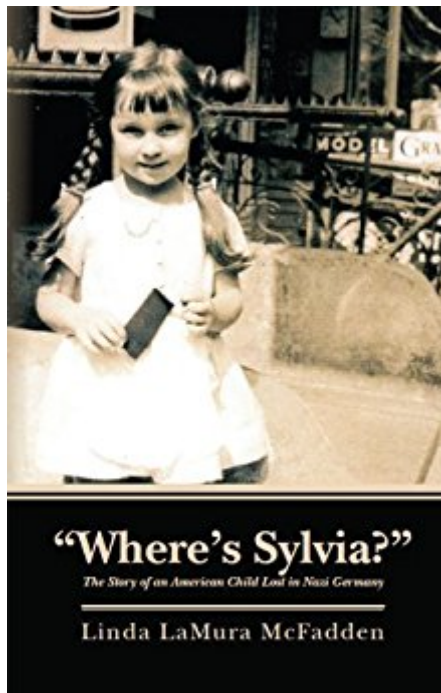




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# "Where's Sylvia? The Story Of An American Child Lost In Nazi Germany"



## Synopsis

When only six "Little Sylvia" leaves her parents and their bakery in the Bronx, NY, to go to Germany with her Aunt Betty and Uncle Walter. They are supposed to bring her back before school starts in the fall. They don't. They can't. It's Autumn of 1939; Hitler's Blitzkrieg is in motion. Europe is at war! Sylvia is going to have to wait a lifetime. A US citizen, she will become an Enemy Alien when America enters WWII. Through the duration she lives with another aunt, a nun in a convent, has to go to German schools in the Rhineland then run east to Bavaria where her uncle is drafted into the German Army. Alone with Betty and her two babies she must survive the Allied invasion, her only hope of rescue. Her mother, deserted by her husband will go years without any knowledge of her only child. Everyone is waiting and wants to know, "Where's Sylvia?".

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Very interesting story of a young American girl who went to visit relatives in Germany and then.....was stuck there when WW 2 started.As an outsider and an "enemy alien" she was looked at with suspicion and was actually attacked and beaten on one occasion but fortunately one of her cousins saved her life. Overall she managed to get along with her neighbors and fellow students

and survived until the brutal war finally ended.

I was instantly taken in by the story and it didn't disappoint. I had always wondered how many Americans were trapped in Nazi Germany, and now I know there were quite a few, including a young girl. Though she didn't see any of the death camps or Jews being taken away or beaten... or killed for that matter, she did suffer along with all the other poor citizens that were bystanders. The only thing that I would have liked to read is what happened, in detail, to her life after the fact. Other than that, it's a great book.

I found this subject matter to be a very interesting and rare occurrence. The story was told directly and factually. The author was very young when she moved to Germany with her Aunt and therefore, her memories were those of a young child. As the author grows her memories are more detailed. The story is not just about her war experiences, but also those of someone who is left to the care of a family member who is unable to cope with her own life and not concerned for Sylvia's well-being. The story has further intrigue due to Sylvia's German born father abandoning his family leading to her loving mother's need to send Sylvia to Germany with her sister so she can run the family business alone. Unfortunately, the book was not written in a manner that compelled this reader to be especially sympathetic to Sylvia's plight. The portions written with the use of hindsight are more compelling. In particular those about Sylvia's mother's life, and the unbroken bond between mother and child.

Well told story of events on both sides of the Atlantic. I started to read, planning to only read a chapter or two. Instead I kept reading until my iPad ran out of charge with 2 chapters left. My only criticism is that I would have liked to see some of the photos referred to in the text.

I knew Linda LaMura as a child, only reconnected very recently. "Where's Sylvia" is a treat. I have read many stories of Jewish families and their lives during the Holocaust. This one is different...from another perspective entirely. I recommend "Where's Sylvia" for your enjoyment (?) and education. Kudos to Linda for bringing this biography to life...and for writing it so beautifully.

Sylvia's story gives a very different view of what it was like to be a Christian American child trapped by circumstance in Nazi Germany. While I found it a worthwhile read I felt a certain reserve on the part of the author in the telling of her story. Perhaps she felt it best not to recall or to state too much

about what she actually new or heard given that the men in her family were in the German army .  
For me as the reader, I would have liked to learn more about what went on among the children.  
What did children know or not know about the politics of the world around them?

Reading the memoir gave me an unusual insight into the deep tracks left on the soul of a woman who was shunted to and fro between family members who saw her existence as a burden to be dealt with but never appreciated. The longing for her mother was finally not fulfilled as she had hoped for.

THIS BOOK IS DIFFERENT FROM MOST BOOKS ON THE HOLOCAUST. AN AMERICAN CHILD CANNOT LEAVE GERMANY, AND THE YEARS SHE WAS AWAY FROM HER MOTHER HAD TO BE HEART WRENCHING. EVEN THOUGH THIS CHILD WAS NOT AT A CONCENTRATION CAMP, THE HORRORS OF THE WAR STILL HAD THEIR IMPACT ON HER YOUNG LIFE. SHE LIVED THROUGH HUNGER, FEAR, BEING DISPLACED A FEW TIMES, AND SHE DIDN'T HAVE HER MOTHER. LIKE SO MANY OTHERS, THE INNER FEELING TO SURVIVE WAS JUST LIKE THOSE WHO WERE IN CONCENTRATION CAMPS.

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