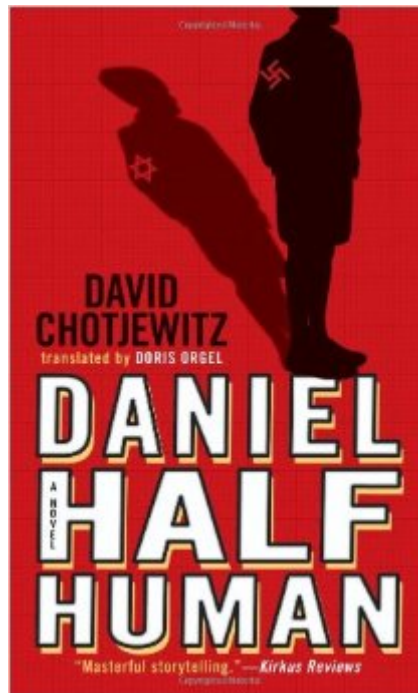


The book was found

Daniel Half Human: And The Good Nazi (Richard Jackson Books (Atheneum Hardcover))



Synopsis

In 1933, best friends Daniel and Armin admire Hitler, but as anti-Semitism buoys Hitler to power, Daniel learns he is half Jewish, threatening the friendship even as life in their beloved Hamburg, Germany, is becoming nightmarish. Also details Daniel and Armin's reunion in 1945 in interspersed chapters

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (7 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

DANIEL HALF HUMAN AND THE GOOD NAZI by David Chotjewitz, translated by Doris Orgel, Simon & Schuster/Atheneum/Richard Jackson, October 2004, ISBN: 0-689-85747-0 "It's interesting: On the street you know right away who's Jewish. I don't mean the Orthodox with their hats and curled sideburns. I mean the ones in normal clothes. I recognize them by how they walk. The Jews always stay close to the building walls. Or near the gutter. Even though it isn't written anywhere that they should. And they always look down. As though they are looking for something on the ground. And there's always this embarrassed smile. As if they wanted to beg pardon for something. No Germans walk in that crept-inside-themselves way."--Daniel's cousin Miriam, writing a letter in 1935. Two young friends in Hamburg, Germany become blood brothers while spending a night in jail. They've been caught painting swastikas in the Communist sector of town in 1933, shortly before the rise of Adolf Hitler. Daniel, the son of a wealthy attorney, and Armin, a poor scholarship student, attend an elite high school together. Little do either know, as the pair are first dabbling in hatred and

imagining belonging to the HJ (Hitler Youth), that Daniel's parents will soon reveal to him that his mother is actually Jewish."Daniel looked at his father. 'Why did you do it?' he asked. 'Why did you marry a Jewess?'Rheinhard stared at him. 'Why I did what?'That's why I'm half Jewish now,' Daniel said. 'Because you married a Jewess.'Rheinhard didn't answer. He gave David a look that hurt more than the smack in the face he gave him next.

When I was going through this book, the above mentioned song by Kinky Friedman was the thing that recurringly kept coming to my mind, because "Daniel Half Human and the Good Nazi" would tell us the events that would precede the Holocaust, in which 6 million members of the European Jewry would eventually perish. (Of course, Kinky's song generated enough storm in its day, because most people took it to be insulting to the memory of the Holocaust victims.).I, for myself, as someone who for a few years lived in Jerusalem, had the chance to learn about the Jewish history and the atrocities on the Jews in Europe; visiting the Yad Vashem (Holocaust Memorial Museum) was both shocking and an eye opener; it showed what should never happen in this world. But I did not read many a book of fiction that described the years before the 2nd World War in Germany (Perhaps one such book that I read was "Father of a Murderer").There are many books that give us graphic details of the Holocaust era atrocities, but there are not so many works of fiction that discuss the preceding years and the eventual spiraling of that era to the concentration camps and the "final solution". "Daniel Half human and the Good Nazi" concerns itself with 1933-1940, perhaps the most defining period for the 20th century history and politics.The irony of the book lies in the friendship of two teenagers, who are extremely devoted to the Nazi party and Hitler and both of whom aim to join the Hitler Youth. They even get arrested one night drawing Swastika in the city square.But then things suddenly change: Daniel finds out that his mother was the daughter of a couple who converted from Judaism, thus making her Jewish, and thereby making himself half Jewish, or half-human.

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