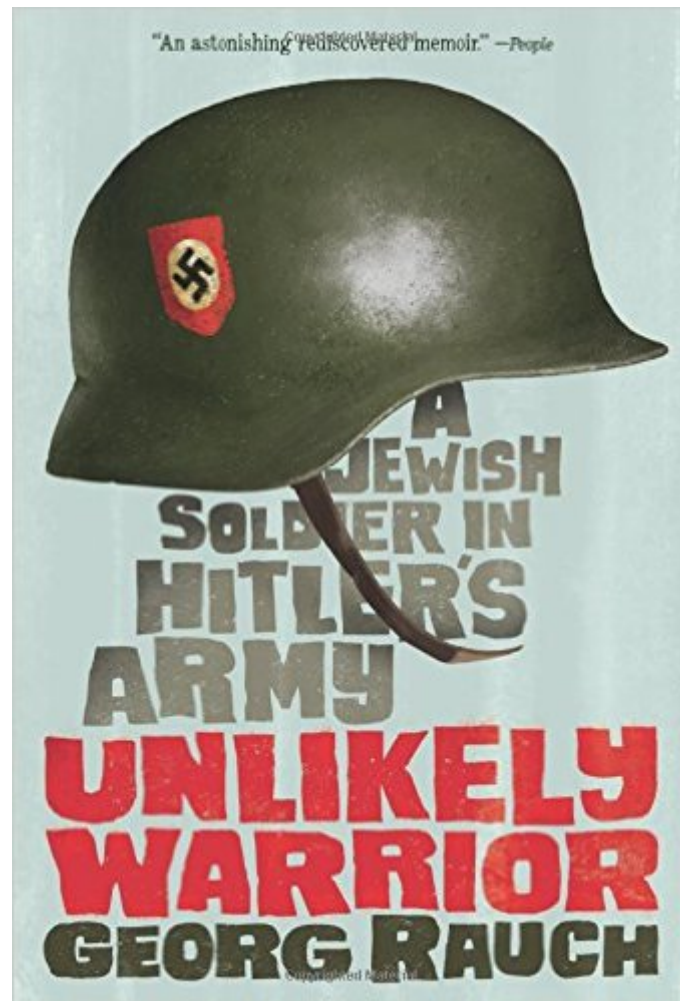


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Unlikely Warrior: A Jewish Soldier In Hitler's Army



Synopsis

As a young adult in wartime Vienna, Georg Rauch helped his mother hide dozens of Jews from the Gestapo behind false walls in their top-floor apartment and arrange for their safe transport out of the country. His family was among the few who worked underground to resist Nazi rule. Then came the day he was drafted into Hitler's army and shipped out to fight on the Eastern front as part of the German infantry in spite of his having confessed his own Jewish ancestry. Thus begins the incredible journey of a nineteen year old thrust unwillingly into an unjust war, who must use his smarts, skills, and bare-knuckled determination to stay alive in the trenches, avoid starvation and exposure during the brutal Russian winter, survive more than one Soviet labor camp, and somehow find his way back home. *Unlikely Warrior* is Rauch's true account of this extraordinary adventure.

Book Information

Paperback: 352 pages

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Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 0.9 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (40 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #70,402 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > History > Holocaust #18 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Holocaust #25 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > History > Military

Age Range: 12 - 18 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

I received a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. I'm a sucker for WWII survival stories, especially when they're YA. And yet... it's been weeks since I finished Mr. Rauch's memoir, and I'm *still* not sure what to say. You think you know what it must have been like after learning about WWII so many times in school or watching movies or doing reports or reading books about it, but you don't. Not really. Nothing can prepare you for how atrocious things got on both sides of the warfront as the war continued. Nothing can prepare you for the emotional turmoil anyone put through war has to go through. Especially when you read true recounts, down to specific

details (like killing a few hundred lice every night just before going to bed, for instance--and this was one of the lesser horrific ones). It breaks you. Most stories about WWII have to do with survivors *not* on the side of Hitler. What makes *Unlikely Warrior: A Jewish Soldier in Hitler's Army* so different is that, amidst the chaos of war and death and prejudice, Georg was not a survivor of a camp, or a Jew in hiding, but a Jewish soldier, forced to fight on Hitler's side doing something he didn't even believe in. As you go with young Georg on his journey, reading letters his mother saved, seeing photos of family, and looking at illustrations he drew back in that day, you feel for him. You want to sit with Georg, hug his past self, and tell him everything'll be okay. And what broke me after going on that journey with him was that when I got to the end was the fact that he's no longer here to reach out to. I am so, so grateful for being given a chance to read this book. So glad that, even after so many decades, Mr. Rauch finally chose to tell his story.

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