



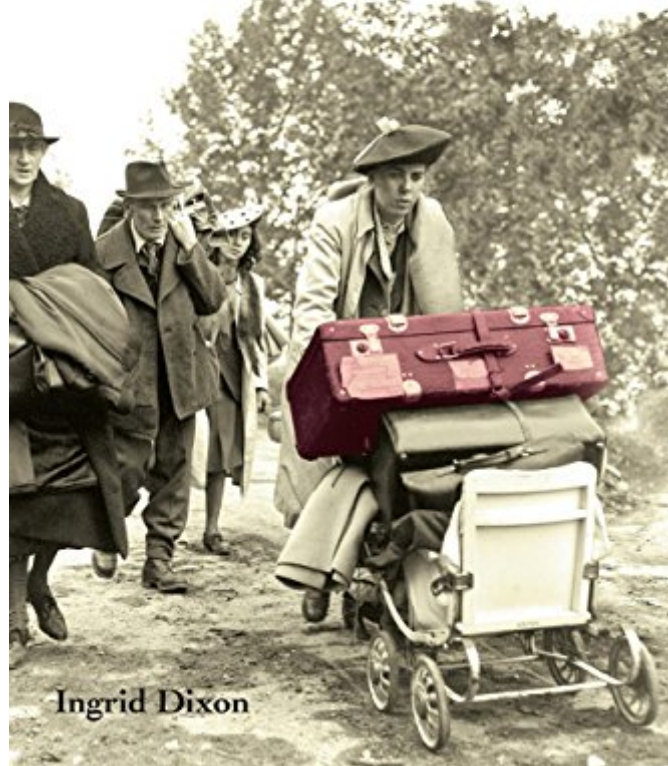
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The Bride's Trunk: A Story Of War And Reconciliation

The Bride's Trunk

A Story of War and Reconciliation



Synopsis

Do you like books that bring history to life? Then you'll love *The Bride's Trunk*, because it's a page-turner, a true story of love and reconciliation in the aftermath of the Second World War. Beautifully told, it stays with you long after the last page is sadly turned. Imagine you must decide the rest of your life in one evening. This is the momentous choice facing Minny, a young woman who has grown up in Nazi Germany. Her decision made, she leaves Germany on a bitterly cold morning in December 1946 and travels to England to marry Jim, a British Intelligence Corps soldier in the Allied armies that defeated the Nazi regime in 1945 and occupied the devastated nation. She has survived British and American bombs and witnessed the destruction of Aachen, her ancient and beautiful city. How will a German woman cope in austere post-war Britain, where she is still regarded as the enemy? Illustrated with almost 100 images and original documents, *The Bride's Trunk* describes the adventures of an unremarkable piece of luggage and three generations of its owners, whose journeys across Europe are determined by the turbulent events of twentieth century history. "An extraordinary narrative", Jackie Ashley "Carefully pieced together from personal and official documents, oral testimony and material objects", Professor Peter Wilson "A gripping and moving story, with excellent illustrations", Dr Philip Towle "Now join the other readers who have been gripped by this captivating true story!"

Book Information

File Size: 31252 KB

Print Length: 228 pages

Publisher: Cloudshell Press (July 15, 2016)

Publication Date: July 15, 2016

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01IL87WOO

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #69,083 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #26

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Customer Reviews

Ingrid Dixon is the daughter of a German mother and a British father. Her parents met in the German city of Aachen in 1945, when her father, Jim, was part of the British Army occupation of the area. Her mother, Minny, was a War Bride, one of many German women who met and married Allied soldiers and went to live in their husband's homeland. Ingrid has written the story of her mother and her family, who lived those post-WW1, though the Weimar years, and through the Third Reich. Dixon is a very lively writer and she has a good story to tell of her mother and her long life. I think many of us - I'm exactly Ingrid Dixon's age - try to make sense of our parents' lives, their "stories". We want to know what was passed down to us -both materially and intellectually - and how those things came to be. There's a family history to find out and then then we have to process what we discover. Minny Rossler's life is the first I've read about gentile German women in the pre-war and war years. Her experiences were certainly different than those of Jewish women in those years. Born in 1920, Minny was raised in a loving family - parents and a younger brother - and grew to adulthood in the 1930's and 40's. She was a member of the BDM as a teenager, and as a secretary during WW2, she joined the Nazi party. But she seems to have been largely a-political. Minny and her family suffered during and after WW2, and her daughter describes in detail the fighting and occupation around Aachen. She also writes about her father's family in Britain and how they accepted their son's choice of a bride. Ingrid Dixon's story about her mother centers around a trunk that Minny brought with her to England upon her marriage. That trunk itself had stories to tell. This is a good book and Dixon puts in a lot of pictures of the people she's writing about.

Interesting reading, not quite what I expected. The book's description had me thinking it was centered on her life in Britain as a German war bride. It isn't really--a little (10 or 12 pages) briefly addresses her first year or so in her new country. But the majority of the story is about her life in wartime Aachen, Germany. And it's worth reading, particularly since her experience is of a totally average Jane, not political, not involved in the military or the war effort. I've read a lot of WW2 memoirs and biographies, and they're often centered on either someone who was in combat, or had some other more unique vantage point--a member of the Resistance, an aide to a famous name, or swept into the Holocaust, etc. This book gives a good sense of daily life in Nazi Germany for the

average person. It is a biography, written by her daughter, not a memoir.

This is a beautifully written account of events which were tragic and impacted families on both sides of the conflict of the second world war. It is a unique insight from the daughter of German and English parentage, transcribed from the narrated memories of family members and careful research. I loved it! It was gripping reading and taught me far more than I have ever previously absorbed of the devastation for the Germans of their nation and their identity. Highly recommended!

From 2001 onward, my vacations to Netherlands Limburg and it's close border to Aachen, allowed easy day trips to Charlemagne's grand city and great spa's. I wondered, or could only imagine what those elders may have felt if they knew a Jewish women recently once swam amongst them. A coincident I'm the same age as author, grew up in Chicago, with same (foreign made) fuzzy stuffed animal mole. As written towards end of your book Following Note 6: "Thousands (Germans) died in internment camps where hardships & brutality far exceeded those experienced during the Nazi regime" Really?.... So much dismissed purpose of future generations understanding, unless it's the whole panorama of feeling from a culture.

An absolutely beautiful book. Very believable with the exact historical background.

Loved it! True story of a family living in Germany during the war. Told within the real history of what happened. Photo, maps, and copies of actual documents added much to the story.

While I understand the author's viewpoint, I am not at all certain about her history. When she states that American soldiers set up a brothel in her home while they were evacuated, this certainly may be true. But to say whether the Americans forced the woman to participate "depends on the version you believe." And to accuse all American soldiers of stealing Medieval treasures from the Aachen cathedral is unbelievable, though I know that some did. While the author does give a good view of the German's plight at the end of the war, I believe she was influenced by her relatives' view of things and did not learn the truth about some of the happenings of the end of the War. I have an MA in American history.

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