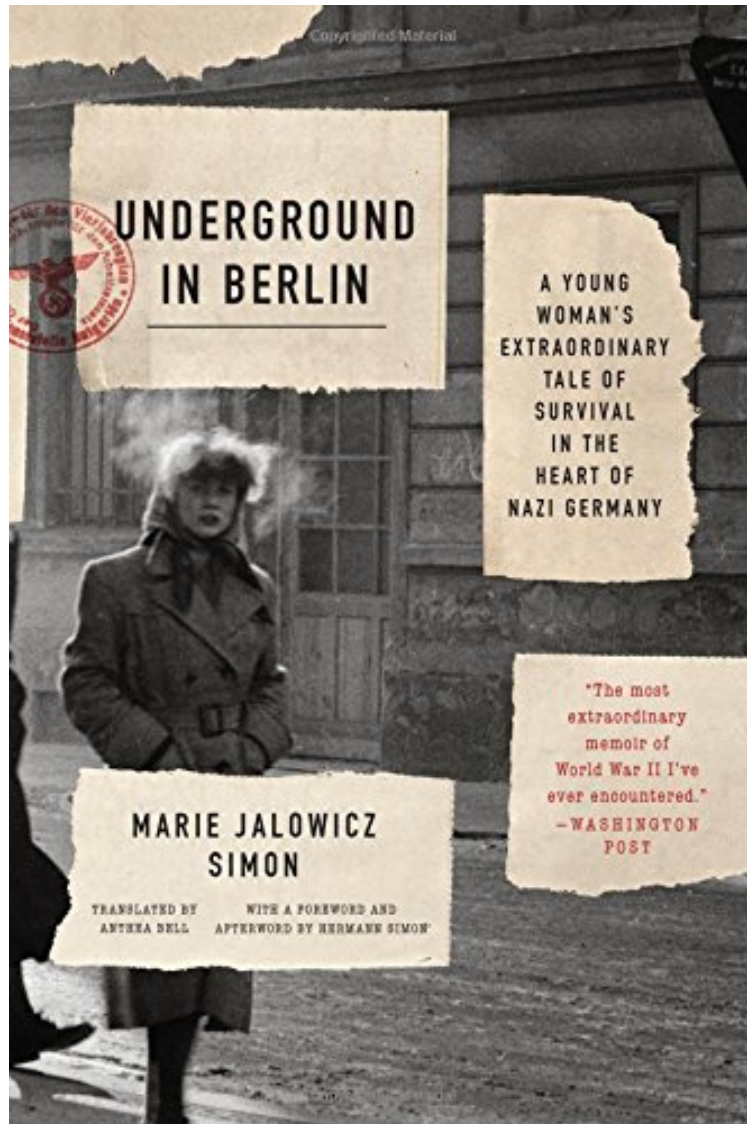


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# Underground in Berlin: A Young Woman's Extraordinary Tale of Survival in the Heart of Nazi Germany

Marie Jalowicz Simon

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#551694 in Books Marie Jalowicz Simon 2016-05-03 2016-05-03Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.25 x 1.00 x 5.50l, .0 #File Name: 0316382108384 pagesUnderground in Berlin A Young Woman s Extraordinary Tale of Survival in the Heart of Nazi Germany | File size: 27.Mb

