party thought and dealt with imagined problems within the system has been painted in this story. Split between Nazi Germany and America, the story unfolds to show the terrifying truth behind the mystique that has hidden the reality of that time in Germany's history.

I recommend this book highly for any who love a good WWII novel, suspense novel, or simply a spellbinding tale that will keep you sitting on the edge of your seat until you reach the end.

Darlene says

I rec'd an ARC of this book from the author Rhonda D'Ettore in exchange for an honest opinion. This is my honest opinion of Newborn Nazi. And I do mean my honest. The characters are so well defined and described that you can actually picture them, OMG the scenes let me tell you . They are truly amazing, you can actually see them. Can you imagine picturing a Nazi youth camp or even a death camp. What about a park ?? Well, once you read this book you will see all this scenes they are described in such detail that you can see them. This story has a lot of true history in it. Ms D'Ettore has done a lot research for her book and you can tell reading by reading Newborn Nazi.

Now please pull up a chair and grab a cup of tea and some lemon cookies while I tell you about Newborn Nazi.

As the story starts out we are in the home of Hedwig and the SS officers are there to take her brother Edmond away. She is begging them not to. They yell at her and push her aside, begin to take her little brother. Hedwig yells that he is too young; she calls her husband for help. The SS officer take young Edmond to the bus, while the other deals with the couple. He, the officer takes the butt of the rifle to her husband head and kills him. Once that happens he tells her that he will be back. She says that she hates him and he says she should be careful what she says.

Now young Edmond is at the Nazi youth camp becoming a trained nazi where he has to report everything that he hears that is wrong. Like all threats to the father land. Any one saying that they will an officer or listening to the wrong thing.

Hedwig calls her brothers to tell them about her husbands death, one is involved with the American Nazi group. They help get to Germany but for a price. He gets there and sells Hedwig husband business, and then he must get her to sign a form stating she a loyal to the fatherland. He knows she won't sign it, so he signs it for her.

Now, Hedwig has vowed to kill the officer that killed her husband. Along the way she starts helping by hiding the jews that they want to take to the death camps.

I am not going to finish telling you this story. As I really want you to read it. It has so many twist and turns in it. You never know what is going to happen to Hedwig next. It is so exciting to read.

The way this book is written - the description of the characters and the scenes- the research of the book. I give the book a 30 out of 5 stars. I really that we could choose more stars for our authors.

Now before I go I have something extra for you all of you.

I ask a few questions to the author Rhonda D'Ettore and the following are her answers.

How did you come with this story??

The story is loosely based on my own family, and the last chapter is almost entirely true to what happened. Of course my family did not involve spies, but my great uncle, Edmund, really was forced into the Hitler Youth and became an SS officer. His sister did become enraged at her brother's "abduction" and vowed revenge against the Third Reich. She did join the Underground to save hundreds of lives, and Edmund in real life had to make a decision as to whether to report his sister or protect her. It sounded like a great story base.

The characters in the story - are they based after anyone??

Edmund, Hedwig, Jacob, and Alois were indeed the real names of four siblings (all are deceased now). Jacob and Alois (my grandfather) really did come to Philadelphia from Germany. And my father, Edmund, was indeed named after his uncle Edmund. I thought it a great way to honor their lives, and record their story. Although I did fictionalize most of the story-- the important part is that they did live. And because of their choices, so did many others.

Is there a favorite character that you have? and why?

Hedwig. She is feisty, but caring. She would rather do what is right than conform--even if it means risking her life. Also, she is intelligent and very sarcastic.

When did you know that you wanted to write??

I always wrote, even as a kid. After college, I become involved in writing research papers, however, I did not attempt to write fiction until February of this year.

what types of books do you write??

Believe it or not, that is a tough question. When I started writing Newborn Nazi, I intended for it to be a Historical Fiction. However, it soon turned into an espionage suspense. Thus far I have written an erotica, a workplace humor, and two historical fictions. However, like Newborn Nazi, my novel Tower of Tears involves murder, betrayal and some mystery. The female characters are strong, so it could classify as Women's Literature. By crossing genres, I hope I can increase my readership.

