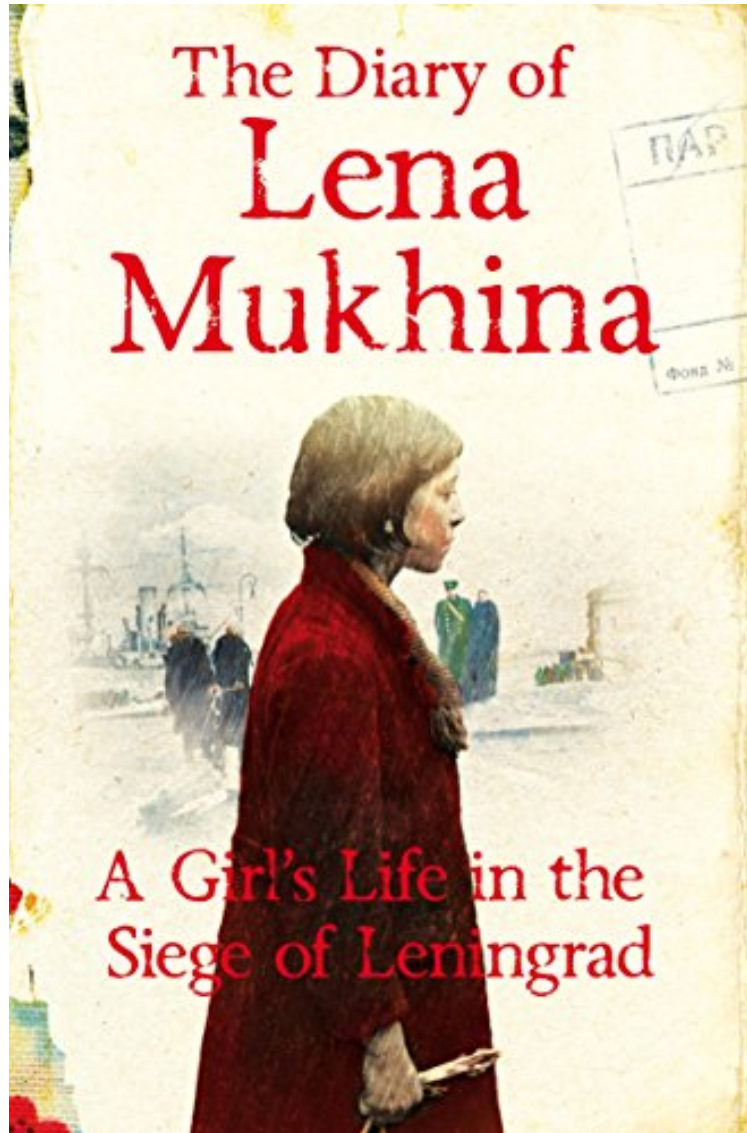


(Mobile ebook) The Diary of Lena Mukhina: A Girl's Life in the Siege of Leningrad

The Diary of Lena Mukhina: A Girl's Life in the Siege of Leningrad

Lena Mukhina

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Lena Mukhina : The Diary of Lena Mukhina: A Girl's Life in the Siege of Leningrad before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Diary of Lena Mukhina: A Girl's Life in the Siege of Leningrad:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A hard-hitting look at starvation and war by an ordinary teen girl who might claim the title of the Anne Frank of Leningrad By Meaghan This is a remarkably valuable book if you want to learn about World War II in the Soviet Union, and the Siege of Leningrad in particular. Lena Mukhina was an

ordinary Soviet girl living with extended family in Leningrad when war broke out (her mother, who was too ill to care for her, lived elsewhere in the city). The early entries are concerned with school, romance and the war effort, but as the Nazis advance and then encircle Leningrad and food goes ever scarcer, Lena becomes obsessed with the everyday task of trying to find enough nutrients just to keep herself and her aunt and grandmother above ground. During the summer of 1941, Lena's mother dies. Bombs are falling, but no one goes to the shelters at night because they don't have the energy to be constantly climbing the stairs in and out of their apartment buildings. By late autumn, Lena and her family are reduced to eating sheets of carpenter's glue (it's made from the boiled-down hooves of horses and other ungulates, so it has some nutrients). Lena's aunt and grandmother both die of starvation during the winter; she makes it through, but just barely. The diary ends abruptly in the spring, and if I hadn't already known from the introduction that Lena survived, was evacuated from Leningrad in May 1942 and died of natural causes in Moscow in the nineties, I would have assumed she'd finally starved to death. It's a very detailed account and absolutely heartbreaking. Lena not only writes about the physical effects of starvation, but describes in detail the desperation it drove people to -- see the aforementioned carpenter's glue -- and how selfish and apathetic people become when they're starving. As her grandmother lies dying, Lena notes coldly that she hopes she will die quickly, but not too quickly, because the next ration period is coming up and if Grandma dies right after it begins, Lena and her aunt can eat her rations. Later that winter, Lena's aunt dies at the very beginning of a month-long ration period, and Lena would later credit her survival to the fact that no one in their apartment building reported the death and so Lena was able to collect and eat her aunt's rations as well as her own for the entire month. Much as I hate bringing Anne Frank into everything concerned with diaries and World War II, you could call Lena Mukhina the Anne Frank of Leningrad. I think her diary would be useful in a college or high school classroom, or for anyone who just wants to learn about day-to-day life during the Siege. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Surviving the Siege of Leningrad By Shana Jefferis-Zimmerman This was an interesting WWII diary recommended by the Wall Street Journal. The author is about 15 and is stuck in Leningrad during The Siege. You can hear her growing up during the book. The first quarter is about school girl drama, still touched by war. The second quarter she is learning to repeat a lot of the Russian propaganda that is spewed everywhere. The last half of the book is about food and death. She is a child living a very adult experience and faced with making some adult life-altering decisions. She has occasional insights which contradict Russian propaganda and which contradict being a nice girl. She is a survivor. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An incredible survival. By John Gray Without doubt, the most remarkable account of a young girl's life when under siege in Leningrad, written in her own words. Very few people could have gone through what this girl did and survive either physically or mentally.

In May 1941 Lena Mukhina was an ordinary teenage girl, living in Leningrad, worrying about her homework and the boy she liked, and keeping a diary of her hopes and dreams. On June 22, 1941, Hitler declared war on the Soviet Union. Leningrad was besieged. Lena and her family fought to stay alive; their city was starving, its citizens dying in the hundreds of thousands. Lena records the desperate hunt for food, the bitter cold of the Russian winter and the cruel deaths of those she loved. A truly remarkable account, this is the vivid first-hand testimony of a courageous young woman.

"Mukhina's diary is to the Siege of Leningrad what Anne Frank's was to Nazi-occupied Amsterdam . . . A must read for young adults and their parents everywhere." —Rachel Holmes, author, Eleanor Marx