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Axis Sally: The American Voice of Nazi Germany

Richard Lucas

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Richard Lucas : Axis Sally: The American Voice of Nazi Germany before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Axis Sally: The American Voice of Nazi Germany:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Here We Go Again*By SundayAtDuskThe story of Mildred Gillars is intriguingly and sympathetically told in Axis Sally: The American Voice of Nazi Germany. Author Richard Lucas' sympathy starts early on in the book where he suggests Ms. Gillars was sexually abused by her stepfather,

which helped lay the foundation of a life filled with self-delusion and narcissism. Only after landing in prison, converting to Catholicism, and later becoming a much valued and respected teacher of music and languages, did she appear to lose much of her self-centeredness and delusions. Yet, even to the end, she still seemed confused about her role in helping the Germans to do atrocious things during the war. Moreover, she also never fully gave up her anti-Semitism. It's interesting to note that when Ms. Gillars returned to the United States after the war and was brought to trial, her supportive half-sister complained her own life was being made difficult by Jews. Thus, more than likely Germany only helped develop Mildred Gillars' prejudice against Jews, a prejudice that was probably actually born in the Midwestern United States.*Here We Go Again² of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating Story Executed with Moderate Skill By Twain Shall Meet Really a 2.5 star rating. Unlike some readers who found the level of detail excessive, I really found the story very compelling, but I am a history buff and particularly curious about the era. It's not the best-written book, and I agree with others who believe the author something of a Nazi apologist so readers should be aware of that going in. That said, the author is attempting to describe the vagaries and inconsistencies of wartime "justice," and on that point the author is correct and it is interesting to see the way the US Govt worked its postwar handling (or not) of Nazi war crimes. The subject of the biography is horrifying in her narcissism and lack of integrity, but that is why her story is a compelling one to read. There are some typos in the book, but they are not so numerous or egregious as to be overly distracting (unlike a lot of the discounted Kindle books out there). For people interested in the era and in wartime propaganda there is interesting information to be had here, but don't expect a brilliantly written book. Valuable for the information and draw your own insights. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Pretty good book about a pathetic figure By Maher Is A Loser Axis Sally is a story that I was not familiar with until recommended this book. As with all things WWII, it will get my attention. Sally, would have been on a reality show in this day and age given the fact that she was a fame seeker. Poor and untalented she ended up in Hitler's Germany during a tour while on a tour with her mother. Her mother went home but Sally stayed. She became a high paid propagandist and sexual voyeur who taunt and lure GIs into given propaganda against the US and the war effort. After she was caught, as with all traitors, she was a "see no evil, hear no evil" pawn in the great Nazi machinery. Some reviewers felt sorry for her; not me, I thought she should have gotten much more time than she received, not the death penalty, but not the short period she received.

One of the most notorious Americans of the twentieth century was a failed Broadway actress turned radio announcer named Mildred Gillars (1900-1988), better known to American GIs as Axis Sally. Despite the richness of her life story, there has never been a full-length biography of the ambitious, star-struck Ohio girl who evolved into a reviled disseminator of Nazi propaganda. At the outbreak of war in September 1939, Mildred had been living in Germany for five years. Hoping to marry, she chose to remain in the Nazi-run state even as the last Americans departed for home. In 1940, she was hired by the German overseas radio, where she evolved from a simple disc jockey and announcer to a master propagandist. Under the tutelage of her married lover, Max Otto Koischwitz, Gillars became the personification of Nazi propaganda to the American GI. Spicing her broadcasts with music, Mildred used her soothing voice to taunt Allied troops about the supposed infidelities of their wives and girlfriends back home, as well as the horrible deaths they were likely to meet on the battlefield. Supported by German military intelligence, she was able to convey personal greetings to individual US units, creating an eerie foreboding among troops who realized the Germans knew who and where they were. After broadcasting for Berlin up to the very end of the war, Gillars tried but failed to pose as a refugee, but was captured by US authorities. Her 1949 trial for treason captured the attention and raw emotion of a nation fresh from the horrors of the Second World War. Gillars's twelve-year imprisonment and life on parole, including a stay in a convent, is a remarkable story of a woman who attempts to rebuild her life in the country she betrayed. Written by Richard Lucas, a freelance writer and lifelong shortwave radio enthusiast, *Axis Sally: The American Voice of Nazi Germany* is the first thoroughly documented look at this mythologized figure of World War II.

