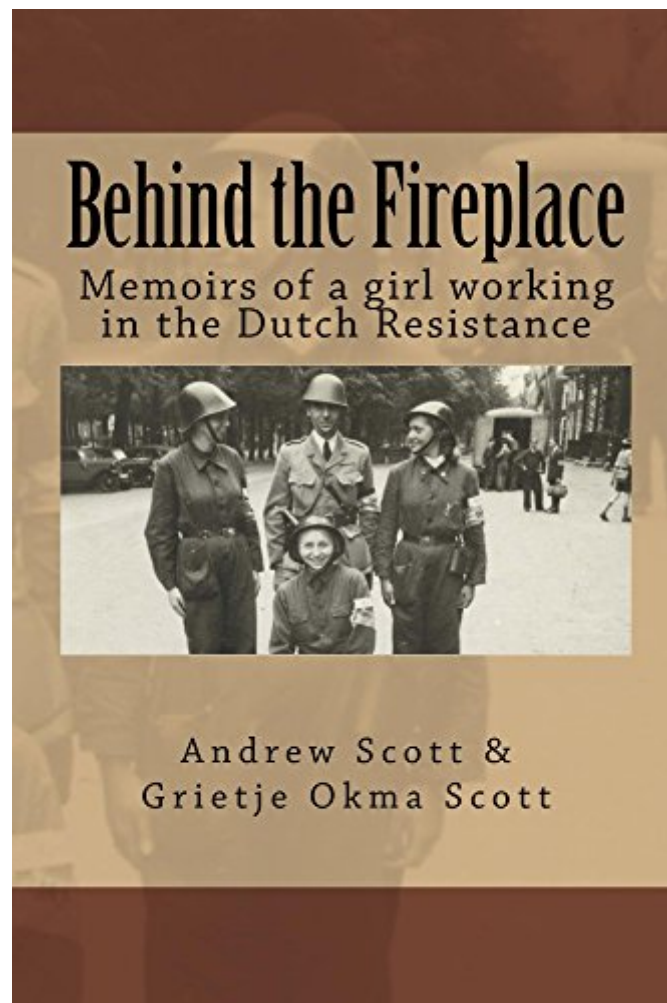




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Behind The Fireplace: Memoirs Of A Girl Working In The Dutch Resistance



Synopsis

As World War 2 progressed, the Okma family took six Jewish refugees into their house, hiding them in a secret room behind their fireplace. The youngest daughter, Kieks, joined the Resistance, delivering illegal newspapers, guiding British parachutists around The Hague and preparing safe houses for Special Forces who were dropped in from England. As the War continued, she fell in love with a Resistance commander, and worked with him to rescue wounded colleagues, steal weapons from German arms dumps and move weapons around the country. They had a tumultuous parting and she continued her work, acting as a courier with a two hundred km bike ride to the north of Holland. When she returned home, she appreciated how much the war had changed her and her boyfriend, and prepared to try a reconciliation. She escaped a firing squad four times, and survived the war, mentally scarred by her experiences. She sought help, but the help she was offered came in a poisoned chalice, and she kept her secret to herself for almost fifty years. Her family in Holland was recognised by Yad Vashem, the Israeli organisation that records those who saved Jews from the Holocaust, and she was awarded a pension for her work in the Resistance by the Dutch foundation Stichting 1940-1945. It was only when these organisations acknowledged the truth of her claims that she had the confidence to tell her family of the events from long ago.

Book Information

File Size: 2994 KB

Print Length: 296 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1523356995

Publication Date: January 24, 2016

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01B1PDYSW

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #18,254 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #16

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Biography #21 in Kindle Store >

Customer Reviews

This is a true story of courage and fortitude expressed on a daily basis in the plans and actions of a woman and her companions and friends as they carried out secret, dangerous missions in their Dutch Resistance organization during the Nazi occupation of Holland. I was inspired by their resilience and determination in the face of continual threats of torture and death by the Nazis. It is like an historical thriller.

It is intriguing to read about The Resistance and how some people with courage aided Jews despite the possible outcome. It's incredulous what happened with the main character and others in the book....pretty crazy & frightening!

This book gives a different view of the times. A Dutch family puts themselves in danger in hiding Jewish people from the Nazis. Well written and very interesting. I would have preferred foot notes inserted where applicable, rather than at the end of the book. Reading on an e-book makes it difficult to go back and forth.

Even though the writing was uneven, repetitive in some places, and not written by an English-speaking literary maven, the story was riveting! The tension and miasma of terror overrode everything. The story was 'real' and that counts for a lot! This is a good book for people who think that the Nazis had it all their way. The Resistance and the occupied population fought back with what weapons were left to them. Their story is an important addition to the body of work about WWII.

As always a true story where many suffered during W W 2. Interesting story.

Fantastic book of a young girls survival ,and how she was able to save so many lives in the process. An amazing story. Thank you to the family for telling about her bravery.

I was interested in the history of this book. The best part was how the family managed to do so much for the resistance. And was able to provide so many refugees a safe haven during the

occupation of their country. The only thing that didn't make sense was after the war ended and so much was out of order and skipped a lot and it didn't .make sense.

The book dragged a bit, but was very interesting to me because I have Dutch relatives who lived through the horrors of WWII. The book gave me some real insights into their plight.

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