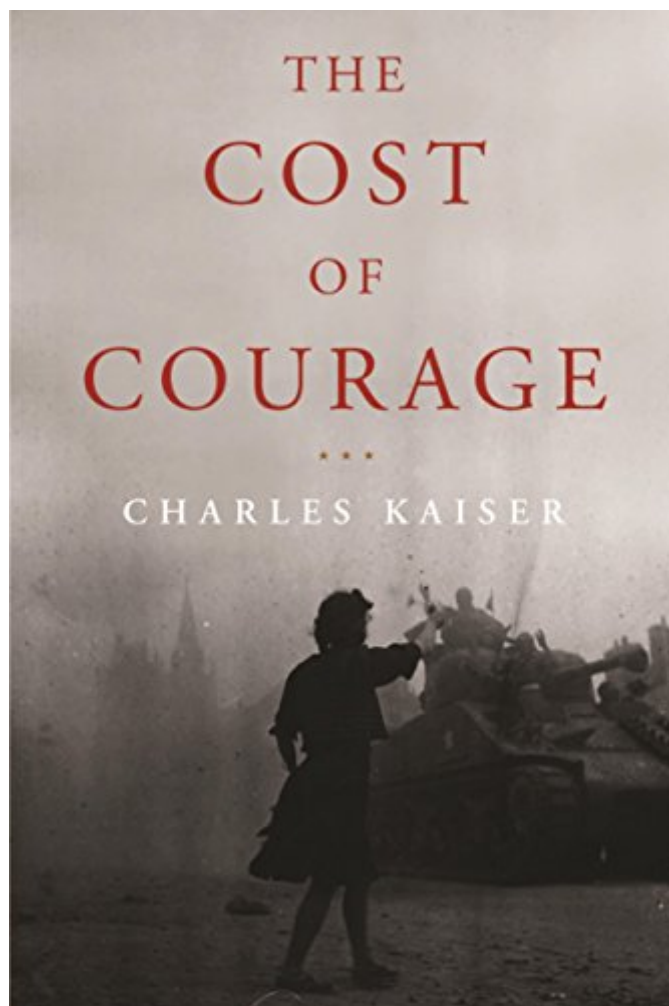


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The Cost Of Courage



Synopsis

"The result is a mix of history, biography and memoir which reads like a nerve-racking thriller." *—The Guardian* (US) This heroic true story of the three youngest children of a bourgeois Catholic family who worked together in the French Resistance is told by an American writer who has known and admired the family for five decades. In the autumn of 1943, Andr  f   Bouloche became de Gaulle's military delegate in Paris, coordinating all the Resistance movements in the nine northern regions of France only to be betrayed by one of his associates, arrested, wounded by the Gestapo, and taken prisoner. His sisters carried on the fight without him until the end of the war. Andr  f   survived three concentration camps and later became a prominent French politician who devoted the rest of his life to reconciliation of France and Germany. His parents and oldest brother were arrested and shipped off on the last train from Paris to Germany before the liberation, and died in the camps. Since then, silence has been the Bouloches' answer to dealing with the unbearable. This is the first time the family has cooperated with an author to recount their extraordinary ordeal.

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Customer Reviews

The Cost of Courage does two things simultaneously: it briefly and excitingly reminds the 21-century reader of the main thrust of WWII, now more than 60 years in the past; and it vividly tells the true story of a particularly fascinating, deeply engaged French family in Paris during the War. Three of the family's siblings were Resistants, and their covert and dangerous activities during the War directly caused the most dire possible outcome not for them but for other members of their family. The pain stemming from the War was so extreme that the surviving members of the family refused to speak about it for many years. They agreed to tell the whole story only because Charles Kaiser, their friend, earned their trust. The resulting book is a true masterpiece, a first-rate thriller, a book of serious historical research, and a really valuable contribution to our shared understanding of both WWII in general and the French Resistance in particular. This is a great book, and as important as Marcel Ophuls's great 1969 documentary film *The Sorrow and the Pity*.

Reading Charles Kaiser's *THE COST OF COURAGE* plunges the reader from being a spectator of German occupation of France into inside the personal lives: emotions, human limitations, and unbreakable commitment to life, freedom, honor, sacrifice, risk for the love of France, herself. The reader becomes immersed like disease-fighting antibodies into a cancer-inflicted body settling for nothing less than preserving life, restoring total health - no matter what the cost. Common people - refusing defeat in any form - create an arsenal of Resistance networks which ultimately seriously weakens their oppressive captors. Their individual stories are astounding,. However, they chose to remain silent individually - so that "free-France" remains proof of their solidarity of purpose and integrity. Charles Kaiser takes the reader into the life & death dramas of suffering, deprivation, and yet heroic acts of courage fuelled by duty to love without limits. As German occupation comes to an end in France, General Charles DeGaulle reminds all people of France and of all nations that France is not experiencing a "new beginning. They are just continuing forward in their national strength of character they have always possessed. In no way is that statement arrogant. It is humility with the highest cost of courage, resilience, and perseverance fleshed-out in people willing to make self-sacrifice decisions far beyond themselves. Would we - individually and as a nation - have these same uncompromisable attributes and character to withstand and conquer our inner challenges as well as any formidable real enemies all for life, Liberty, and the highest forms of democracy upon which America was birthed?

Don't be put off by the fact that the book is written in the present tense. It may take a chapter or two

to get used to it but once you get that far you are hooked. Kaiser's book is part story, part memoir, personal stories that have been told to him connected to actual facts and quotations to back them up and give them context. To live in France during WW2 was more than a challenge, you could resist, you could go your head down and hope for the best or you could become a traitor and collaborate. Kaiser tells the story of a family whose three children join the Resistance in Paris, of the risks they took and the legacy their actions left on their lives. This book is a beautiful and poignant image of a horrific time that we must never forget as well as a wonderful examination of human nature under duress.

I am very glad to have had this opportunity, and recommend to anyone who has an interest in history of the period, particularly relating to the extraordinary work and influence of the French Resistance.

A great story about surviving the holocaust - the choices we make, the hope and strength that can be found.

The French Resistance as well as the motivation and support of its "allies" during the period prior, during and after World War II is a highly controversial. Many knowledgeable people have studied and dissected what was written about the subject. The title of this book, "The Cost of Courage" aptly describes the human endeavor. An excellent piece of literature! A must read for everyone - the young student, the historian, the person who wants to know "why?"

This book has become very popular, and it deserves to be. It is well written. It is an important slice of history with real people, and it reads like a thriller! It takes you inside the French Resistance during the Nazi occupation. There you meet the young men and women in this family, and their fellow Frenchmen who sacrificed everything to organize, plan, and carry out courageous acts of defiance that saved countless lives and helped win the war against Hitler.

If you're a fan of WWII stories this book is for you. It's about a French family & the Resistance.

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