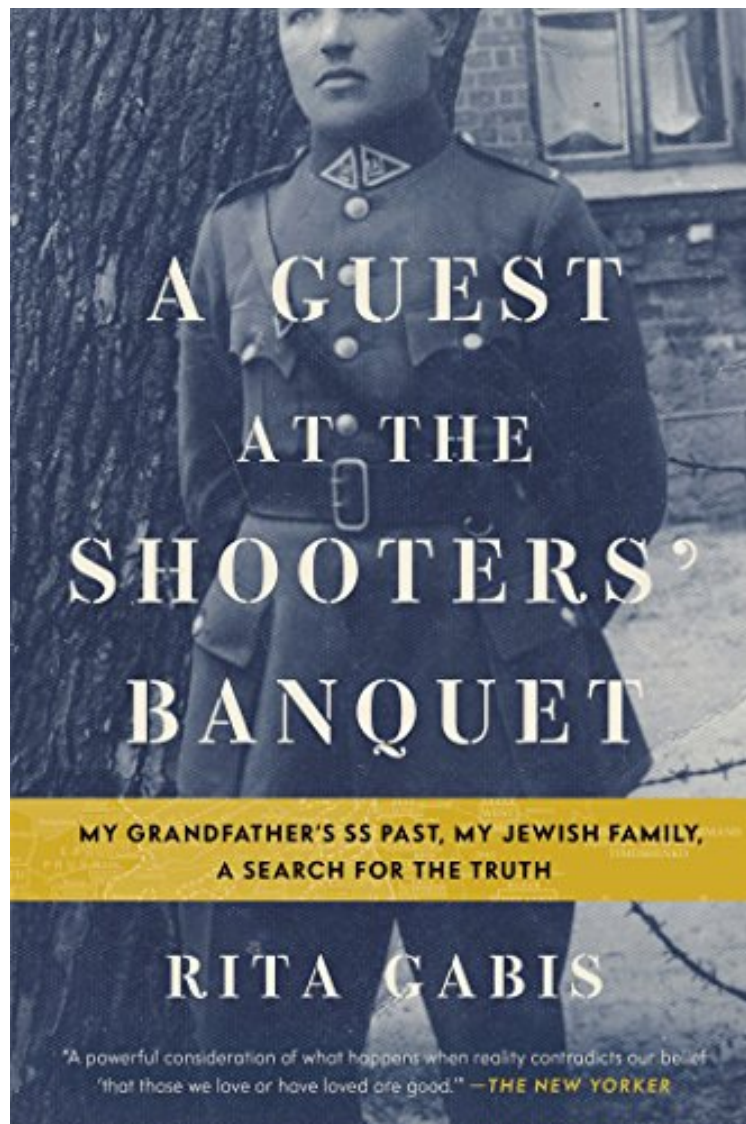


[Free and download] A Guest at the Shooters' Banquet: My Grandfather's SS Past, My Jewish Family, A Search for the Truth

A Guest at the Shooters' Banquet: My Grandfather's SS Past, My Jewish Family, A Search for the Truth

Rita Gabis

**Download PDF / ePub / DOC / audiobook / ebooks*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#1410167 in Books imusti 2016-09-06 2016-09-06 Original language: English PDF # 1 .33 x 1.27 x 5.521, .0
#File Name: 1632866234464 pages BLOOMSBURY USA | File size: 53.Mb

Rita Gabis : A Guest at the Shooters' Banquet: My Grandfather's SS Past, My Jewish Family, A Search for the Truth before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Guest at the Shooters' Banquet: My Grandfather's SS Past, My Jewish Family, A Search for the Truth:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Awful and Compelling By drfiddler1 This non-fiction account of the

author's search for information about her grandfather's persecution of Jews during WWII is both awful and compelling. Awful in the sense that the horror of what she found made me put the book down often. Compelling in the sense that I continued to pick up the book and read again. It was as if I had to digest the horror before I could move on. GUEST is well-written with many pictures of the relatives and people she located after several years of intensive and emotionally painful research in the Ukraine, Israel, and the United States. If you want to know what it was like to live in Eastern Europe during WWII, you will not get a more faithful and truthful understanding any where else. I highly recommend this as an important historically researched document. I hope it will be picked up by history departments in colleges and high schools as required reading.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Could have used a stern editor

By Phelps Gates This documents the author's efforts to find out what her grandfather did as a collaborationist in Lithuania during the Holocaust. The results of her inquiry are not surprising: he did what just about what you would have expected. Witnesses and documents are cited, but the book is mostly about the author's own experiences and emotions. Her previous published work has been poetry, and this is a very poetic book: she often describes in poetic terms what she imagines to have happened during the war. The book is more about her than about her grandfather: we didn't need to know about her plumbing problems in her New York apartment, or her childhood traumas, or the many other digressions and descriptions of her relatives, which I kept losing track of. If you're interested in a book about these events during the war, I suggest *The Holocaust by Bullets: A Priest's Journey to Uncover the Truth Behind the Murder of 1.5 Million Jews*, which goes into much more detail on the role of the Einsatzgruppen, and is by a professional researcher.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. ok but a bit choppy

By U291832 Just finished this book, I had found it through some search on and immediately wanted to read it; there is a dearth of books about the perpetrators of the Holocaust, about the everyday people who helped the Nazi's with the Final Solution. It is now common knowledge that without the aid of the local population in the areas the Nazi's took over (especially Eastern Europe), the Nazi's would not have been able to do what they did. I wanted to see what Gabis would find out, would there be any contrition or sorrow for her grandfather's role in the Lithuanian police and working with the SS? Unfortunately the answer is no, her grandfather never admitted to what he had done and there was never any apologies. The premise of this book was really good but I think it definitely could have used a ghost writer or someone more experienced in writing historical non-fiction. Part of the reason I couldn't give this book higher marks is that it was difficult to read; Gabis is all over the place, she starts a story, telling of someone's fate and then diverges on some other point. Almost like reading someone's blog or journal. It made it very confusing to follow. Plus she had numerous different threads in this story, I think it would have been better to have just stuck with her search for her grandfather's past.

