

The Berlin Stories

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a classic of 20th century fiction the berlin stories inspired the broadway musical and oscar winning film cabaret first published in the 1930s the berlin stories contains two astonishing related novels the last of mr norris and goodbye to berlin which are recognized today as classics of modern fiction isherwood magnificently captures 1931 berlin charming with its avenues and caf s marvelously grotesque with its nightlife and dreamers dangerous with its vice and intrigue powerful and seedy with its mobs and millionaires this is the period when hitler was beginning his move to power the berlin stories is inhabited by a wealth of characters the unforgettable sally bowles whose misadventures in the demimonde were popularized on the american stage and screen by julie harris in i am a camera and liza minnelli in cabaret mr norris the improbable old debauchee mysteriously caught between the nazis and the communists plump fr ulein schroeder who thinks an operation to reduce the scale of her b ste might relieve her heart palpitations and the distinguished and doomed jewish family the landauers

the sally bowles character was the subject of a play i am a camera and a musical cabaret

a new york review books original in 1905 the young swiss writer robert walser arrived in berlin to join his older brother karl already an important stage set designer and immediately threw himself into the vibrant social and cultural life of the city berlin stories collects his alternately celebratory droll and satirical observations on every aspect of the bustling german capital from its theaters cabarets painters galleries and literary salons to the metropolitan street markets the tiergarten rapid service restaurants and the electric tram originally appearing in literary magazines as well as the feuilleton sections of newspapers the early stories are characterized by a joyous urgency and the generosity of an unconventional guide later pieces take the form of more personal reflections on the writing process memories and character studies all are full of counter intuitive images and vignettes of startling clarity showcasing a unique talent for whom no detail was trivial at grips with a city diving headlong into modernity

visit reunited berlin with this outstanding cadogan guide see everything from the notorious cabaret nightlife on the kudam to the nearby potsdam mansion now a smart hotel where stalin truman and churchill carved up germany in 1945 ten walks take the reader through the city and lakeside parks 10 maps 20 line drawings

now thoroughly revised and updated the book discusses recent breakthroughs in media technology including such exciting advances as video discs and cassettes two way television satellites cable and much more

first published in 1939 goodbye to berlin has been popularized on stage and screen by julie harris in i am a camera and liza minelli in cabaret unflinchingly precise and funny isherwood captures the city where he lived from 1929 to 1933 its charming avenues and caf s its sexy night life its dreamers eccentrics runaways cadgers its morally bankrupt mobs and millionaires hitler s shadow looms over isherwood s demimonde the divinely decadent sally bowles plump fraulein schroeder who considers reducing her b ste to relieve her heart palpitations the quarrelsome childlike nowaks suffocated by poverty and disease the wealthy and doomed jewish merchants the landauers

the shadows of berlin is in part a bleak chronicle of life in a europe growing ever more hostile at the edge of world war ii more than that these stories offer glimpses into a community and a world now lost they are also in part parables of modern life drawing as much on the transformative possibility of scripture as they do on gritty depictions of the berlin street bergelson s stories hint at the possibility of redemption even as they suggest a horror just around the corner book jacket

a gorgeously jacketed hardcover anthology of classic stories set in berlin by an international array of brilliant writers spanning more than a century this collection of stories reflects berlin s rich and turbulent history chronicling the creative ferment of the weimar republic the devastation of wartime the cruel divisions of the berlin wall and the aftermath of reunification classics by theodor fontane and robert walser provide a window on privileged society at the turn of the century alfred döblin erich kastner vladimir nabokov and christopher isherwood illuminate the frenetic golden twenties and the ruinous crash that followed while marginal youths roam the city s seamy underside in irmgard keun s the artificial silk girl and ernst hauffner s blood brothers the hero of thomas wolfe s you can t go home again visits a city shadowed by hitler s rise while in hans fallada s alone in berlin a working class couple quietly resists the nazis cold war espionage enlivens works by len deighton and ian mcewan christa wolf s they divided the sky and peter schneider s the wall jumper depict the berlin wall s impact on a personal scale and thomas brussig s stasi officers engage in meaningless surveillance in heroes like us günter grass shows us german reunification through the eyes of an elderly luftwaffe veteran while uwe timm does so through a writer s madcap wanderings in a bewildering post wall landscape finally more recent arrivals from chloe aridjis s mexican jewish university student in book of clouds to the desperate african refugees in jenny erpenbeck s go went gone bear witness to berlin s continuing evolution as an arena of the possible

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