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The Mermaid and the Messerschmitt

by Rulka Langer

Lev Raphael's review



bookshelves: ww-ii

Read in August, 2010

Aug 12, 10

Rulka Langer was educated at Vassar but returned to her native Poland before the Nazi Blitzkrieg. She was lucky enough to have a diplomat husband assigned to the U.S. who got her out before the U.S. and Germany were at war, and **what a story she tells** of what happened to her between those times: invasion, flight, bombings, fire bombs, air raids, terror, horror, hunger, endless anxiety about her children, a city collapsing around her. She's **brutally honest** about her own fear and failings, and **quietly humorous** when she can find the right subject. It was published in English in 1942 and has been republished with photos and maps. **Must-read for anyone interested in World War II.**