

BookLife Review 01-16-2024

Title: Trautrose: Growing Up in Postwar Munich

Author: Elisabeth Haggblade

Genre: Nonfiction/Memoir

Audience: Adult

Word Count: 52000

Assessment:

Plot: In Trautrose: Growing Up in Postwar Munich, Haggblade examines her past, beginning with her early childhood in Munich following WWII, where she was raised by a foster family before being placed in a children's home. Haggblade powerfully reflects on inequity, historical events, and her conflicted identity as an immigrant raised by parents who supported Hitler.

Prose: Haggblade provides a fine blend of historical content and personal reminiscence. Details of her childhood foster home paint a clear picture of the setting and circumstances. Haggblade's writing is measured and clear, if occasionally flat in its delivery.

Originality: Haggblade's early formative experiences are decidedly unique and will fascinate readers. Her analysis of how life in Munich—and WWII itself—continues to impact her sense of self throughout her adult life, is impactful.

Character/Execution: Although the author's delivery can come across as more analytical than warmly personal, readers are afforded a vivid glimpse into daily life in postwar Munich. Invested readers will empathize with the author as she immigrates to America and eventually begins to pursue her familial roots.

Score:

- Plot/Idea: 8
- Originality: 8
- Prose: 7
- Character/Execution: 8
- Overall: 7.75

Report Submitted: January 16, 2024