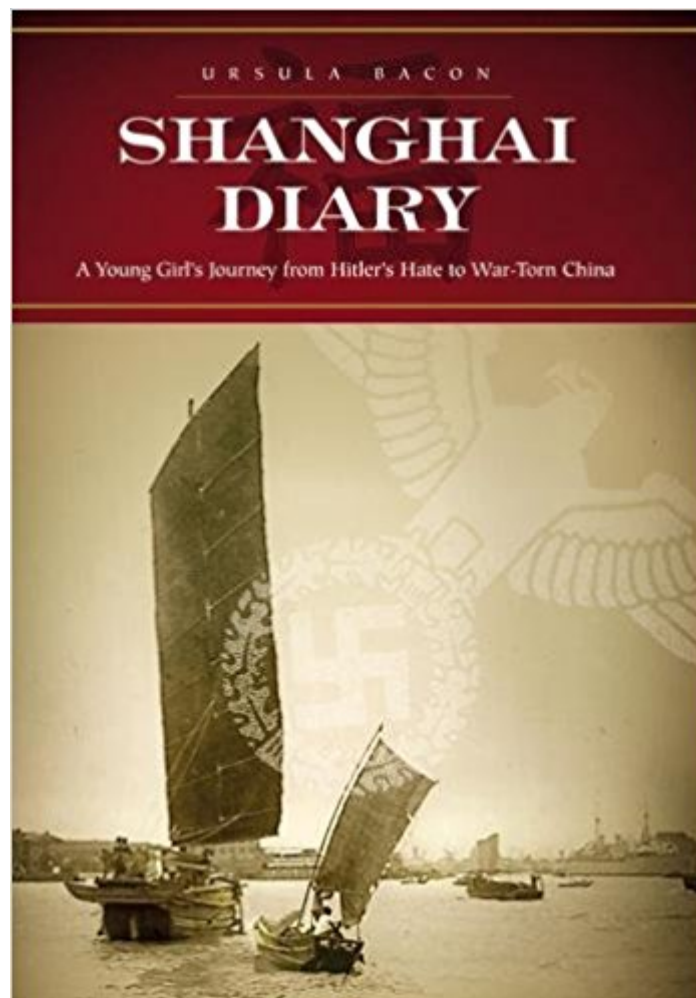




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Shanghai Diary: A Young Girl's Journey From Hitler's Hate To War-Torn China



Synopsis

By the late 1930s, Europe sat on the brink of a world war. As the holocaust approached, many Jewish families in Germany fled to one of the only open port available to them: Shanghai. Once called "the armpit of the world," Shanghai ultimately served as the last resort for tens of thousands of Jews desperate to escape Hitler's "Final Solution." Against this backdrop, 11-year-old Ursula Bacon and her family made the difficult 8,000-mile voyage to Shanghai, with its promise of safety. But instead of a storybook China, they found overcrowded streets teeming with peddlers, beggars, opium dens, and prostitutes. Amid these abysmal conditions, Ursula learned of her own resourcefulness and found within herself the fierce determination to survive.

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Customer Reviews

Ursula Bacon is a seasoned author. She has written the popular Nervous Hostess Cookbook and is co-founder and publisher of BestSeller Consultants Inc. --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

The author is writing from a glorified memory, has made things up which were absolutely impossible. ie: " children sitting in a tub of peanut butter". We would have killed for peanut butter. This item was unknown to the refugees and certainly to the Chinese. While the book is very nicely written, and a fun read, the events portrayed in some cases were pure " artistic license". The refugees starved, disease ran rampant, very few were able to enjoy coffee and cake at the Cafe Vienna, especially towards the end of the war.I so wished that there was more info about the actual

life and daily happenings in our community called " Hongkew". Thank you for writing the book Ms. Bacon, your story is sweet. For most of us however, it is bittersweet.

While this is a very interesting personal journal, the author's point of view is that of a young girl, and therefore, severely limited. She dwells on the "filth and crowded conditions" under which native Chinese live, judging it from a very German, upper class point of view without any knowledge or attempts to understand the reasons for the conditions. The events of her life in Shang Hai are interesting enough to keep one reading, but her superior attitude toward the people who accepted her into their city without prejudice makes the tone of the book somewhat irritating. There seems to be little gratitude, understanding, or kindness toward a people who hosted her and her family at a time when the rest of the world, including America, rejected them. Except for descriptions of what she did and with whom during those years, there is little in-depth analysis of most of her relationship with other refugees. The end of the book is abrupt, she does not allow us the satisfaction of knowing what happened to some of her wartime friendships, such as the one with the important character, Yuan Lin. In a series of books about Jews surviving the war in Shang Hai, this tome adds valuable information though on from a rather limited viewpoint.

This was an eye-opening read about the life of those who had fled Germany during WWII. This is the first book I have read about the experiences of those whose only option of leaving was going to China. The author's experiences demonstrate her courage, strength, and heart to see the good in any situation. She captures the many tragic moments she lived through in such detail that she brings the roller-coaster of emotions one can have to surface. I appreciate the time the author took to describe the scenes, smells and attitudes of those living in Asia at that time. This book was a very fast read for me. I highly recommend this book to any who are interested in WWII. Also, during this book there are two characters (the father and Yuan Lin) who provide great advice worth reading and taking in.

It is one of the best books I have ever read.....the spirit of the Jews which never disappeared in the face of such horrible living conditions...curfews.....no space to be alone.....filth.....was so well described you could be there and find wonderment. I loved Mrs. Goldberg who said to Ursula as she went to find a daily ration of food....Darlink remember now....go make a miracle.....God is very busy.....we must help Him.

This is the story of how Ursula Bacon and her family escaped Nazi Germany in March 1939. Following a long boat trip, her family settled in Shanghai China, one of the few places in 1939 Jews could escape to from the Nazi's. A very interesting book, and an amazing story once I got into it. To earn some money, Ursula taught English to Chinese concubines. Along the way, they became very good friends. She learned about spirituality and herself from a Buddhist monk. She also met the man she eventually married, Wolf Levysohn. There are so many stories rolled into this one book. Quite a story about a place that 18,000 Jews called home and were able to escape the horror of Nazi Europe.

Shanghai is the story of a young German Jewish girl & her family who fled Germany during World War 2. They went to Shanghai, China because it was the only country that would accept refugees without a visa. This is a story of survival in spite of poverty & persecution. I lived in Shanghai just before the war and Ursula Bacon describes the sights, sounds & smells just the way I remember them!

As I get ready to visit China for the 4th time, where my son & daughter in law now live, in Shanghai. I started reading up on Shanghai and the Jewish Ghetto. I found this book not only fascinating, having been written by someone who lived the story, but it reads like a novel. It is a story of the hardships of the change from a life of luxury in Germany to the trials of Shanghai life for stateless refugees, but always told with hope and determination. The author knows how to find good people, which to me means she is a good person herself. I look forward to my trip to Shanghai China in two months in the belief that I have already had a great guide of what life was like for the Jews of Shanghai. I will look at the ghetto when I visit there with different eyes because of this book. Bravo to Ursula Bacon.

First of all, I disliked the fact that as the Jews were being persecuted in Germany, most all the country's including ours would not accept them in their lands. I liked the book as it delves into history and that seems to be my favorite reads. I recommend this book to anyone who is interested in the history of the persecuted Jews of the Second World War and how some found a safe haven, per say, from being killed off.

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