



Border Crossings: Coming of Age in the Czech Resistance

Charles Novacek

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Border Crossings: Coming of Age in the Czech Resistance is the captivating and tender memoir of Charles Novacek, a Czechoslovakian whose idyllic childhood exploring the Tatra Mountains was shattered by the Nazi occupation of his homeland. He spent his youth defending his neighbors, his family and his country, first from the Nazi atrocities of World War II and then from the Soviet oppression of the ensuing Cold War.

Charles was eleven years old when his father and uncle recruited him into the Czech Resistance. Antonin Novacek not only taught his son to survive in the wild, but also prepared him for wartime. Charles was taught to trust no one and how to resist pain, hunger, and fear.

Among his first assignments was the delivery of messages to soldiers parachuting behind enemy lines and hiding them in caves he equipped for their shelter.

As a young man, Charles was captured and jailed by the Communists and rescued by an underground resistance network. Realizing he was in too much danger to remain in Czechoslovakia, he staged a daring escape only to land in a miserable displaced persons camp. His will to live prevailed once again, and Charles married and eventually built a successful life in America.

Border Crossings: Coming of Age in the Czech Resistance Details

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Magda says

Border Crossings: Coming Of Age In The Czech Resistance

Border Crossing is a book about love; wife's love for her deceased husband and man's love for his country. This memoir gives a history lesson as well as tells a adventure packed human story of a truly amazing man, Charles Novacek, a learned man and a polyglot. Written with a strong sense of voice, this books is very readable and engaging. Charles' life journey is truly fascinating and worth reading about. Border Crossing gives a human story to a little know part of Czechoslovakian history. Charles Novacek is a survivor in every sense of the word. He now keeps living for future generations in this memoir through his wife, who "gave him immortality".

Lucy says

Novacek's is a heartrending story, and he is a hero for overcoming monstrous adversity. But I found some of his James Bond-like accounts a tad hard to swallow.

Sandie says

A very illuminating, painful book to read. This is the author's biography, what he went through as he lived in Czechoslovakia as a young man. He eventually emigrated to the US, Detroit area, where he became an accomplished, and well respected engineer.

At times difficult to read but appreciate learning/knowing so much more about what happened after the end of WWII for those now under the rule of the Soviet Union.

Elizabeth says

It's important to me to read autobiographies. I'm interested in how a person's experiences in life shape their individuality, especially those who have suffered adversity and continued to believe in themselves. Among these are the many, many people who have been willing to risk torture and death for a cause they believe in. Charles is one of these people. His parents carefully cultivated in him the quality of integrity throughout his childhood. This quality gave him, and his sister, the courage to fight for freedom from tyranny. They were both very brave, fighting first the Nazis and later the Communists.

For me the story is the embodiment of the phrase "Give me liberty or give death!"

Carolyn Christopher says

Amazing story. Reads as if you were sitting next to the author.

Rosie says

Happy Bookers March 2017.

A view if life prior to WWII in Czechoslovakia and surrounding countries, then during WWII - resistance and yet education, sporting, etc. activities available, and then the horrendous time post-WWII when the Russians "liberated" the Czechs by putting them in refugee camps similar to prisoner of war conditions.

Finally they are allowed to emigrate to Venezuela and then to the USA. A very strong book - easily read, but very emotional.

I would highly recommend.

Kathyannngallagher says

"Border Crossings" is a wonderful book about a young man growing up with the Czech resistance in WWII. What great loyalty and determination so many people had to withstand the cruel, inhumane treatment by so many Nazi's and then Soviet Union KGB officers.

This book eventually lands this young man in the United States, very near to where I live. His contributions to the Detroit area are outstanding! Very well written.

Sue says

Amazing that people who live nearby had quite a history. Novacek's memoir of working in Czech resistance during and after WWII added another layer to revealing events of the 1940s and Cold War era.

Jerry Nechal says

This is a remarkable book. The story of Charles Novacek's early years is as captivating as any fictional thriller or spy story. It is a real life page turner that will leave you in awe of this amazing man and his story.
