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Von Maggie Davis

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Von Maggie Davis : Stage Door Canteen (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Stage Door Canteen (English Edition):

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. a brilliant work, full of emotion Von Deborah Macgillivray I write many reviews for good books. However, once in a great while, one comes along that's so special it's hard to write a review. Words pale in expressing the rich qualities of the prose, the imagery, that you feel unable to convey properly how wonderful a story it is. Marvelous, amazing,

fabulous, just doesn't hack it. That's my chore...pleasure...in writing a review for Maggie Davis' "Stage Door Canteen" and I know from the start, my words can never do the book full justice. This is one of those novels that will spread by word of mouth, because once you have finished, you'll be moved to tell someone about it. I saw it happen with "Bridges of Madison County". I expect - hope for - the same with this book because it deserves that sort of recognition. Frankly, the story's ripe for Ted Turner to snatch up and make into a movie. It addresses many of the issues close to his heart: flag-waving (meant in the most honorable and patriotic fashion, mind you), America - strong and brave - of what made this Country so great. Recently, with our men again fighting overseas, we've finally come to the understanding one doesn't have to believe in a war, but we should always support the soldiers who go to fight and, maybe, die for their lag. "Stage Door Canteen" is a story of the women who worked, loved and supported the soldiers in WWII, but it's just as relevant today. Crafted with strong details, rich in the history of the period - simply put, the book is amazing on so many levels. "Stage Door Canteen" portrays this frantic denial of war's realities through the eyes of the women left behind. The Canteen, a service club in New York City, was run by the American Theater Wing, giving enlisted men a place to go that wasn't a dive. Young soldiers, far away from small town USA, had a safe spot to go for a good time and have a dance with a pretty lady, before shipping out. It quickly became a pet project for many of the stars of Hollywood and Broadway. Maggie Davis captures all the fun, the worries, even the social issues of the times. I especially applaud Davis' "head-on" addressing of the prejudices against Blacks and Jews in this period. Many writers would've glossed over these issues, making them "politically correct" to see the topics more palatable for the readers of today. But that would've been taking the easy road. Gutsy Davis doesn't flinch in her treatment, but is frank, compassionate and understanding in her writing. SDC centers on the lives of the ladies that work nightly at the Canteen, such as Genevieve Rose. A star on Broadway, she's in the midst of rehearsals for the experimental Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, which seems headed for implosion - and maybe taking Genevieve's career along with it. Not only does Genevieve have to contend with qualms over run-throughs that are often a battle zone, a leading man who chews garlic to hide his drinking, she's facing a marriage that is floundering due to separation because of the war. But for her, the show must go on, especially at the Stage Door Canteen. There is Elise Ginsberg, a Jewish refugee who fled from the terrors of the Nazis. In possession of photos that prove Hitler is running death camps, she's desperate to get the knowledge to the press. She must juggle leading the crusade to shine a light on the truth, her love for a political activist, and the pressures of being in America, and yet not really feeling safe from the horrors of Germany. The whole time she must to put on a pretty face at the Canteen. The vivacious and beautiful Bernadine Flaherty, a dancer from the Performing Arts School, dreams of the big break into show business. She's pursued by the Audie Murphy type GI, Eugene Struhbeck - a man riddled with self-doubts over being a "hero", nearly crippled by the huge chip-on-his-shoulder, and unwilling to give Bernadine room to choose a career over his love. Davis evokes unforgettable images. Broadway's "The Great White Way" is darkened in fear of U-boats just off the coast of New York Harbor. The drama of lives played out against that blackout touch you. You feel for the beautiful Genevieve, distraught as she loses control of her marriage and her career. Poignantly, the handsome sea captain, David Griffiths, who rooms at Genevieve's home, is haunted by the death of his wife, while showing a stiff upper lip - except for that one night. You empathize with Elise, forced to trade her crusade for truth and justice for personal security for her father and her lover. Davis carries you into the world of men, soon to ship out, desperately clutching at the haven the Canteen offers and others returning from overseas, changed, because there is no going through war and coming home the same person. There are the glamorous movie stars such as Katherine Hepburn and Ava Gardner, passing through the Canteen; some for publicity ops, others to serve, because they, too, have loved ones off fighting. Against the tableau of Tommy Dorsey, the Milk Bar and the jitterbug, it's a desperate, frenetic "dance" of people trying to pretend life is normal, when beyond the dimmed lights of Broadway, U-boats prowl and men are dying. They know every man, the ladies of the Canteen send off with a smile in his heart, stands a chance of not returning. It's a desperation that pulls at the heart, the soul, and Davis weaves this tapestry with such vivid details that it leaves you emotionally shaken by the final pages. It's a breathtaking, beautiful slice of Americana; it's a masterpiece. I often see reviewers saying of that rare, special novel "now here is a book I can really sink my teeth into" ... well, this is that book. 2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. THE Book to Read this year! Von J. Marshall This book is hard to write a review about. It is just SO MUCH. Basically, if you read only one book this year - I'd suggestion making it this one. It's a very patriotic book without waving flags - because it is about the people and how they try to carry on in their everyday lives, how was touches even those on the homefront. It's a super peek into the production of a musical, the behind the scenes hair-pulling of talented individual - now legends to us. It's a time-capsule slice of political and ethnic views of WWII era. Davis very simply, yet elegantly crafted a book that should be a bestseller. It evokes emotions on many levels. A book that will please women, because is it centres on the women of the Stage Door Canteen (can see the Hollywood starlets arm-wrestling over this one when they find it! This is choice material for big screen - it just cries for full treatment.). Yet, at the same time, a man reading the novel will see it is a book for them, because there is a heart-stopping sea battle, addresses how war changes their lives, too, and brings in the forming of the pentagon. Basically, one could write pages about this book and never address it full scope. It's just one super work, but best "experienced" yourself. My wife gave me the book and said "You must read this. It is a Classic." Do yourself a

