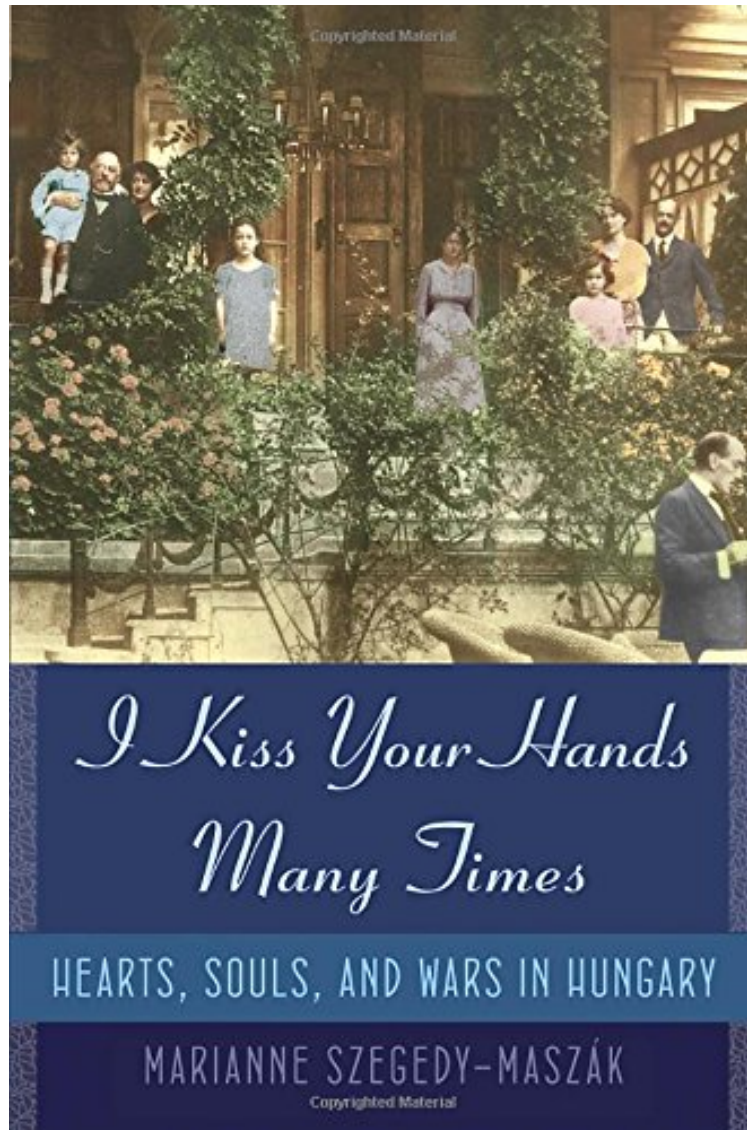


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I Kiss Your Hands Many Times: Hearts, Souls, and Wars in Hungary

Marianne Szegedy-Maszak

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Marianne Szegedy-Maszak : I Kiss Your Hands Many Times: Hearts, Souls, and Wars in Hungary before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised I Kiss Your Hands Many Times: Hearts, Souls, and Wars in Hungary:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Since I read the book, I keep talking about it to friends and relatives.By F JulikaMy husband sent me a write-up about this book in English, and a friend in Budapest told me that

he read it in Hungarian, so I immediately wanted to have it. Even though the book is about very famous Hungarian families (the author's parents and grandparents) who lived through the dark years of history, it is a smart thing to encourage all Americans who do not have any ties to Hungary to also get familiar with the hardship of the 20th century, how people were able to survive two world wars, two revolutions, nazis and communists etc. It also has a strong message about the author who discovered valuable documents written in a language she could not comprehend, yet after her parents' passing did not just toss but had them translated. That became the foundation of her extensive research and the publication of this amazing book that I want to give to friends and relatives as gifts. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Love story, WW II, biography in History, with tints of a first person novel. By Joo Radvany Very well researched historical background for a moving family novel of the descendants of Manfred Weiss', the founder of the most important industries of Hungary, all the way into emigration (and its very unique circumstances) of almost everyone, up to the fall of the Iron Curtain. A love story of the parents of the author, reconstructed from their personal correspondence embedded in the historical milieu. A delicate peeking through the door resulting in a robust document of a very easy and enjoyable reading. I loved it. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I enjoyed every minute reading your powerful page-turner. By Helen M. Szablya Marianne, thank you for writing this important book. The younger generation in Hungary as well as in America and the entire world know little about those days. Extreme right and extreme left are equally horrific and we should never again allow any of them to get to power. I enjoyed every minute reading your powerful page-turner. Although we personally have not yet met, our families have a similar background. My book "My Only Choice, 1942-1956 Hungary" practically starts around the time when your excellent book ends. I hope people who read your book will read mine too. My book writes more about the Communist years as I was only seven years old when my book starts in 1942. What happened to my family would have happened to yours too would you have returned to Hungary.