This is another issue with the book, while Gabis says that she wants to find out about her Lithuanian grandfather during WWII, I got the impression in the book that as she got closer to the truth or if she saw the truth she didn't want to believe it or wanted to search further to find something that said explicitly what her grandfather did; when to me it was beyond clear that her grandfather had participated in the Jewish massacre at Poligny and the Polish massacre after German commander Beck's death. It is also beyond clear that her grandfather had no issue with violence and killing what he thought was not pure (see the story of the fish, egads). What did disturb me most was that the grandfather was allowed to come to America; like a thief in the night (in this instance a killer in the night), he, like other Nazi collaborators, blended right back into polite society. He was never held to account for what he did. Not sure if I would recommend this book, it was interesting but so very difficult to follow; maybe for a book club, as there is lots of themes here to discuss. Or if you are studying WWII or that period in history.

In prose as beautiful as it is powerful, Rita Gabis follows the trail of her grandfathers collaboration with the Nazis--a trail riddled with secrets, slaughter, mystery, and discovery. Rita Gabis comes from a family of Eastern European Jews and Lithuanian Catholics. She was close to her Catholic grandfather as a child and knew one version of his past: prior to immigration he had fought the Russians, whose brutal occupation of Lithuania destroyed thousands of lives before Hitler's army swept in. Decades later, Gabis discovered an unthinkable dimension to her family story: from 1941 to 1943, her grandfather had been the chief of security police under the Gestapo in the Lithuanian town of Vencionys, near the killing field of Poligon, where eight thousand Jews were murdered over three days in the fall of 1941. In 1942, the local Polish population was also hunted down. Gabis felt compelled to find out the complicated truth of who her grandfather was and what he had done. Built around dramatic interviews in four countries, filled with original scholarship, and mesmerizing in its lyricism, *A Guest at the Shooters Banquet* is a history and family memoir like no other, documenting the Holocaust by bullets with a remarkable quest as Gabis returns again and again to the country of her grandfathers birth to learn all she can about the man she thought she knew.

"Engrossing . . . An eloquent testimony to the war's enduring, violent impact." starred review, Best Books of 2015, Kirkus s "Intense, moving . . . A deeply personal and important addition to Holocaust literature." starred review, Booklist "[A] powerful consideration of what happens when reality contradicts our belief 'that those we love or have loved are good.'" *The New Yorker* "A journey of discovery . . . thoughtful." *Library Journal* "Heartfelt . . . Gabis paints an engrossing portrait of the snake-pit of ethnic animosities in wartime Lithuania, and of the intimate horrors of the

Holocaust." Publishers Weekly "In this intricate and intimate journey Rita Gabis brings macrocosmic Holocaust horror into the microcosm of our dining rooms, kitchens, and bedrooms--a noble feat, one you will not soon forget." New York Journal of Books "A Guest at the Shooters Banquet is Gabiss gripping, psychologically acute account of her search for the truth about [her grandfather], a wrenching personal journey . . . Gabis resolute hunt and expressive prose really illuminate these years of anguish." BookPage "Rita Gabiss memoir--the result of more than three years of tenacious and innovative historical and personal research . . . is a mind-opening and heart-breaking account." Jewish Book Council "More than any nonfiction I have read, A Guest at the Shooter's Banquet brings up close the Final Solution as lived in the forests and villages of Eastern Europe during the closing years of World War II. Most extraordinary is the intimacy with her own conscience that Rita Gabis affords us, as on her uncompromising quest she brings alive the Lithuania of her Jewish family, their friends and neighbors, the survivors and descendants who guide her, and the murderous and shocking complicity of her Catholic grandfather. This book has the richness and sweep of a saga novel, the bite of a thriller, and the revelatory shock of a great memoir." Honor Moore, author of THE BISHOP'S DAUGHTER "Maturing from childhood to adulthood means accepting a place in family stories. Checking treasured myths against historical facts is like a second coming of age, and one rarely achieved. This true-life Bildungsroman sets an example, in its honesty, industry, and artfulness, for writers who wish to confront the past." Timothy Snyder, author of BLOODLANDS: EUROPE BETWEEN HITLER AND STALIN "A most memorable book." St. Louis Dispatch "This unsettling, unnerving book makes you think of the what-ifs of both the past and the present. Gabis touches so many who had never had the courage or ability to tell their stories, and those who had never heard them. This should be on everyones To Be Read list. It will make you examine your own conscience. Very highly recommended." Historical Novel Society About the Author Rita Gabis is an award-winning poet and prose writer. Her grants and fellowships include a New York Foundation for the Arts Award for creative nonfiction and residencies at Yaddo and the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, Massachusetts. She is the author of the poetry collection The Wild Field (Alice James Books). Her work has appeared in Harvard , Poetry, and elsewhere. She lives and teaches in New York City.