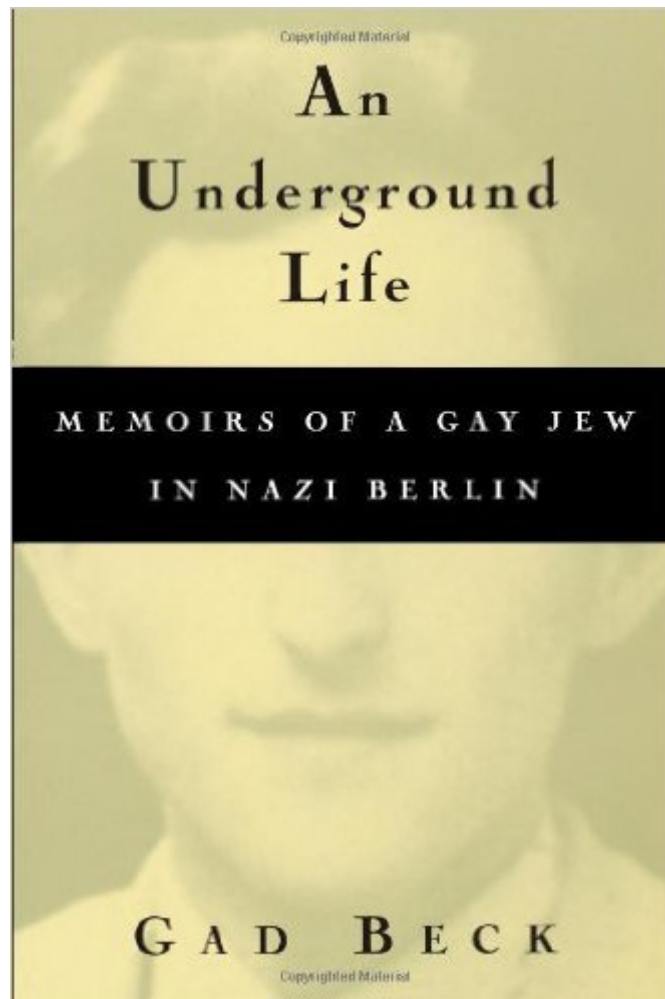


The book was found

An Underground Life: Memoirs Of A Gay Jew In Nazi Berlin (Living Out: Gay And Lesbian Autobiographies)



Synopsis

That a Jew living in Nazi Berlin survived the Holocaust at all is surprising. That he was a homosexual and a teenage leader in the resistance and yet survived is amazing. But that he endured the ongoing horror with an open heart, with love and without vitriol, and has written about it so beautifully is truly miraculous. This is Gad Beck's story.

Book Information

Series: Living Out: Gay and Lesbian Autobiog

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Customer Reviews

An Underground Life: Memoirs of a Gay Jew in Nazi Berlin is a relatively quick read, but there are so many names that sometimes it's hard to keep track of who is who, the only drawback I saw in the memoir (a glossary of names would have been helpful). The memoir starts with the period before the war and deals with the rise of the Nazis, followed by the massive deportations of Jews to the camps. However, there were still quite a few Jews living in Berlin (about 6000-8000 of the 160,000 who resided there in 1933) through the course of the war. Many were in hiding, some were "passing" and had fake credentials, and many others were "mischlings," such as Beck himself (half Jew/half Aryan), who officially could be deported to the camps but who often did slave labor in Berlin as part of the Nazi war effort instead (as Beck did, although his luck finally ran out and he ended up in a pre-deportation center because of his involvement in the Jewish Resistance movement, but it was right at the time that the war was ending, so he didn't get deported after all (by the skin of his teeth). These remaining Jews in Berlin were often helped by Aryans (Aryans who "cared" for them either because they were making money off of them or because they were really good Christian

people). It was amazing how many sexual encounters Gad had with younger gay and straight Jews alike. The straight Jews often thought their days were numbered and wanted intimacy, even it was with their own sex, before being sent off to the camps. These sexual encounters were often quite passionate and not of the "wham bam" variety, involving a great deal of all-night cuddling while the men slept together in a mutual hiding place.

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