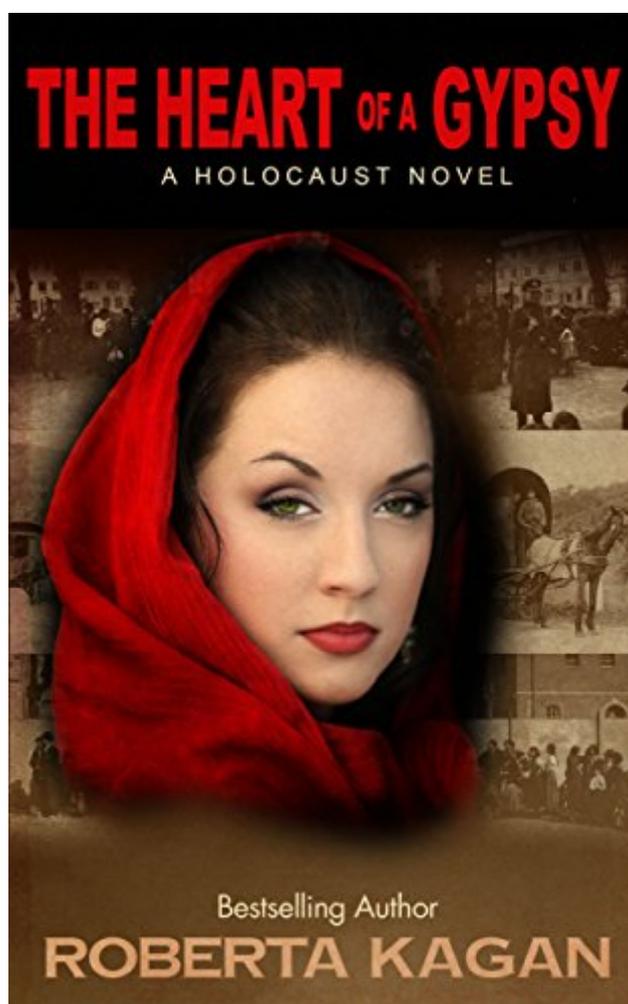


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The Heart Of A Gypsy



Synopsis

During the Nazi occupation, bands of freedom fighters roamed the forests of Eastern Europe. They hid, while waging their own private war against Hitler's tyrannical, and murderous reign. Among these Resistance Fighters, there were several groups of Romany people (gypsies). The Heart of a Gypsy is a spellbinding love story. It is a tale of a man with remarkable courage and the woman who loved him more than life itself. This historical novel is filled with romance, and spiced with the beauty of the Gypsy culture. Within these pages lies a tale of a people who would rather die, than surrender their freedom. Come, enter into a little known world, where only a few have traveled before | The world of the Romany. If you enjoy romance, secret magical traditions, and riveting action | you will love The Heart of A Gypsy. Please be forewarned that this book contains explicit scenes of a sexual nature.

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Customer Reviews

I had initially intended to write a much harsher review of this self-published book but, on consideration, I believe that the author is more naïve than manipulative. So totally seduced by the Hollywood "Gypsy" image, she sees no anomaly in describing the experience of the Holocaust's

Romani victims in the context of "steamy sex," "secret magical traditions" and the "magic of the gypsy culture." She writes of the agonizing lives of the lower-case-g-gypsies in Auschwitz as being filled with "music and dancing." This is unconscionable. She maintains that "As the gypsies were Aryans, and not Jews, they were treated differently." But both Jews and Gypsies were categorized as non-Aryan (Untermenschen, sub-humans) according to the 1935 Nuremberg Laws, and the late Miriam Novitch of the Ghetto fighters' House in Israel wrote in her 1968 book that "The motives invoked to justify the death of the Gypsies were the same as those ordering the murder of the Jews, and the methods employed for the one were identical to those employed for the other." Why strive to make a difference? A difference not explained. Whole families of Gypsies allowed in Auschwitz? Yes, but the Jewish families brought to Auschwitz from Theresienstadt in 1943 were also kept together. Is this a backhanded attempt, à la Margalit, to feign sympathy for the Romani victims of the Holocaust but in fact to diminish its import by trivializing it? Ms. Kagan inserts a note of legitimacy by claiming to be half Gypsy herself, but there is no evidence of her familiarity with Romani language or culture anywhere in the book which, in fact, reproduces the errors found in the sources (Yoors, especially), to which they may be traced (for example a non-Gypsy is not a "gag").

Christian Stearn, who at first glance is a prime example of the Aryan race, in reality is a freedom-fighter. In the Nazi-occupied Europe, his mission is to help the hunted and the oppressed to escape to freedom. He uses his own money to finance his operation for he cannot put a monetary value on human life and faces the dangers at every turn. Now, he is caught by the SS, loses his money, and is certain to face an execution after a brutal torture. The gypsy girl, who witnessed his arrest, sneaks food and water to his jail-cell and promises Christian an escape, a way out. This is where the story of Nadya and Christian begins. I think this book was written as a historical romance but I see it more of a regular historical novel with strong romantic undertones. It's set during the spread of Nazi occupation of Europe, in the times when whole ethnic groups weren't considered people by the so-called "master race" that was oppressing them with terror and brutality unheard of before. The Jewish, Romani, and Slavic people were on the way to the extinction if someone didn't stand up to the Nazis. The Resistance in Europe is not a well-explored subject in recent literature, especially the sort of resistance described in this book - the groups that consisted of multiple nationalities and who used the forest wilderness to base their operations. I would call them by their proper name - partisans. The book does provide a glimpse at how these partisans operated, how they were organized. Admittedly, this is somewhat of a romanticized version but it's interesting nonetheless. The story moves fast so, make sure to slow down a bit on the descriptions to absorb

the flavor.

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