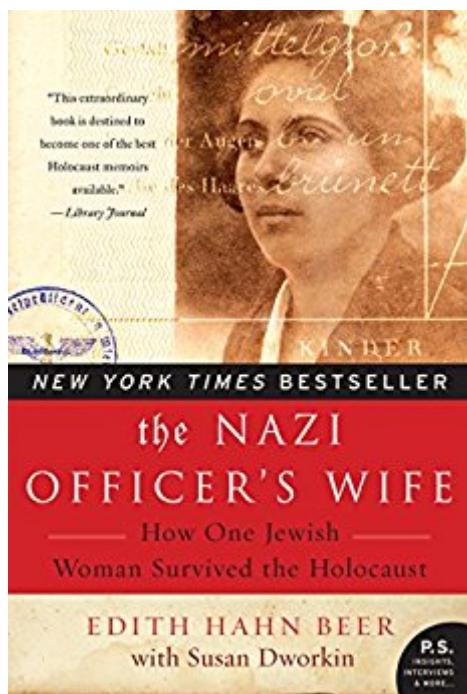


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# The Nazi Officer's Wife: How One Jewish Woman Survived The Holocaust



## **Synopsis**

#1 New York Times Bestseller

Edith Hahn was an outspoken young woman in Vienna when the Gestapo forced her into a ghetto and then into a slave labor camp. When she returned home months later, she knew she would become a hunted woman and went underground. With the help of a Christian friend, she emerged in Munich as Grete Denner. There she met Werner Vetter, a Nazi Party member who fell in love with her. Despite Edith's protests and even her eventual confession that she was Jewish, he married her and kept her identity a secret. In wrenching detail, Edith recalls a life of constant, almost paralyzing fear. She tells how German officials casually questioned the lineage of her parents; how during childbirth she refused all painkillers, afraid that in an altered state of mind she might reveal something of her past; and how, after her husband was captured by the Soviets, she was bombed out of her house and had to hide while drunken Russian soldiers raped women on the street. Despite the risk it posed to her life, Edith created a remarkable record of survival. She saved every document, as well as photographs she took inside labor camps. Now part of the permanent collection at the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., these hundreds of documents, several of which are included in this volume, form the fabric of a gripping new chapter in the history of the Holocaust—complex, troubling, and ultimately triumphant.

## **Book Information**

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## Customer Reviews

What an amazing story about such a courageous woman. Her survival under such horrible circumstances is very impressive. Also, deserving much praise are all of those who risked their lives to help her. Her daughter and grandson have so much to be proud of. After reading this, it is truly hard to complain about little issues that affect our own lives. Many of us have it so easy that sometimes we forget to appreciate the gifts that we have been given. A book like this reminds you of that. It is so important to be thankful for what we have and not to spend our time complaining about what we do not have. Most of us have the freedom to fight for what we want and need.

Edith Hahn was just about to become a lawyer when the war broke out and Jews were no longer allowed to do many things in Vienna. She was in love with Pepi. She eventually was sent to a work house where she was made to make boxes by the thousands for months on end. She wanted so much to stay with her beloved mother but she knew she had to go in order for her mother to be able to stay home. Edith wrote letters to Pepi while she was working in the box factory, longing to be with him. Edith eventually was released and went back to Vienna to see her Pepi who she thought would marry her. Edith eventually was helped to gain the identity of an Aryan friend and hid in plain site of the Germans around her. She marries, becomes a mother, etc. She has to survive riding on trains, getting food rations and getting married, all without anyone finding out she isn't Jewish. Truly different from other survivor stories from the Holocaust. I enjoyed reading this, seeing a different viewpoint from the eyes of a Jewish woman who remained mostly among the German "Aryans", what she thought, what she experienced, saw, heard and how she felt..... I do not want to say more as you need to read this book for yourself. I loved that there were real photos and documents in the back of this Kindle edition!!!

Each page evokes its time: lovely pre-war Vienna, early school years, the shock of realizing one is considered different and less than equal, the grueling life as a slave laborer for the Nazis, the horror of betrayal, the tenterhooks of hiding in plain sight, and more. Well written memoir and an invaluable historical insight on the Jewish "U-boats" surviving in Nazi Germany.

What an amazing survival story and quite different from many Holocaust stories in her passing as

non--Jewish by marrying a member of the Nazi party. Well told and so very interesting!

I found this book to be so interesting. After having read dozens of books on the concentration camps this one opened my eyes to the fact that although the concentration camps were a horrible story for all families having to endure any of it, there are hundreds of stories about other families having to endure horror..... but at different places in the country. I never thought that this nightmare touched every Jewish family but it could have done so in so many different ways. It also showed how there were so many heroes behind the scenes that risked so much to simply help these families out in some way. You really got a sense of how much fear they lived in every decision they made in every day..... any one of them could be the one to send them to one of the camps, or worse. I would also like to mention that if you are someone that would really like to learn about some of these stories but maybe some of the books are way to graphic for you to stomach, this one does a great job of telling the story and much of the horror but does so in not as graphic a way. I appreciated that. For anyone interested in this time period I would recommend this book.

I got this book on sale for \$1.99 so wasn't expecting much but it was an incredibly powerful story. I am not Jewish but have known several Holocaust survivors over the years and have a (Christian) uncle from Austria who was a teenager during WWII. Ms. Hahn's story brought home in detail the terror that the Nazi regime unleashed on Europe, and also gave me an idea of what some of my acquaintances endured (and, perhaps, what others inflicted or ignored). What an incredibly brave and resourceful woman. I could not put this book down.

True story that read like a novel. What an amazing story on what she did to survive during Hitler's reign of terror. It was interesting to read how the German people were treated compared to the Jewish people.

Under a regime driven by propaganda, fear, ignorance, greed and belief in their own superiority, one woman's story of survival challenges our belief that perhaps the ordinary Germans either had no choice in their behaviour or did not know what was unfolding. It highlights the few good who put their own lives at risk but also the "bad" who sometimes could do a dangerous good deed, completely out of character for them. We all know the story of the holocaust quite well but this story is so gripping in the relationships this lady built with Jew and non Jew to survive, all the while becoming what she termed a U Boat. It sometimes judges the Germans and rightly so but the essence of the story is

man's inhumanity to man within civilised nations and the indomitable spirit of some humans to survive despite the odds, an inspiration to all. It is a warning to all to beware the propaganda of their own countries because it is possible for any country to replicate Nazi Germany and indeed anti Semitic Europe / western world of that era. Once started, this book is very difficult to put down.

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