

THE SECRET WAR OF HENRY REBBENOFF
Alice Reiter Laby

LOVE, FAITH, FAMILY AND LOYALTY—
what becomes of a man when war strives to destroy it all?

It's 1937, a decisive year in the life of Henry Rebbenoff. He hopes to be hired as the new Cantor of Temple Beth Elohim in Charleston, South Carolina. The Reform synagogue is all he's ever dreamt about—well respected in the community, with a congregation he feels he can inspire. And the city's Jewish history dates back to colonial times.

After his first Sabbath evening service, Henry meets beautiful Ada Tobias and falls in love with the intelligent Southern woman.

As pre-war Europe draws closer to the shores of the United States, Cantor Henry makes decisions that, like most Americans, will affect him and his family for years to come. Cantor Henry is an unusual man, and his soldier's story is, like his operatic voice, out of the ordinary. War certainly changes Henry, but at what cost?

Journey with Henry Rebbenoff over the years through this beautifully written romantic historical fiction, set against the backdrop of the tragedies of the Second World War.

Alice Reiter Laby was born and bred on Long Island, New York, venturing off the island to attend graduate school at Fordham University. She is the author of a romantic novel set in Amsterdam, entitled *Going Dutch*, and is working on a memoir about her family's Eastern European history. She still resides on Long Island with her partner and his poodle, close to her sons and their families. She is strengthened and inspired by memories of her dog Jami.

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Fiction:
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Fiction (Historical WW2 Novel)

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The Secret War of Henry Rebbenoff by Alice Reiter Laby

Love, faith, family, and loyalty - The year is 1937. Henry Rebbenoff has all his dreams fulfilled in his adopted city- Charleston, South Carolina. He has found the perfect position as Cantor of Temple Beth Elohim, and the perfect woman, a beautiful Jewish southern belle named Ada Tobias.

Henry answers the call to all Americans valiantly as war comes to the nation's shores on December 7, 1941. His love, faith and loyalty are tested by the unusual circumstances of Henry's experiences during

the war. You as the reader must decide; has Henry made the right choices for himself, for his family, for his religion, for his country?



Review by GF-SF: 5.0 out of 5 Stars. Good Read. Reviewed in the United States on July 29, 2023. Verified Purchase. Nice story with interesting plot and characters. Obviously more appealing to Jewish readers and probably more to women than men.

Review by Jennifer D. Clapp: 5.0 out of 5 Stars. An interesting read about love and war. Reviewed in the United States on April 10, 2023. Verified Purchase. I enjoyed reading about Jewish Life in the South, and about the Jewish resistance during the war. Lots of interesting facts about happenings during the war and afterward. It was tied together by the love of the family that was involved. Enjoyed it a lot!

Review by Janet G. Rudolph: 5.0 out of 5 Stars. Epic story of romance in the time of war. Reviewed in the United States on December 28, 2022. Verified Purchase. This is a page turner, tear-jerker of a book. Although it is a story of one man in particular, it weaves out history and a deeper dive into World War II and its many facets. Laby dedicated the book to the historical personage, Varian Fry who saved many thousands of people including Marc Chagall and Hannah Arendt. Fry's historical work clearly inspired Laby's work which adds to its inspirational aspect. Just fascinating!

Review by Jeff Rimland: 5.0 out of 5 Stars. Cultural medley. Reviewed in the United States on April 1, 2023. Verified Purchase. The Secret War of Henry Rebbenoff Is a cultural medley describing the Jewish community in the south. The character development was fantastic and the whole story was so enjoyable to read.

Review by Coty Ryan: 5.0 out of 5 Stars. Worthwhile read. Reviewed in the United States on August 4, 2023. I really liked this book. It captivated me right from the start and I felt like I got to know these characters very well. Sometimes it felt more like a true story. I would recommend this book to anyone who has experienced love and loss.

Review by Eileen104516: 5.0 out of 5 Stars. Authentic. Reviewed in the United States on March 21, 2023. Alice has captured the time and place of Henry Rebbenoff. A beautiful read.

Review by Church Leader: 5.0 out of 5 Stars. A most enjoyable and enlightening read. Reviewed in the United States on February 4, 2023. Laby is a fine writer who weaves all of the elements of great historical fiction into one fine novel. It is a page turner from start to finish. A must purchase.

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About The Author: Alice Reiter Laby was born and bred on Long Island, New York, venturing off the Island to attend graduate school at Fordham University.

She is the author of a romantic novel set in Amsterdam and is working on a memoir about her family's Eastern European history.

In her book THE SECRET WAR OF HENRY REBBENOFF, a World War 2 novel, the main character, Cantor Henry, carves his own path through the conflict. His story is as unusual as his amazing singing voice.

The author has secrets of her own - which can be revealed at an Author Talk. Contact her at alichelaby@gmail.com to arrange for a presentation!

Alice still resides on Long Island, with her partner and his parrot, close to her sons, their families, and her grand dogs.

Amazon Author's Page:

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