



The Chocolate Bar

Agathe Von Kampen , Steve William Laible (Editor)

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With no point of reference for a life of "normalcy," seeking acceptance and security in a country not accommodating to immigrants, the author relied only on survival instincts, leading to her years of co-dependency, self-doubt, and utter despondency. She finds herself seeking refuge in controlling religious factions and abusive relationships. This life struggle reminds her constantly of her experiences in WWII where she spent her first six years on the front lines in Russia and as a refugee in Hitler's Germany. Her lullabies were the sounds of gunfire and exploding bombs. Her arrival at Ellis Island was promised to be the beginning of freedom; instead, it was only the continuation of abuse and control-intimate and personal relationships of psychological warfare. This is a compelling account of life as it was back "then" and how this child of war endured as she did, blossoming into a young woman, in a new land called America. A life's journey, as told by the author with such honesty, innocence, joy, humor, lessons and revealing horrors and sins; is it any wonder how this broken soul did in fact, survive.

The Chocolate Bar Details

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Author : Agathe Von Kampen , Steve William Laible (Editor)

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From Reader Review The Chocolate Bar for online ebook

Steve Laible says

This is an amazing non-fiction I highly recommend you read and share. This first-time author, now nearing 80 years old, captures her story as literature was meant to be recorded. It chronicles the true life adventures of a sweet, little girl making her way out of Russia to America during WWII. Hide in the bunker with her. Ride in the boxcar with her. Feel the earth between your toes. Taste the dust. Roll with the waves on the open sea. Swallow your pride. See Ellis Island. Then join her entry to America where dreams are made. Unfortunately, it is also where nightmares lurk...

Please leave a kind review on Amazon and recommend it here as the world really ought to discover her true story.

Available on Amazon.com; BN.com; Oregon Books & Games; or your favorite bookstore. Reading this book will change your life.

Thank you.

Pamela says

I highly recommend this memoir. It is an a candid look at an unbelievable life I'd like to meet this inspirational lady.

Siobhan Serra-coles says

You read a lot of books about the Holocaust written by survivors or the families of the survivors but this is probably the first one I've read written by a non-Jew who wasn't a Nazi. It never really dawned on me, how bad the people who weren't Jews were treated. The author and her family really went through one hell of a time and seems to have the scars to prove it. I hope now that she has adult kids and grandkids of her own, she can start to find some peace. This was a really good book and has a lot of history in it. I won this book (free) through Goodreads!

Toni L. says

Won this book from Goodreads. It was a very good book. Would recommend this book to my friends. I'm not very good at doing reviews.

Victoria Osborne says

This is a wonderful and powerful story about a young girls experiences behind German lines on the Russian front in world war two and her own life later on. The story is so clear and the people so real. It is truly a memoir worth reading.

Tina says

My re-cap of Agathe's story!

When I first read Aggie's story I had to dust the top of the old ream paper box that it was in. The papers still had the tear stains on them from the woman that typed them for her. I carefully punched holes in the 450+ pages and put them in the largest three ring binder I could find. After that I made myself a copy (with her permission of course), I set out to find a publisher that would put her amazing story to print. My life took a different path and I moved away. Once again the manuscript sat upon a shelf and collected dust.... but this time it was on my shelf. Another eight years past and then one day I revisited it. With technology being what it was I was able to scan it into a CD and then sent out numerous copies to various publishers and this dusty 25 year old manuscript became a book. The rest is history. This new and revised edition of Aggie's book should not be on the shelf not collecting dust but in the hands of every person who has ever had to survive the horrors of War, Neglect and Abuse.....

So get the Chocolate Bar and read it.

Tina

Doranne Long says

Born in 1935 in Ukraine, under Stalin and then Hitler's rule, Agathe shares her own very personal and tragic life, which continued for many years while still living under the manipulative control of others. And yet, Agathe has emerged triumphant, now receiving and sharing the love of God. It is an honor to know Agathe; I give her great credit for surviving, and for sharing her story and faith.

