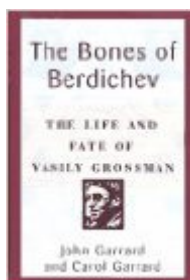


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The Bones Of Berdichev: The Life And Fate Of Vasily Grossman



Synopsis

Chronicles the life of the Russian Jew and World War II correspondent for the Soviet Army who became a passionate critic of the new regime.

Book Information

Hardcover: 437 pages

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Customer Reviews

I am greatly impressed with this book. I'm an emigrant from the former USSR, Jew myself, and I thought that I know everything about our life, about the war and the suffering of Soviet Jews from Nazi and from the Soviet Communists. But I discovered so many new facts that I never knew. I am amazed how deep the authors understood the reality of Soviet life. I lived in Belarus for years and didn't even hear anything about mass graves of Jews that are everywhere in this country. We were never told about it! I wish this book will be translated into Russian and Ukrainian languages. I remember, that Soviet people can hardly know who's is Vasily Grossman, one of the greatest writers of the century.

The book is a basic read for anyone interested in the Holocaust, WWII, Soviet life, and Soviet literature. The Garrard's reveal the quality of Grossman's writings and his personal sacrifices in seeing his opus, *Life and Fate*, published after being smuggled from the USSR. Accounts in the book of Stalingrad, Nazi crimes in Berdichev, and Grossman's slow literary descent into obscurity will be little read by a complacent Western public more interested in Star Wars than in the trauma that real wars have produced in this century. I was moved by the book and enlightened about the enduring spirit of mankind in the face of repression. Highly recommended!!

Even having grown up in the USSR, and having some experience with my family and their stories of survival of WW2 and Stalin era, I still found the book incredible and moving. So did my college-age kids! I would suggest it to more people who are interested in the topic 100%

This is much more than a biography of one person. We get an intense history of WW 2 and the Cold War as experienced in Russia -- completely stripped of communist re-writing. Plus analysis of Grossman's writing. It is marvelous and completely absorbing.

This book is so superb that we bought another copy as a gift for a friend..

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