



## Some Girls, Some Hats and Hitler: A True Love Story Rediscovered

By Trudi Kanter



**Some Girls, Some Hats and Hitler: A True Love Story Rediscovered** By Trudi Kanter

**The astonishing true journey of Trudi Kanter, an Austrian Jew, whose courage, resourcefulness, and perseverance kept both her and her beloved safe during the Nazi invasion is a rediscovered masterpiece.**

“FOR EVEN IN NAZI VIENNA, *Trudi realized, women still looked in the mirror. . . . She knows that even in the bleak darkness, we feel, love, desire. She left no child (she and Walter tried, with no success); her hats are long lost, but her book is her legacy, discovered once again.*” —From the introduction by Linda Grant, a uthor of *The Clothes on Their Backs*, *The Thoughtful Dresser* and *We Had It So Good*

In 1938 Trudi Kanter, stunningly beautiful, chic and charismatic, was a hat designer for the best-dressed women in Vienna. She frequented the most elegant cafés. She had suitors. She flew to Paris to see the latest fashions. And she fell deeply in love with Walter Ehrlich, a charming and romantic businessman. But as Hitler’s tanks rolled into Austria, the world this young Jewish couple knew collapsed, leaving them desperate to escape.

In prose that cuts straight to the bone, *Some Girls, Some Hats and Hitler* tells the true story of Trudi’s astonishing journey from Vienna to Prague to blitzed London seeking safety for her and Walter amid the horror engulfing Europe. It was her courage, resourcefulness and perseverance that kept both her and her beloved safe during the Nazi invasion and that make this an indelible memoir of love and survival.

Sifting through a secondhand bookshop in London, an English editor stumbled upon this extraordinary book, and now, though she died in 1992, the world has a second chance to discover Trudi Kanter’s enchanting story. In these pages she is alive—vivid, tenacious and absolutely unforgettable.

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## **Some Girls, Some Hats and Hitler: A True Love Story Rediscovered By Trudi Kanter Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Kanter's jaunty title reflects the unusually breezy nature of this Holocaust-era memoir. The author, a Jewish hatmaker, recalls her efforts to flee Nazi-occupied Vienna with her beloved paramour in tow. While the inherent danger of the situation creates a compelling subtext that strengthens the narrative, Kanter's often matter-of-fact tone and her keen observations about men, fashion, and sex are a reminder that many seemingly insignificant yet entirely human facets of life go on despite the cruel realities of imminent warfare. From Paris to Vienna to London, Kanter creates a vibrant tapestry of her incredible odyssey through one of the darkest periods in contemporary history. Romance, passion, and peril create an authentically vivid backdrop for this intimate chronicle originally published (and quickly forgotten) in England in 1984. -- Margaret Flanagan

Review

"This one memoir is a generous- spirited book. Its many delightful moments, as well as its almost matter-of-fact description of menace and impending danger, stay long in the mind." (*Wall Street Journal*)

"What makes the book so instantly mesmerizing is Trudi Kanter herself, who fashioned sentences just the way she fashioned hats as a milliner in late 1930s Vienna—each a dazzling, delicate object of delight." (*Oprah.com, Book of the Week*)

"TrudiKanter's memoir is blessed with a wonderful title and an even better backstory...her spirited charm will win you over." (*USA Today*)

"In a rediscovered memoir, the charmed life of designer Trudi Kanter is split open as the Nazis claim Vienna and terror reigns. Every Holocaust story is worth remembering, and Trudi's is unique—she refuses to lose her vision of what the world should be at its very best: a place of red roses, Paris avenues, and above all else, true love." —Alice Hoffman

"There have been many books by and aboutrefugees from the Third Reich...but there can be few if any that manage tocombine terror and death with such sheer frivolity as this engaging memoir....Ms. Kanter's attraction to the light rather than the storm clouds thatbedeviled so much of her existence makes her book a happy read." (*Washington Times*)

