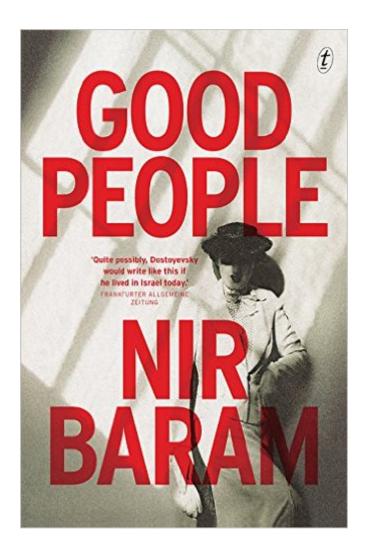
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Good People





Synopsis

'Written with great talent, momentum and ingenuity.'—Amos Oz'One of the most intriguing writers in Israeli literature today.'—Haaretz'Good People has been showered with praise for its elegance prose and scope… By putting the types of people who brought about the Second World War under a microscope, Baram creates an allegorical warning bell.'—The Culture Trip'Promising... reflects Baram's tremendous knowledge.'—Publishers Weekly'A richly textured panorama of German and Russian life… This ample novel lives most memorably through Baram's vignettes of people, dwellings, cities, landscapes and the like that seem to lie, at times, at the periphery of its central concerns.'—Sydney Morning Herald'A groundbreaker…Riveting reading.'—Qantas Magazine'Astonishingly powerful…[a] compelling, important story.â ™—The Listener, NZ'Precise and evocative, Good People is a riveting glimpse into a different place and a different time.â ™——Canberra Weekly'The tale of ordinary, middle-class lives sucked into a moral maelstrom. It is compulsive and profoundly disturbing.â ™—Sunday Star TimesIt's late 1938. Thomas Heiselberg has built a career in Berlin as a market researcher for an American advertising company. In Leningrad, twenty-two-year-old Sasha Weissberg has grown up eavesdropping on the intellectual conversations in her parents' literary salon. They each have grand plans for their lives. Neither of them thinks about politics too much, but after catastrophe strikes they will have no choice. Thomas puts his research skills to work elaborating Nazi propaganda. Sasha persuades herself that working as a literary editor of confessions for Stalin's secret police is the only way to save her family. When destiny brings them together, they will have to face the consequences of the decisions they have made. Good People is a tour de force that has been showered with praise in many countries. Nir Baram was born into a political family in Jerusalem in 1976. He has worked as a journalist and an editor, and as an advocate for equal rights for Palestinians. He began publishing fiction when he was twenty-two, and is the author of five novels in Hebrew. Several have been translated into more than ten languages and received critical acclaim around the world. In 2010 he received the Prime Minister's Award for Hebrew Literature.

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Customer Reviews

I requested and received a free time-limited loan of an e-galley from Netgalley.lâ ™ve read a lot of World War II history, and a lot of fiction set in that time period, but this is the first novel lâ ™ve read that focuses on the incongruous period from 1938-1941, when Nazi Germany and the USSR briefly masgueraded as friends via their non-aggression pact. This novel focuses on two young characters, one German and one Russian. Thomas Heiselberg is a young Berliner whose sheer ambition and aggressiveness land him a highly-paid job with the first German office of an American ad agency, at a time when so many Germans were out of work and living hand to mouth. Thomas gets the job by persuading the Americans that their advertising must appeal to the German national spirit, which would require a different approach from what theyâ ™d planned. Thomasâ ™s focus on the German-ness, and all the hard work he does on a research project about Poland (in anticipation of opening a Warsaw office) make him a natural to be recruited by the Nazi government, which, unbeknownst to him, plans to invade Poland and wipe out its intelligentsia and national spirit. Thomasâ ™s self-interest and ambition mean he has no trouble glibly parroting Nazi racial nonsense. Heâ ™s not anti-Semitic; he just knows which side his bread is buttered on and has no real care for anyone who canâ ™t benefit him.In Leningrad, 22-year-old Alexandra â œSashaâ • Weissberg lives a relatively privileged life because of her fatherâ ™s status as a well-known physicist. Her parents host many artists and intellectuals, which is where much dissident activity is focused. Naturally, they are spied on by the state security agency, the NKVD, and its informants.

Good Peoà Â-ple by Nir Baram is a ficà Â-tional novel about takà Â-ing place in Gerà Â-man and Rusà Â-sia durà Â-ing World War II. Mr. Baram is an Israeli author, this book was transà Â-lated by Jefà Â-frey Green. Thomas Heiselà Â-berg is a marà Â-ket researcher workà Â-ing in Berlin, 1938. When the â œJewà Â-ishâ • retail store he has been workà Â-ing for

gets destroyed Thomas puts his tal A A-ents at the hands of the Nazis help A A-ing them build ⠜modà Â-elsâ • of the conà Â-quered areas to help with disà Â-placeà Â-ment (and murà Â-der) the population. Sasha Weissà Â-berg, a Comà Â-muà Â-nist Jew in Leningrad, heard her parà Â-ents and their intelà Â-lecà Â-tual friends talk agià Â-nast Stalinâ ™s govà Â-ernà Â-ment. When the group gets arrested, Sasha decides that the best chance she has to save her parà Â-ents and find her brothà Â-ers is to work with the secret police, comĀ Â-mitĀ Â-ting atrocĀ Â-iĀ Â-ties and helpĀ Â-ing write confessions. Good PeoĀ Â-ple by Nir Baram is a very ambià Â-tious and well researched novel which tries to underà Â-stand how good peoà Â-ple simà Â-ply roll over and help comà Â-mit atrocà Â-ià Â-ties. How good peoà Â-ple â œunderà Â-standâ • that the greater good is worth more than the individualâ ™s life, soul and ethics. The novel comes off, at times, high-browed and lità Â-erà Â-ary at other times immensely interà Â-està Â-ing, and at times simà Â-ply drainà Â-ing. This is one of those books that you need to read, think about, and digest not simA A-ply flip through the pages.Mr. Baram asks a lot of guesà Â-tions (is murà Â-derà Â-ing peoà Â-ple outà Â-right more noble than a bureauà Â-crat sendà Â-ing them to their deaths? Are the Gerà Â-mans that assisted the Nazis the same as the Rusà Â-sians assistà Â-ing Stalinâ ™s purges?), but does not give many, if any, answers. What I found a bit conà Â-fusà Â-ing was that the two main charà Â-acà Â-ters have the advanà Â-tage of hindà Â-sight.

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