**Marie Jalowicz Simon : Underground in Berlin: A Young Woman's Extraordinary Tale of Survival in the Heart of Nazi Germany** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Underground in Berlin: A Young Woman's Extraordinary Tale of Survival in the Heart of Nazi Germany:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. The unvarnished story of three years hiding in plain sight in wartime Berlin. By Maine Colonial Marie Jalowicz was 17 years old and living in Berlin when Germany invaded Poland in 1939 and began World War II. As a Jew, she was soon kicked out of school and made a forced laborer. Then, in September of 1941, the wearing of the yellow star became mandatory for Jews and within weeks the Nazis began rounding up Berlin's remaining Jews and deporting them to ghettos and camps in the east. For a short time, Marie lived a sort of half life, ignoring her notices to report for deportation and wearing her star intermittently. Finally, though, on June 22, 1942, two Gestapo agents came to arrest her and she fled. From that date until April 22, 1945, when liberation came to the village she was then living in, Marie lived in at least 17 different places. In some apartments where she took refuge, her host knew she was a Jew gone to ground, someone whom Berliners, with their cynical humor, called a "U-Boat." Sometimes she pretended otherwise—especially when her host was anti-Semitic—and sometimes she pretended that she had enough of a Jewish background to be a little problematic in Nazi Germany, but not enough to be deported. Marie lived with some people who were kind but never let her forget how generous they were being, some who expected sexual favors in return, some who expected labor, some who didn't think it necessary to help her obtain any food, even though she had no ration book of her own. Imagine living like that for 34 months. Think about what you were doing nearly three years ago and imagine if you'd been in Marie's situation from then until now, and you never knew the whole time when or how the situation would change. It's almost impossible to imagine coming out of that with your sanity. Marie rarely spoke of her experiences, but near the end of her life her son gave her a recorder and tapes and she dictated her story. Her son compiled this book from those tapes. The book includes photos of Marie as a young woman, and she looks so sweet and innocent. But that's not the voice of this memoir. She is blunt, tough and not afraid to criticize her rescuers or herself. There is a tendency to think that people who harbored Jews were high-minded Nazi resisters, but the truth about their motivations were much more complicated, and that is explored on nearly every page of this memoir. And Marie admits that she hated having to be grateful and that she sometimes unfairly judged some of those who helped her. Considering that this memoir is the result of tape-recorded memories, it's not surprising that it can be a little hard to follow here and there. It's actually remarkably straightforward when you consider the source material. Even though Marie presents her history unemotionally, it's hard not to be emotionally affected by the story. 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A remarkable memoir of great insight. By owlMrs. Simon is brutally honest about herself and the hundreds of people she had to both fear and depend upon. This is a part of the Jewish experience during WWII that I was absolutely unaware of, and it adds a great deal of depth to the picture. Her son says that he fact-checked everyone and every event possible, and that her memory seems, even in advanced age, to be quite accurate. She does not spare herself for the prejudgments she made about others, and she does not describe people in black and white; even in the best there were sordid sides, and even in the worst there were admirable traits. I think this book is well worth reading for anyone who is interested in Jewish history, in world war II history, and/or in human psychology. 23 of 25 people found the following review helpful. Riveting I could not put the book down. By Erin Neff Their book made the life of a girl gone to ground 70 years ago, live again. Marie's struggle to find shelter and food kept me reading until I had devoured the book as I so desperately wanted her to be able to devour a full meal. This truly shows the horror of her days hiding in Berlin.

A thrilling piece of undiscovered history, this is the true account of a young Jewish woman who survived World War II in Berlin. In 1942, Marie Jalowicz, a twenty-year-old Jewish Berliner, made the extraordinary decision to do everything in her power to avoid the concentration camps. She removed her yellow star, took on an assumed identity, and disappeared into the city. In the years that followed, Marie took shelter wherever it was offered, living with the strangest of bedfellows, from circus performers and committed communists to convinced Nazis. As Marie quickly learned, however, compassion and cruelty are very often two sides of the same coin. Fifty years later, Marie agreed to tell her story for the first time. Told in her own voice with unflinching honesty, *Underground in Berlin* is a book like no other, of the surreal, sometimes absurd day-to-day life in wartime Berlin. This might be just one woman's story, but it gives an unparalleled glimpse into what it truly means to be human.

A Washington Post Notable Non-Fiction Book of 2015 "The most extraordinary memoir of World War II I've ever encountered." ?Gerard DeGroot, Washington Post "Captivating....Jalowicz's story is unquestionably tragic in so many ways, but is also full of miracles, hope, and a future." ?Publishers Weekly (Starred review) "Marie Jalowicz Simon transports the reader right to wartime Berlin. Even seventy years later, her voice is young, fresh, and gripping. Her story is by turns funny, wise, and horrific. I felt like she was reaching out to me across time and I couldn't help but fall in love with her. Despite the incredible dangers she faced living underground in Nazi Berlin, Marie's story is incredibly life-affirming and at times, even joyful." ?Clara Kramer, author of *Clara's War* "An absolutely gripping account of one young woman's struggle to escape deportation at the hands of the Nazis and of those who helped her. Marie Jalowicz-Simon details for the first time with total honesty the harsh sexual politics of survival in the Berlin underground." ?Thomas Ertman, New York University, author of *Birth of the Leviathan About the Author* Marie Jalowicz Simon was born in 1922 into a middle-class Jewish family. She escaped the ghettos and concentration camps

during the Second World War by hiding in Berlin. After the war she was full professor of the literary cultural history of classical antiquity at the Berlin Humboldt University. Shortly before her death, her son, Hermann Simon, director of the New Synagogue Berlin Foundation-Centrum Judaicum, recorded Marie telling her story. He will act as spokesperson for the book.