Can you tell us about yourself?

I grew up in the Southern part of New Jersey, in the Philadelphia suburbs. I come from a large family and earned a degree in Human & Social Services. My first novella, Goin' Postal: True Stories of a US Postal Worker, is based on my 15 years of working for the USPS. After people started reading about human head and alligators loose in the mail, my writing just took off and branched from ebook into paperback and audiobooks.

I also volunteer & donate to organizations that support children and veterans. Currently, I donate one dollar of every book sale goes to the National Military Family Association.

Is there anything that you want to tell your readers about like any upcoming books or events that you will be at??

Newborn Nazi started audiobook production this week, and I hope it will be available in a few months. I am also running a promotion for my audiobook "Tower of Tears: The McClusky Series". The first 25 people who send me proof of purchase for this title will receive a coupon to get my other audiobook, "Goin' Postal & The Creek" for FREE.

Next month I will begin co-hosting a Blog Talk Radio show entitled "The Write Way" We intend to not only promote authors, but to give indie authors valuable information about publishing, formatting and promotions. To further assist authors, I will soon be starting a "pre-made" book cover page on my site. Covers will start at just \$10 for ebook covers, and changes to fonts or positioning will cost more.

Finally, I need to get started on Liam's Longing, the second book of The McClusky Series. The first book was incredibly emotionally draining and I needed to step back for a bit. The first book, Tower of Tears, depicted the tragedies some immigrants suffered when coming to America in 1820. It is a heartbreaking tale that is currently receiving excellent reviews.

Thank you so much for this opportunity. :)

Jeff Dawson says

I received a free copy from the author for an honest review.

Being a student of World War Two, I found the blurb enticing and decided to give it a go.

The plot revolves around a family caught up in the fervor of the Nationalist Socialist Party Movement in prewar Germany. Like many of the accounts over the years, not everyone was signing up for the Nazi party. Many people understood that Hitler's vision could lead to only one path—destruction, while others relished in their country returning to a prominent world power.

Meet Hedwig, Edmund, Jacob and Alois Schultz. Hedwig is dead set against the new power. Edmund, fifteen is inducted into the Hitler Youth and can't wait for his Führer to rebuild the Fatherland. Jacob and Alois live in Chicago, watching and reading the events taking place in their homeland.

Pros

The story starts off with a powerful scene as the SS soldiers show up at the Schultz household demanding Hedwig and her husband, Fritz attempt to keep their son home and safe. His cordial efforts to retain his son are met with a bullet to the head. Good start.

The ending was pretty good as the story lines are neatly tied together.

Cons

I had a difficult time with the timeline. It appeared to be jumping all over the place. Not until chapter 54 did I realize what year the story was taking place. Being this is a historical fiction read, I believe it wouldn't have hurt to drop in a few more dates.

The use of exclamation points is way over the top. I was never able to fully embrace the characters as they were all yelling. Reminded me of a bunch of Junior High or High School kids getting together, not adults. This needs to be addressed.

Way too many misspellings and missing words. It detracts from the story.

The use of name tags is also excessive. I understand when multiple characters are talking, it's required for clarification, but when it's only two people, let them carry the story, not the narrator.

Why are the two main women in the story given similar names? Hedwig and Heidi. This became a bit confusing at times when I think of all the other names which could have been chosen: Gertrude, Inga, Maria, Giselle, etc.

The intrigue between the girl's lovers, Hedwig and Heidi had a lot of promise but came across as too forced.

The plot of Hedwig destroying the proposed death camps was way over the top. And the constant reference had me scratching my head. Buchenwald was already established. Her SS boyfriends would have known this. And, am I too believe Reinhard Heidrick and Himmler were experimenting with Zyklon B in 1936? I don't think so.

And what of the German Intelligence Division? Admiral Canaris was in charge of the flawed German Intelligence Division, not the SS.

This could still be a great work with a little more work.

Three stars.

