



Danzig: A Novel of Political Intrigue

William N. Walker

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January 2018. Newly-edited corrected version.

Danzig is a gripping historical novel in the grand tradition. It has generated rave reviews (90% 4 and 5 stars) for its authenticity and its realistic portrayal of high pressure diplomatic clashes between Hitler and Western nations in the 1930s. The story encompasses fast-paced events in Geneva, Berlin, Warsaw and London, as well as Danzig itself, capturing the drama of unfolding crisis that engulfed Europe on what we now know was the path to war.

* "A smartly written, engrossing read.

* "Channeling the best of Alan Furst, Danzig, is a must read for the any lover of well written historical fiction.

* "Mr. Walker's descriptions made this reader feel as if she were in the middle of the historic drama. The novel builds in intensity until the dramatic ending. It's a terrific read."

* "Danzig is a must read for any lover of riveting historical fiction dealing with Hitler's rise. Walker makes the saga of the city and the Polish Corridor come alive. The tensions of the time are vividly described in human terms, making for gripping reading."

* "Danzig is an amazing book, putting the reader in the middle of pre WW II in Europe. The time and scene were painted in detail and to perfection. The characters were presented in such a way I felt I knew them and worried for them throughout."

* "Superb historical fiction; good story, good atmospherics. Danzig is a sophisticated journey into European power politics during a time of high drama. I think it bears comparison to the best authors in the popular interwar historical fiction genre and I rate it a very successful effort."

* "The author does a great job of making the reader feel what it was like to be in the center of pre-WWII Europe, with Germany flouting the Treaty of Versailles, England following an ill-fated policy of appeasement and the League of Nations powerless and ineffective in dealing with Hitler and his aggression. For anyone interested in WWII history, especially the lead-up to the war and the dysfunction among the European Allies, this is a great read!

The website www.authorwilliamwalker.com offers a link to Amazon Kindle as well as a synopsis, photos and more information.

Danzig: A Novel of Political Intrigue Details

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From Reader Review Danzig: A Novel of Political Intrigue for online ebook

Nicky Amos says

Excellent and. Intriguing novel regarding events leading up to World War II.

The book is very well written and will be enjoyed by anyone who enjoys history and an exciting, interesting novel.

Don Livesay says

William N. Walker clearly knows his stuff, but beware - "Danzig: A Novel of Political Intrigue," depicting the build up to World War II, is very slow in developing. One wonders if the characters, primarily diplomats and politicians, will ever personally experience the dangers that they talk about with each other. Will fear become real to them? But of course it does. So to the reader I say, just keep on reading. The plot becomes much more intriguing as you go. My only regret is that the author uses too much dialogue to my taste in moving it forward.

Jason Kratz says

One word: boring.

Kate says

It was a little slow going in the beginning, but I am glad I stuck with it. Turned out to be a fascinating journey through Danzig in the 1930s. What made it most interesting is one of the main characters was a real person. Exceptionally well researched, it was definitely one of the better historical fiction novels about that period in history.

Mary Beth says

A fantastic re-imagining of a terrible era in our history.

Mr. Walker's touch is deft and the atmosphere is spot on. I particularly like the pictures at the end. They serve to remind us that though the book is fiction, unhappily the events it describes aren't.

Deb Richards says

It's a very slow read. I did not finish it. According to reviews I guess it picks up later on.

Charles Lewis says

I'm not sure why this book surprised me so. I had never heard of the author, for one, and could find little in the way of reviews. But it turned out to be one of my favourite books so far this year - I read a lot. First off, I knew that the then Free City of Danzig was a breeding ground for Nazism and one of the the first acts of the Second World War. So just learning about that history was fascinating. William Walker cleverly uses two men representing the former League of Nations are supposed to keep Danzig from collapsing in on itself. I think anyone who loves this period of history will love this book.

Steven Rose says

This is a very interesting story, one that is not known to the majority of Americans, even those with a particular interest in WWII. Unfortunately however, the writing is poor. The style is quite pedestrian, and there are many asides and descriptions that are unnecessary and do not add to the story or background of the time. I persisted because much of it is based on real people in a very difficult and tragic time in fairly recent history. Also, I was on a long train ride to Gdansk, where the novel takes place. And despite the writing, I would highly recommend it to anyone visiting Gdansk, or has an interest in the events leading up to WWII.

Mary Sue Wilson says

Very Educational

This is a long read, but well worth it. The author had done an exceptional job of writing this historical work of fiction. Based on history with some teal and some fictional characters, the reader learns what happened to the free city of Danzig, Poland during years leading up to WWII.

Matthijs says

Not a fast read, but a great insight into what happened before the start of the 2nd WW. The type of book that you will treasure on your shelf, if you had not read it on Kindle :(

Richard R., Martin says

A nice piece of historical fiction about an time and place that I didn't know much about. It is a little slow in

developing but stay with it.

Karen says

This book was a selection of our book club. Its subject is the political maneuvering between Germany, Poland, England, and the League of Nations during the period of time (1933-36) in the Free City of Danzig when the Nazi Party was attempting to solidify its control over the city by ousting the government of the League.

It is an interesting and important era. Author William Walker is to be commended for meticulous research and a thorough grasp of the political currents of the time.

The book, however, moves slowly, weighed down by its obligations to be faithful in all details to the historical record. The main character, Paul Muller, is a rather cardboard depiction of a young diplomat of the era; correct in particulars but generating no emotional attachment from the reader. And, a minor cavil, but one of those irritants that can't be ignored: we are supposed to believe that, after meeting Paul for just a short time at a party, an attractive woman is so overcome by his masculine appeal that she immediately goes to Paul's bedroom and throws herself naked into his arms - a scene that, while not atypical of a certain kind of spy thriller, will generate eyerolls from any woman who reads it.

Walker has built many real-life characters into his story, including Irish diplomat Sean Lester, and the unsavory Nazi politicians Albert Forster and Arthur Greiser. Perhaps the best segments of the book for me were the reconstructions of the the dialog between these men, Lester, and the fictional Muller. It was creepy to go to Wikipedia and read the after-story on Forster and Greiser, their loyalty to the nauseating tenets of Naziism and their unquestioning, even enthusiastic, participation in the atrocities of the Holocaust.

It is the first work I have read published through Amazon's CreateSpace self-publishing platform, so I have no basis for comparison, but for me the progress of the story was interrupted by far too many instances of incorrect grammar, punctuation and word syntax. If one ever needed to make the case for professional editing, this book would do it.

Overall, in spite of some good qualities of the book, the slow pace of the narrative plus the lack of editing prompted my rating of 2. There's scope for a great book about Danzig, but this book isn't it.