From Publishers Weekly Shortwave radio enthusiast Lucas carefully chronicles the life of Mildred Gillars, known to American GIs during WWII as "Axis Sally," in this first full-length biography of the infamous radio propagandist for Nazi Germany. With the aid of declassified federal documents and a glut of newspaper coverage after the war, Lucas follows Gillars from her Ohio upbringing to a failed New York acting career to her transformation into the Axis Sally under the tutelage of her married German lover. Known for a voice that oozed "like honey out of a big wooden spoon," Gillars was mythologized by GIs as the personification of Nazi propaganda. In her prolific broadcasts she interviewed POWs, taunted American soldiers, and revealed secret locations of American troops. She was ultimately tried for treason, served a 12-year prison sentence, and spent the rest of her long life on parole. In this fascinating, well-researched account, Lucas attempts to isolate the people and events that may have led Gillars to assume her moniker, telling a story "of poverty and hunger." Gillars was "a woman who, like the Führer she served, wished to accomplish great artistic feats but instead wandered into history and infamy." Photos. (Oct.) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved. Lucas is a very thorough researcher but also an excellent storyteller. His book provides not just details of Gillars life, but also the period details and contemporaneous events that put those details into perspective Lucas blend

of excellent research, period detail and well crafted narrative answers the questions of how an American girl put herself on the wrong side of history. (America in WWII)definitive a sorry story, and an essential one for those interested in the history of the war. (Commercial Dispatch)a fascinating look at the life and trials of Mildred Gillars. (Imagination Caf Blog)examines one of the most infamous characters of the Second World War The human drama which is history is filled with tragic contingencies or "what ifs." (Iron Mountain Daily News)provides the first full length biography of Gillarsraise(s) some important questions (Jerusalem Post)the first full-length biography of Mildred Gillars, and it reveals the mostly untold story of the unfilled Broadway showgirl who found international fame as the notorious mouthpiece of the Third Reich in broadcasts aimed at millions of GIs. (King Features Syndicate)reveals the mostly untold story of the unfulfilled Broadway showgirl who found international fame as the notorious mouthpiece of the Third Reich in broadcasts aimed at millions of GIs. (Payson Roundup)fascinating, well-researched account (Publisher's Weekly)the first fully documented biography of the notorious World War II broadcaster (Senior Beacon)well-researched (The Advocate(LA) Online)Arguably one of the more odious civilian figures to emerge from World War II was an American woman who broadcast radio propaganda aimed at U.S. troops. . . . What created the monster named Axis Sally? Mr. Lucas makes much of the deprivations suffered by a failed actress, and her frantic quest for fame. (Washington Times)a fascinating story of a woman who was so focused on herself and her show business dreams that she was easily convinced to broadcast and work at odds with her own country. (Windy City Times)With the advent of film and radio, propagandists discovered a whole new world in which to disseminate information, accurate or not, preying on the psyches of enemy soldiers. . . . Whether she was naive or just an attention-starved actress, Mildred Gillars will always be remembered as the infamous 'Axis Sally.' She began to believe the Nazi propaganda she was spewing over the radio and, as the author states, paid a heavy price for that delusion." (WWII History Magazine)For those of you interested in World War II history, theres a fascinating biography available. Its Axis Sally by Richard Lucas. The first half of the book follows her unusual childhood, her failed struggles to build a career in theatre in New York, and her career in Germany before and during the war. The second half chronicles her arrest, eventual trial for treason and her years in prison. Many of her actual broadcasts are reprinted, and the entire book makes interesting if a bit nauseating reading. (Connie Meng, Canton Public Library)...an excellent biography of a woman who, driven by anti-Semitism and ambition, sold out her country. (Ottawa Citizen)The author did a great deal of research and did it wellThe media still can do a great job of making and breaking anyone they want to go after. It makes you wonder how Axis Sally would do today spreading her stories through the media. (Feathered Quill Book)an excellent biography of a woman who, driven by anti-Semitism, sold out her country. (Esprit de Corps, Canadian Military Volume 19 Issue 3)Its subject is fascinating and has been researched wellan intriguing story" (Lake Chelan Mirror)thoroughly researchedunearths some long forgotten aspects of the now mythic Sally (MILITARY REVIEW)About the AuthorRichard Lucas is a graduate of Hamilton College, Clinton, NY and received a Masters degree in Political Science at Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY. An avid amateur radio enthusiast since the 1970s, he became fascinated with the radio medium as a tool of persuasion and propaganda. He has written articles for World War II magazine. Axis Sally The American Voice of Nazi Germany is his first book, published by Casemate Publishing of Havertown, PA.Richard Lucas lives in Short Hills, New Jersey with his wife, Sachi, and two sons, Jordan and Taylor.