A magnificent wartime love story about the forces that brought the authors parents together and those that nearly drove them apart Marianne Szegedy-Maszks parents, Hanna and Aladr, met and fell in love in Budapest in 1940. He was a rising star in the foreign ministry a vocal anti-Fascist who was in talks with the Allies when he was arrested and sent to Dachau. She was the granddaughter of Manfred Weiss, the industrialist patriarch of an aristocratic Jewish family that owned factories, were patrons of intellectuals and artists, and entertained dignitaries at their baronial estates. Though many in the family had converted to Catholicism decades earlier, when the Germans invaded Hungary in March 1944, they were forced into hiding. In a secret and controversial deal brokered with Heinrich Himmler, the family turned over their vast holdings in exchange for their safe passage to Portugal. Aladr survived Dachau, a fragile and anxious version of himself. After nearly two years without contact, he located Hanna and wrote her a letter that warned that he was not the man she last seen, but he was still in love with her. After months of waiting for visas and transit, she finally arrived in a devastated Budapest in December 1945, where at last they were wed. Framed by a cache of letters written between 1940 and 1947, Szegedy-Maszks family memoir tells the story, at once intimate and epic, of the complicated relationship Hungary had with its Jewish population the moments of glorious humanism that stood apart from its history of anti-Semitism and with the rest of the world. She resurrects in riveting detail a lost world of splendor and carefully limns the moral struggles that history exacted from a country and its individuals. Praise for I Kiss Your Hands Many Times I Kiss Your Hand Many Times is the sweeping story of Marianne Szegedy-Maszks family in pre and post World War II Europe, capturing the many ways the struggles of that period shaped her family for years to come. But most of all it is a beautiful love story, charting her parents devotion in one of history's darkest hours. Arianna Huffington, president and editor-in-chief, the Huffington Post Media Group In this panoramic and gripping narrative of a vanished world of great wealth and power, Marianne Szegedy-Maszks restores an important missing chapter of European, Hungarian, and Holocaust history. Kati Marton, author of Paris: A Love Story and Enemies of the People: My Family's Journey to America How many times can a heart be broken? Hungarians know, Marianne Szegedy-Maszks family more than most. History has broken theirs again and again. This is the story of that violence, told by the daughter of an extraordinary man and extraordinary woman who refused to surrender to it. Every perfectly chosen word is as it happened. So brace yourself. Truth can break hearts, too. Robert Sam Anson, author of War News: A Young Reporter in Indochina This family memoir is everything you could wish for in the genre: the story of a fascinating family that illuminates the historical time it lived through. . . . Informative and fascinating in every way, [I Kiss Your Hands Many Times] is a great introduction to World War II Hungary and a moving tale of personal relationships in a time of great duress. Booklist (starred review)

From Booklist *Starred* This family memoir is everything you could wish for in the genre: the story of a fascinating family that illuminates the historical time it lived through. The authors father, Aladr, was a diplomat for the Hungarian government, and her mother, Hanna, was part of a wealthy Jewish family. After seeing the madness of Hitler in Berlin, Aladr returns to Budapest to oppose Nazism and is introduced to the lovely Hanna. When the Germans finally invade their cowed ally in 1944, both to seize their industrial resources and correct their insufficiently enthusiastic persecution of Jews, Hannas family goes into hiding and eventually escapes to Portugal, while Aladr is arrested and almost dies in

Dachau. The authors close relation to her subjects results in an occasionally hagiographic tone but also affords unique insights into their experiences. We see the society lady who spits out a bitter Now its our turn to Hannas mother after the German invasion, as well as the Nazi officer who, during an interrogation, screams questions at the captured Aladrand then leans in and whispers acceptable replies in his ear. Informative and fascinating in every way, this memoir is a great introduction to WWII Hungary and a moving tale of personal relationships in a time of great duress. --Lynn Weber

I Kiss Your Hand Many Times is the sweeping story of Marianne Szegedy-Maszk's family in pre and postWorld War II Europe, capturing the many ways the struggles of that period shaped her family for years to come. But most of all it is a beautiful love story, charting her parents devotion in one of history's darkest hours. Arianna Huffington, president and editor-in-chief, the Huffington Post Media Group In this panoramic and gripping narrative of a vanished world of great wealth and power, Marianne Szegedy-Maszk restores an important missing chapter of European, Hungarian, and Holocaust history. Kati Marton, author of *Paris: A Love Story and Enemies of the People: My Family's Journey to America* How many times can a heart be broken? Hungarians know, Marianne Szegedy-Maszk's family more than most. History has broken theirs again and again. This is the story of that violence, told by the daughter of an extraordinary man and extraordinary woman who refused to surrender to it. Every perfectly chosen word is as it happened. So brace yourself. Truth can break hearts, too. Robert Sam Anson, author of *War News: A Young Reporter in Indochina* This family memoir is everything you could wish for in the genre: the story of a fascinating family that illuminates the historical time it lived through. . . . Informative and fascinating in every way, [*I Kiss Your Hands Many Times*] is a great introduction to World War II Hungary and a moving tale of personal relationships in a time of great duress.

Booklist (starred review) About the Author Marianne Szegedy-Maszk is a journalist whose work has appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *Esquire*, *The New Republic*, *Newsweek*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, and *Psychology Today*, among others. She has worked as a reporter at the *New York Post*, an editor at *Congressional Quarterly*, a professor of journalism at American University, and as a senior writer at *U.S. News World Report*. She has won the awards for her journalism from the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, the National Mental Health Association, and the American Psychoanalytic Association. The recipient of a Pulitzer Traveling fellowship and the Alicia Patterson Foundation fellowship, Szegedy-Maszk has been an officer on the boards of the Center for Public Integrity and the Fund for Independence in Journalism. This is her first book.