favour - don't wait till someone give it to you or tells you to read it - rush out and discover this novel yourself - then you can be the one telling everyone else to read it!

0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Highly recommended!

Von Detra Fitch

Set in 1942 during one of the biggest wars the world has witnessed. New York was in "brown-out" mode, Frank Sinatra was new to show biz, and the sweet voices of the Andrews Sisters rode the air waves. The Canteen mainly catered to the U.S. Servicemen. Dedicated volunteers, often including such stars as Katherine Hepburn, helped entertain the military personnel on leave before they had to go back on duty. Genevieve "Jenny" Rose was a theater actress. She helped out the Canteen and rehearsed for opening night. Her husband, Major Brad Rose, was in Washington, where the Pentagon was under construction. Brad was with Army Air Force Information Special Planning Division "ISPD". Sgt. Eugene Struhbeck was a regular at the Canteen. Jenny dreaded seeing him because he had a huge chip on his shoulder and often picked fights. However, he was a decorated hero, of Midway, and had to be tolerated. He was often drunk and ended up shooting his mouth off about sensitive issues in the Air Force. Therefore, Lt. Malcolm Sandover was sent to keep an eye on him. Eugene was in love with "Dina", who had as little to do with him as possible. Elise Ginsberg was a volunteer junior hostess. She was Jewish and the men in her home life had her out, almost all the time, trying to get some graphic photos published. The closest she got was to Ruth McGowan of Associated Press. Many had heard about the Nazis concentration camps, but no one spoke of them. ***** So much is going on in this story that I find it impossible to list it all. Therefore, I listed many of the characters, but not all, and just a tiny bit about each. This is an incredibly fast paced story that readers will be hard pressed to stop, even temporarily, whenever reality intrudes. It is clear that the author spent much time on researching the era. There are several areas in the story where the author injected a bit of humor to help break some of the tension. This story is an excellent work of fiction combining facts of the war, the chaos civilians went through, and even some romance. (I kept comparing it to "The Sound of Music".) Highly recommended! *****

Reviewed by Detra Fitch of Huntress Reviews.

Kurzbeschreibung

New York City, the capital of the free world, is dark, its lights turned off as enemy submarines lurk offshore, as close as Coney Island. Three men: a gunner from a B17 bomber who is a national hero, a magazine editor uprooted from civilian life and attached to the Allied High Command, and the violence-torn captain of a Royal Merchant Navy freighter find their destinies linked with three volunteer hostesses from New York's famous Stage Door Canteen. Genevieve Rose is a beautiful Broadway star in an experimental Rodgers and Hammerstein musical that seems headed for disaster. Elise Ginsberg is an indomitable young refugee from Hitler's terror. And Bernadine Flaherty is an ambitious, talented teenage dancer from Brooklyn hoping for her big show-business break.