



Leningrad: Siege and SymphonyMartyred by Stalin, Starved by Hitler, Immortalise

By Moynahan, Brain.

Quercus. 1 Paperback(s), 2014. soft. Book Condition: New. Although it marked a turning point in World War II in favor of the Allies, Nazi Germany's 900-day siege of Leningrad claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of civilians. In an effort to boost the spirits of his fellow citizens, Dmitri Shostakovich wrote his massive Symphony No. 7; as the author of *The French Century* relates here, however, most of the city's orchestra had already died. Nonetheless, a few dozen starving musicians heroically banded together, attempting to premiere a demanding composition that would be blasted via speakers onto the battlefields around the encircled city."The terrible beauty of the book is in its anecdotal detail, and the horror is of a kind that makes you weep but at times approaches comedy."Spectator (UK)"Brian Moynahan holds the reader in suspense while teaching an important chapter in the history of the Second World War. His magnificent tale portrays the terror within and without Leningrad during its heroic defiance of the Nazi conquerors and subtle resistance to its Stalinist masters. Like Shostakovich's Seventh Symphony, this is a triumph."Charles Glass 542.



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