Gina says

"The Chocolate Bar" by Agathe Von Kampen is a heartbreaking memoir following the author's life from Stalin's Ukraine to Hitler's Germany, all the way to America's war of domestic violence and abuse. I found myself wanted to fight for Agathe when as a child her mother, or Muttie, told her that she would never amount to anything, thereby beginning the long journey of self-doubt and zero self-esteem. I wanted to shield Agathe from the bombs and hatred of war and poverty. Then, as an adult, I wanted to tear her away from her long line of male abusers who would not accept Agathe as she was--as a woman, as an immigrant, and as a human being. This memoir is raw, emotional, straight-forward, and gut-wrenching. I realities of war and all its forms are not sugar-coated or glossed over. It seems that nearly every painful and difficult thing that could occur in a persons life happened over and over for Agathe.

And yet...the resourcefulness, power of maternal love, and the guidance of God ultimately brings the author through her trials in to some sort of happiness, some sort of release from war. I could not put this book down

despite its horrors and pain because I believed that she must pull through and that she deserved to see brighter days. This book is an open look into the very soul of a human being, and as devastating at times as that view is, it's an incredibly important one for so many to read.

Agathe's story will stay with me for a long time. She is not only a survivor of her woes but a gift to those willing to take on her tale and make it part of themselves. Such lives really bring our own into perspective.

Perhaps my two biggest complaints with this book are superficial ones, but it is important to note. The first is that in the last 4 or so chapters, the typos and grammatical errors dramatically increased, as if the editor stopped looking for those errors toward the end. The other is in the title--although a moving and important event in the book relates back to the chocolate bar, I found that imagery to be incredible weak compared to other titles that could have been chosen. Both of these issues should not dissuade the potential reader, as Agathe's story rises high above any literary "problems."

Would certainly recommend, though not for the faint of heart.

Catherine Townsend-Lyon says

Book Review of TKG Author, Agathe von Kampen

When I began reading Agathe's book, I was truly surprised on how candid she was about her life beginning from a little girl into adulthood. I also need to mention that this is my very first real in-depth Review I've actually done, EVER. I'm not one to use fancy sounding words, our long stuffed sentences that are filled with things you have no idea what the person is trying to SAY,.....No,....I say what I mean in plain English, and I write what I Know!

With that said, I was TRULY amazed with this book, and Agathe's story. SHE has not only seen History with her own eyes, but she lived in IT as well. Being a little German girl, living in Russia, seeing and hearing World War II all around her, is a Life Experience all of its own. Being moved from camp to camp, train stations, bombs and gun fire going on around you, I just can not comprehend such carnage happening around me day in and day out. Not if that wasn't enough, she and her family lived under "Stalin's" rule first, then came the Devil himself, "Hitler".....I have to say that words can not describe some of the things she, and other children witnessed as small kids.

I also think this book should be read by our Youth today, so they can appreciate the life and freedoms they are given each day here in America. Picture your young child having the job to pull off the Military Tags of the dead soldiers bodies before the thousands were mass buried? That is not a job for a little girl of not even 6 years old, but she did it!

Then being moved around in Hitler's Germany, a lost father to Siberia, and left behind her first real chance at love with a young man. Would she have had a better life?

Then we move forward to when her and her family immigrated to America through the doors of Ellis Island, thinking freedom and a New Life lie ahead, but it wasn't the case at all! She met and married a man who on the outside was the Apple of everyone's EYE, but behind closed doors, it was a whole other abusive matter. Even a wedding night destroyed with abuse. Not to mention two controlling forces in her life, her Mother and Brother. Agathe went from one abusive marriage to another, had TWO beautiful daughters, but still, struggled to survive and make a better life for her and her girls.

SO much for her New Found Freedoms in America...which turned out to be one tragic moment after the next. It wasn't until her later years, and the funeral of her mother, did things start to become clear for Agathe.

So I will say this, not only do I give "The Chocolate Bar" a 4.8 Star rating, I would recommend this book "Highly" to all. Only for a couple of errors in the editing department, this book was Enjoyable to read, but it's packed with so much True Experienced History, that IT MUST BE READ.....Fantastic Job Agathe!

You can purchase Agathe von Kampen's book, The Chocolate Bar here at:

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Chocolate-B...>

She continues her Story here on her Blog: <http://readthechocolatebar.wordpress.com>

Author, Catherine Townsend-Lyon
