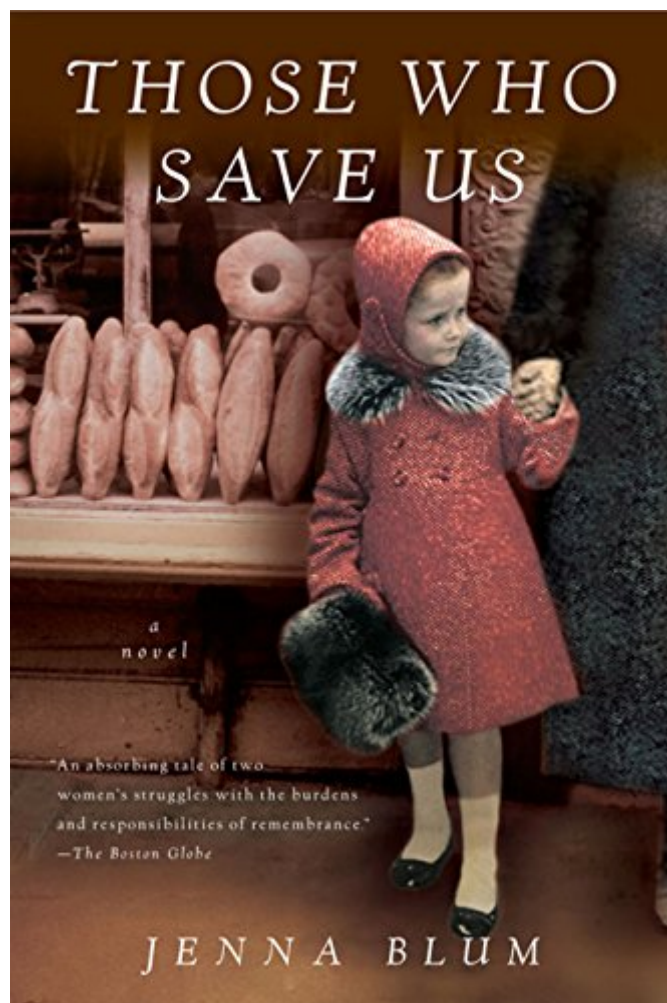


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# Those Who Save Us



## Synopsis

For fifty years, Anna Schlemmer has refused to talk about her life in Germany during World War II. Her daughter, Trudy, was only three when she and her mother were liberated by an American soldier and went to live with him in Minnesota. Trudy's sole evidence of the past is an old photograph: a family portrait showing Anna, Trudy, and a Nazi officer, the Obersturmfuhrer of Buchenwald. Driven by the guilt of her heritage, Trudy, now a professor of German history, begins investigating the past and finally unearths the dramatic and heartbreaking truth of her mother's life. Combining a passionate, doomed love story, a vivid evocation of life during the war, and a poignant mother/daughter drama, *Those Who Save Us* is a profound exploration of what we endure to survive and the legacy of shame.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have no words to adequately describe the impact this story made on me. The writing is beautiful and the story is poignant. Not just another story of World War II.

It's a good read, but the subject matter is serious. That is all I am giving away.

I enjoyed this book very much. I have had it for a long time and every time I started to read the first paragraph I couldn't get through it. I finally sat down and pushed myself through the first paragraph as this was a funeral and I was very confused about the characters in the beginning. The book goes back and forth between time and I was always looking forward to getting back to the past years or the beginning. It was much more intriguing and interesting than the future. The last chapter brought the future into light and why it was so important to be explained. Overall I would say read it if you like history.

Loved it. Read it twice. I didn't realize I had read in a hard copy years ago. It's about a young German girl in a small town just before the war starts. Her love affair with a Jewish Doctor and her forced "affair" with a high ranking German soldier. The story goes into the future as the child of this love affair is now grown and living in America. It's 4:35am and I just finished reading. I will not spoil the rest of the story. Pick it up. Enjoy! Janet B.

There is no black and white, as some simplify it to, in WWII. There was rampant evil, there were acts of amazing grace, there were horrors that took many of my family members before I had the breath of a possibility of being their grand niece or grand daughter. But the beautiful layers of gray painted in this novel are worth the read. Especially the story of women stuck with impossible choices and still finding some way to try to do good, and survive.

Those Who Save Us did not capture attention immediately. However, as the story developed I was drawn into the desperate situation for Anna and her child. The movement between the past and presentation of three different viewpoints as the story developed held my attention! The conclusion had me riveted to the end of the book and was overwhelmingly emotional! I would highly recommend this story for another perspective on the war experience!

Well written story dealing with the difficult topic of a woman who did things she would never normally have done in order to protect herself and her daughter during the supremely abnormal Nazi years in Germany. The whole thing was disturbing, not surprising given the subject matter, but most unsettling to me was how she completely closed the door on that chapter after the war, never explaining to people who might have understood if she had taken a chance and shared the whole

burden. Disturbing - but very likely an accurate picture of how many Germans coped, in fact how many of us would cope after experiencing horrors. It made me wonder what I'd have done in her circumstances. After finishing it I felt the need of a brisk walk in the sunshine.

Compelling story. Great character development. Gut wrenching story about the Rise of the Nazi's and how the people suffered at the hands of these barbaric people. Shows the tenacity of one woman's drive and determination to keep her and her little girl safe until the American liberation.

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