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With Hitler To The End: The Memoirs Of Adolf Hitler's Valet



Synopsis

Heinz Linge worked with Adolf Hitler for a ten year period from 1935 until the Führer's death in the Berlin bunker in May 1945. He was one of the last to leave the bunker and was responsible for guarding the door while Hitler killed himself. During his years of service, Linge was responsible for all aspects of Hitler's household and was constantly by his side. He claims that only Eva Braun stood closer to Hitler over these years. Through a host of anecdotes and observations, Linge recounts the daily routine in Hitler's household; his eating habits, his foibles, his preferences, his sense of humour and his private life with Eva Braun. In fact, Linge believed Hitler's closest companion was his dog Blondi. After the war Linge said in an interview, 'it was easier for him to sign a death warrant for an officer on the front than to swallow bad news about the health of his dog'. Linge also charts the changes in Hitler's character during the period of his service, and the latter's fading health from around 1942. During his last days, Hitler's right eye began to hurt intensely and Linge was responsible for administering cocaine drops to kill the pain. In a number of instances - such as with the Stauffenberg bomb plot of July 1944 - Linge gives an excellent eyewitness account of events. He also gives thumbnail profiles of the prominent members of Hitler's 'court': Hess, Speer, Bormann and Ribbentrop amongst them. Though Linge held an SS rank, he claims not to have been a Nazi Party member. His profile of Hitler is not blindly uncritical, but it is nonetheless affectionate. The Hitler that emerges is a multifaceted individual: unpredictable and demanding, but not of an otherwise unpleasant nature.

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Customer Reviews

A very easy & interesting read for any history lover who wants to see a different side of Hitler. Heinz Linge was Hitlers personnel assistant/confidant and by his side every day for over a decade & wrote about his experiences with Hitler after he was released from Soviet custody after the war. We all know the evil that was Hitler, and Linge does not try to justify any of it, but rather talks about the Hitler he new behind the scenes away from the public and away from his "War Machine" that was Himmler, Bormann, Goebels, etc. He talks about Hitlers quirks, his eating habits, his health & decline, and determination as the war raged on, his life with Eva, the conversations Hitler would have in private with Linge about the war effort & what he really thought about some of his "top advisors". Linge admits that there was a mystique about Hitler in the early days that captivated everyone he was in contact with, and he himself was under that spell right up to the end as he was there with a front row view of history for over a decade not fully realizing the enormity of destruction Hitlers views & ideas had on the world until years later. This is his story.

" I had a theatre box on history, and remained in it until it collapsed..."Thus speaks Heinz Linge, personal valet to Hitler from 1935 until the suicide 10 years later. For those few (post-"Downfall") who still view Hitler as some kind of supernatural ogre or maniacal beast this book will truly be a revelation. For the rest of us, intrigued as to who this man was, this book is another fascinating fragment in a compelling mosaic. The best way to picture Linge is outside the Führer's bedroom last thing at night and first thing in the morning. Never farther than arm's length from his master for the last decade of his life. Linge comes across as apolitical although clearly intoxicated by his attendance on this human phenomenon. There are some absolutely priceless vignettes to savour in this honest, even-tempered and even-handed account: From the banal; Hitler kept a chest expander under his bed, he wore large cap visors to block out light...to the bizarre; a woman claimed Hitler raped her, Hitler admired the man who tried to assassinate him in 1939 and utilised him to design other bombs,to the exotic; Hitler and Eva caught embracing by Linge, Hitler possibly visiting his

illegitimate child and former mistress during his tour of the WW1 battlefields...etc. And that's before you get to the pen pictures of Bormann (a brute), Goebbels (engaging and loyal), Goering (brave but absurd) and Hess (loved by all). An absolute cracker of a book with the pleasant and unpretentious Linge slowly descending into Hell. Unmissable unless you have no interest whatsoever in History and it's human carnival of characters.

This memoir is told dispassionately by the man who perhaps knew the real Hitler best in his final years. He was even entrusted with procuring the fuel and seeing that Adolf and Eva Hitler's bodies were burned as per Hitler's instructions to him. Hitler didn't feel the need to hide his illnesses, fatigue or depressive moods from Linge. And he took him everywhere with him. Since Hitler trusted very few at the end, this is a fascinating account of the day to day Hitler. Linge didn't question anything Hitler did or said, seemed in awe and respectful of him. If he had any private qualms, he kept them to himself, though he didn't seem intelligent enough, even by his own admission, to query anything about the Third Reich policies. Quite sad is his reporting of the wedding a day before Hitler and his wife committed suicide and the moments after the six Goebbels children were put to sleep by a doctor. This even after the staff offered to raise them. Very insightful.

...I have read a lot of books by people close to Hitler. Hitler to the End offers two things that many of the others do not:-many FÄrer secrets i.e. the person to person perceptions of someone REALLY close to Hitler. Herr Linge opinions are not about political or military issues, in fact Linge says in many passages of the book that he was not present during this and that meeting or conversation, but he gives us a coffee table opinion of the very human Adolf Hitler. Shocking, is not it? Yes, ladies and gentlemen, Hitler was human, very much, he was even a nice person according to the book and that precisely makes Hitler's evil behavior even the most frightening-last but not least, Heinz Linge DOES NOT claim through pages and pages that he is full of remorse and that he loved Hitler then but now he (Linge) saw the light and rejects him. On the contrary. Linge seems to admire his Boss very much as a person, even 30 or so years after everything happened. I find that a very honest position. Hitler WAS charming and a very good boss with a simple mind as Herr Linge, why should Linge denied his admiration and appreciation? In short, although this book is a far cry from other "profound" books about Hitler, is nonetheless very entertaining and informative. As a book is very nice. A nice letter size, pictures, hardcover with dustjacket and a very comfortable size to hold. Nice product.

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