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Posted on 02 April 2017 By Annette Dumbach

In The Spring And Summer Of , Five Young German Students And One Professor At The University Of Munich Crossed The Threshold Of Toleration To Enter The Realms Of Resistance, Danger And Death This Is An Account Of German Resistance To The Third Reich It Is A Window Into Human Resilience In The Face Of Dictatorship Deeply moving and well written The book expands beyond the title as it also covers Hans Scholl and the core of the White Rose members in Munich It is abundantly clear to us the grotesqueness they were fighting against so I found it interesting to discover they were fighting for and those individual experiences that guided them Hans Scholl s individual creativity, Sophie Scholl s intellectual curiosity, Kurt Huber s anti imperialism, Alexander Schmorrell s Russian background, Willi Graf s Catholic faith and Christoph Probst s Jewish family although these stories were by no means their sole reasons Nazi resistance was not monochromatic and ranged in cultural and political motivation Nazism didn t thrive solely on enthusiastic party members, it succeeded from quiet support and those who acquiesced It hinged on those who saw the evil and wrongdoing but turned a blind eye or resigned themselves to what transpired It is inspiring to read of the courage of the White Rose that they were not going to be counted with the masses that became complicit with the Nazi system Freedom is important than self preservation. It bothered me from the outset that on the front

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cover this book is described as having an animated narrative that reads like a suspense novel. I hope not, I thought I don't want a novel. Yes, there were some tense moments, in which members of the WR risked life and limb by mailing large quantities of anti-Nazi leaflets around Germany, whilst the dreaded Gestapo loitered everywhere. And in parts it did have novel qualities, that had me thinking of Hans Fallada's *Brilliant Alone in Berlin*, but on the whole this detailed account of the White Rose felt like a history lesson, a return to the classroom, that it did a gripping novel. Which was what I'd hoped. My knowledge of the White Rose and their activities had previously been pretty slim: a group of students are sentenced to death for spreading their hatred for the Third Reich. And this book did a great job of filling in the many blanks: How did it all start, who were its founders, how did many of them get caught, before being charged with treason. I now feel bloated with WR data, and definitely got my money's worth. Annette Dumbach clearly goes about her research with much passion, and even includes at the back of the book all the leaflets which turned out to be far longer than I thought, written by the White Rose and the Resistance, photos, mugshots of those charged, including the defiant-looking brother-sister Hans and Sophie Scholl at the time of their arrest, February 18, 1943, chillingly, the actual guillotine used for execution, and the Munich courtroom where the defendants were tried, which surprised me as to how small it was. I also learned to my great joy that the good old RAF reprinted one of the leaflets, and air-dropped millions of copies over Germany in July 1943. For all the fascination I found with this book, it is still, ultimately so tragic I actually started to think that all these events, and all the terror, all the deaths, and all the carnage of WW2 simply didn't really happen, how could it? But it did: The White Rose students played just a small role in the battle against such evil, but they did make a difference. And all these years that have passed, they still have the power to ignite and inspire people to speak out against injustice. An extract from the fourth printed White Rose leaflet: Who has counted the dead Hitler or Goebbels? Neither of them. In Russia thousands are lost daily. It is the time of the harvest, and the reaper cuts into the ripe grain with wide strokes. Mourning enters the country cottages, and there is no one to dry the tears of the mothers. Yet Hitler feeds lies to those people

