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Review of The Healing Wound: Experiences and Reflections, Germany, 1938-2000

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LJ Review Cover Sheet and Survey

Your name: Michael F. Russo

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Title of the book: *The Healing Wound: Experiences and Reflections, Germany, 1938-2001*

Author or editor of the book: Gitta Sereny

This book is recommended for: academic libraries

Comments for your editor:

Review

Author: Gitta Sereny

Title: *The Healing Wound: Experiences and Reflections, Germany, 1938-2001*

Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company

Release date: October 2001

Number of pages: 320 pages.

Features: Photographs

Format: cloth cover

ISBN: 0-393-04428-9

Price: \$26.95

Reminiscent of the thoughtful writings of Elie Wiesel and Viktor Frankl, these essays by Austrian writer Gitta Sereny (*Into That Darkness*) read at times like short stories, connected by the author's quest to comprehend the phenomenon that was German National Socialism. When Sereny, a member of the French resistance during World War II, tells a story—whether her own or that of one of the many historical figures she has interviewed—the work is compelling and thought-provoking. When she philosophizes, however—as she does in one long section on the effect of Nazism on German youth—the work stalls.

The writing could benefit from simplification. Many of the sentences are long and complex, fractured by a profusion of dashes and commas which endangers their clarity. Still, Sereny writes with insight, passion, and understanding of Hitler's servants and their lingering impact on the Germany of today.

Highly recommended for academic libraries.

Michael F. Russo

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