"With anatural writing style, a talent for re-creating the details of daily life(especially the fashions), Trudi, who died in 1992, comes alive for the reader,creating what becomes a valuable piece of social history. But more than allthis, her memoir is a poem of love to her husband, to the cities of Vienna andParis, and to a way of life that, in the twinkling of an eye, completelydisappeared." (*Chicago Jewish Star*)

"*Some Girls,Some Hats and Hitler* does not minimize the horrors ofwar or the Holocaust, but through Kanter's delightful hopefulness and spare,riveting writing, it presents an unusual memoir of an era that must not beforgotten." (*Shelf Awareness*)

"This Holocaust memoir is more a tale of lovethan a horror story of Nazi-occupied Europe...the words and imagery flow beautifully." (*Publishers Weekly*)

“From Paris to Vienna to London, Kanter creates a vibrant tapestry of her incredible odyssey through one of the darkest periods in contemporary history. Romance, passion, and peril create an authentically vivid backdrop for this intimate chronicle.” (*Booklist*)

“This book is a remarkable, first-hand account of life during the time, and the importance that fashion played in the survival of Kanter and her loved ones.” (*fashionpulsedaily.com*)

“In prose that cuts straight to the bone, *SOME GIRLS, SOME HATS AND HITLER* tells the true story of Trudi’s astonishing journey from Vienna to Prague to blitzed London seeking safety for her and Walter amid the horror engulfing Europe... enchanting... In these pages she is alive --- vivid, tenacious and absolutely unforgettable.” (*bookreporter.com*)

“Trudi Kanter relates the emotional roller coaster she was on in attempting to get to England with her parents and the love of her life, Walter. The reader shares their terror and resultant cycles of inertia, hope and finally galvanization of emotional resources that Ms. Kanter, her family and friends all brought to bear.” (*Jewish Book World*)

"Nothing undid beauty and romance like the onslaught of World War II. And yet in Trudi Kanter's elegant memoir *Some Girls, Some Hats and Hitler* love and grace survive the horror in Western Europe. What an enchanting book. What a gem. I could not put it down." --Jennifer Gilmore, author of *The Mothers* and *Something Red*

"This Holocaust memoir is more a tale of love than a horror story of Nazi-occupied Europe...the words and imagery flow beautifully." -*Publishers Weekly*

"Distilled through the lens of a sartorial dignitary, *Some Girls, Some Hats and Hitler* offers an illuminating chronicle of narrow wartime escapes, calamity, and ingenuity. What makes this account all the more revealing is its candor regarding the persistence of mortal tendencies amid even the most disastrous of situations. Sometimes there is vanity, sometimes jealousy, and often, in the most unexpected of places, beauty of both the aesthetic and human varieties." --Alicia Oltuski, author of *Precious Objects*

"A fascinating romance, a tribute to the love that beat Hitler." --*Daily Post*

“A wonderful memoir of a young milliner in pre-World War II Vienna who flees to London with the man she loves when Hitler’s tanks invade. Despite the tragic subject matter, this warm and vividly humorous autobiography is a must for anyone interested in fashion, history – and love.” —*Bella*

“For even in Nazi Vienna, Trudi realized, women still looked in the mirror.... Her book is also about the appetite for life, for clothes and hats, and food, and cocktails, and sex, and furnishings, and good company, and conversation. She knew that even in the bleak darkness, we feel, love, desire. She left no child (she and Walter tried, with no success); her hats are long lost, but her book is her legacy, discovered once again.”

–From the introduction by Linda Grant, author of *The Clothes on Their Backs*, *The Thoughtful Dresser*, and *We Had It So Good*

“Trudi Kanter's memoir is blessed with a wonderful title and an even better back story...her spirited charm will win you over.” (*USA Today*)

About the Author

**Trudi Kanter** was born in Austria and moved across Europe as she tried to escape the Nazis. She and her husband finally settled in England, where she first published her memoir. Her story was lost after her death in 1992 but was reintroduced to the world with the publication of *Some Girls, Some Hats and Hitler*.

## Users Review

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