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Review of Masquerade: Dancing Around Death in Nazi-Occupied Hungary

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LJ Review Cover Sheet and Survey

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Title of the book: *Masquerade: Dancing around Death in Nazi-Occupied Hungary*

Author or editor of the book: Tivadar Soros

This book is recommended for: public & academic libraries

Library Journal Editor: Nathan Ward

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Review

Author: Soros, Tivadar

Title: *Masquerade: Dancing around Death in Nazi-Occupied Hungary*

Publisher: Arcade Publishing

Release date: July 2001

Number of pages: 288 pages.

Features: B & W photographs

ISBN: 1-55970-581-7

Format: Hardcover

Price: \$24.95

For European Jews, surviving the plague of Nazism that swept the continent in the first half of the twentieth century became a test of resourcefulness, ingenuity and, sometimes, of plain chutzpah. When the fascists took over Hungary, Tivadar Soros was a Jewish lawyer with a family and friends. Under his strong guidance, the Soros family voluntarily ceased to exist as Jews. Forging new identity papers, they adopted the guise of Christians and dispersed themselves throughout Budapest and beyond, dropping out of sight by blending into the background. With humor and wisdom, Soros tells the story of how he and his family managed to live relatively normal lives during the eleven months of fascist occupation, even while many around them were arrested and killed. This is an intelligently written narrative that is both compelling and uncomfortable, an autobiographical account that is like Anne Frank's diary (*The Diary of Anne Frank, The Critical Edition*, LJ 6/1/89), but with less poignancy and more optimism: the Soros family, after all, did survive. Recommended for all public and academic libraries.

Michael F. Russo

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