Goddess

Pride and Prejudice

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One for the Money

Something Blue

Good in Bed

Twenties Girl

The Devil Wears Prada

Eat, Pray, Love

Shopaholic Takes
Manhattan

Water for Elephants

P.S. I Love You

The Sisterhood of the
Traveling Pants

The Other Boleyn Girl

whose most precious belongings he has stolen and whom he has driven to a meaningless death Every word out of Hitler's mouth is a lie When he says peace, he means war, and when he blasphemously uses the name of the Almighty, he means the power of evil, the fallen angel, Satan His mouth is the foul smelling maw of hell, and his might is at bottom accursed True, we must conduct the struggle against the National Socialist terrorist state with rational means, but whoever today still doubts the real existence of demonic powers has completely failed to understand the metaphysical background of this war Behind the concrete, visible events, behind all objective, rational considerations, we find the irrational element the struggle against the devil, against the servants of the Antichrist My impression of the Scholls and the White Rose movement too strong organisation barely that gang from when I first learnt of them around the age of seventeen or eighteen was that they were sweet, but silly After reading this book my first impression hasn't shifted much if at all. The Scholls formed a small group of Munich students, they wrote and distributed six anti-Nazi leaflets from June 1942 until 18th February 1943 when they were caught Then they were executed. That was the Scholls, briefly, now the book It seemed to me to be pitched at people who had heard of the Scholls or the White Rose but didn't know much about Germany Reading the book the questions in my mind were who wrote the leaflets, when, how did they manage the practical side, and why did they even start these questions didn't interest the author, the question of why was only obliquely addressed with the curious suggestion that they might have been motivated by Heidegger well his writings, not in person which given his association with the Nazi regime would have been odd. To my mind, three ways present themselves as to how to approach on the Scholls a Gestapo view focusing on becoming aware of these leafleteers, attempts to find out and to track them down down the advantage of this is that there is some documentary evidence a comparative view looking at them in the context of resistance movements in Germany as a whole they were typical in that they emerged relatively late, once allied victory looked to be somewhere between extremely likely and inevitable, they were also typical in that the ideological spectrum of those involved from semi communist left to authoritarian militaristic right wing

I've Got Your Number

The Joy Luck Club

The Boy Next Door

was quite broad or thirdly something focused on the details of the Scholls and their circle, this I gather reading between the lines would be the most difficult since reasonably enough they were quite secretive often a good idea when involved in clandestine resistance movements and mostly young, and not particularly exceptional on the face of it, the Scholls were Protestants from Swabia, the others Catholics, mostly students, a couple were in the army as medics, their access to amphetamines helped to fuel the operations of the group, perhaps contributing to their ultimate carelessness. Dumbach and Newborn's approach is a bit novelistic, skipping backwards and forwards in time with sweeping digressions until page 122 of 185 when the group start work on their fifth leaflet and there is then a continuous narrative until the end. Before then things happen at random, not all the leaflets are discussed, we don't learn how the group came together or what motivated them to search for a method of resistance or why writing leaflets in particular, but we do learn of their efforts to reach out and make contact with other resistance movements via the younger brother of a man arrested for resistance activities which seems very amateurish, but it seems the Gestapo were not watching who he was getting into contact with, not that any of them could have known that and a business man in a group discussing the post war, post Hitler ordering of Germany he is strong armed by the Scholls into writing them a cheque for 500 Reichmark a fatal mistake for him since cash is harder to trace. This retelling is quite novelistic, but not novel like enough to be exciting, neither analytical nor a close investigation to be interesting in an exciting way. Quite why Sophie Scholl gets her name on the front cover I don't know, she only dominates the story from the trial onwards when she was as cool as a cucumber and demonstrated sang froid to the end, how the authors know that they don't say, I wondered if they wanted to write a martyr's life for her but the account isn't quite that, the martyr I believed oughtn't get caught quite so accidentally, but rather deliberately. At the end of the account of the Scholls and their activities buying stamps, envelopes and paper in small quantities so as not to create suspicions, staying up all night cracking out copies of their leaflets on a mimeograph, posting leaflets to addresses taken from the phone book are translations of their leaflets these are not rousing calls to arms,

great careers in advertising did not await them had they not been guillotined by the Nazis One of their group did have an escape plan in case they were to be rounded up by the Nazis they involved laying low in a PoW camp for Russian prisoners and then heading across country to Switzerland, in the event he couldn't get into the camp and didn't have the clothing to get through the snow in February. So my impression remains that the group was sweet but silly, writing leaflets was maybe as effective as painting graffiti, not everybody had supplies of conveniently available Jews or Trades Unionists to help hide or smuggle abroad It's not a bad book, though I didn't find it particularly clear, I do hope though that there are better books on the subject in print. Strange title as if the book has a central character, it is Sophie's brother Hans Possibly the title is a publisher's decision to follow on the success of the Sophie Scholl film Much is conjecture particular conversations, scenes and so forth but robust imaginative insight is crucial to good history The book charts not only the history of the White Rose resistance movement but the whole network of interior resistance within Nazi Germany There are also succinct interpretations of German nationalism from the time of Napoleon, and philosophical movements Overall, this is an uplifting story of courage and sacrifice with the universal dimension which promises that even in the midst of evil, amongst indifference and cowardice and self interest, there are good people who do good things. I have yet to look at the appendices which contain the seven leaflets of the White Rose which the group managed to distribute across Germany, court judgments, and New York Times reports.

