



The Revolt of Gunner Asch

Hans Hellmut Kirst

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The Revolt of Gunner Asch Details

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Author : Hans Hellmut Kirst

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From Reader Review The Revolt of Gunner Asch for online ebook

Elalma says

Romanzo antimilitarista che si svolge in una caserma tedesca alle soglie della seconda guerra mondiale. La lettura ? piacevole, se a tratti un po' noiosa.

Martin says

Kind of Funny.

Jim says

Original reviews calling this "the German Catch-22" do a bit of a disservice to the book, as they mislead readers into thinking this is a surreal comic extravaganza like Joseph Heller's monumental work. This book deals indeed with the absurdity ever present in military life, but it does so in a much more realistic and less antic way. Like Heller's Yossarian, Gunner Asch of the German army is acutely aware of the paralyzing stupidity inherent in military bureaucracy and sets out to do something individual and self-affirming in opposition. But the adventures of the hero of Hans Hellmut Kirst's novel are mellow and low key by comparison. There is little that is laugh-out-loud funny in this book. Rather it is a gently amusing story, with a compelling, quiet drive that ends in a subtle but very satisfying punchline. I look forward to reading the follow-up books about Asch's further adventures.

Alberto Martínez says

Hubiera querido que se profundizara mucho más en los personajes secundarios que tan bien definidos fueron por el autor. Tan genial novela que quisieras que nunca terminara. O encontrar nuevas historias de las subtramas.

gargamelscat says

Having read and liked a lot of Kirst in college - there happened to be a lot of used paperbacks available - I had higher expectations of this, one of his higher profile ones.

Asch turned out to be rather a flimsy hero in the last part of the book, the depiction of Elisabeth didn't work for me (OK this is so way before feminism I am not sure what to expect, but it seemed a bit cliched and not really a character in her own right).

I'd rate it 3.5 rather than 4 - but taking into account that I saw the end during proof-reading the OCR'd version during conversion which is never helpful.

La Stamberga dei Lettori says

Un libro eccezionale, purtroppo ormai reperibile quasi esclusivamente su Internet. Si tratta del primo libro di una trilogia che prende il suo nome (08/15) da un fucile in dotazione all'esercito tedesco, celebre per la sua tendenza ad incepparsi. Per questo motivo, il termine 08/15 è diventato sinonimo, nel gergo militare, di "inaffidabile" e "ribelle"...

<http://ghettodeilettori.blogspot.com/...>

Jim says

This is a funny look at the Germany Army during WWII. It is not about the Nazis or the SS. Most of the things that happened to Gunner Asch could and probably has happened in every Army.

Raegan Butcher says

This was ok...but it didn't really set my world on fire.

Ralph Neville says

This was a nice little book. I served in the U. S. Army so I knew some of the characters. And they do make you do some really stupid things, mostly during basic training so I could related to it a little. I think I'll look for another book by Kirst.

Chris Gager says

A good example of a book I wouldn't be reading if it weren't for the "stuff" trailer at our local transfer station. I have a substantial pile of books I "rescued" from there. When I saw this one it rang some kind of memory bell so I grabbed it and added it to the pile. And now it's time to read it. Just got started last night. I'll continue tonight after I read the Alice Munro story in my latest New Yorker. Day two and about halfway through. Funny now to look back at the 50's and 60's and see how publishers liked to put sexy-looking covers on books even when there was little-to-no sex in the actual book. So far it's a cross between "Catch-22" and "From Here to Eternity". No mention of anti-semitism so far. Walking a fine line between farce and brutality... Day three and it's kind of reminding me of "Hogan's Heroes" too. The bad guy is even named Sgt. Schultz! I guess that Gunner Vierbein and the Sergeant's wife are stand-ins for the Jews. The objects of punishment, harassment and bullying. Now finished with this well-written but somewhat slight book. I wonder what the reaction in Germany was when it was published. I guess it was pretty popular and helpful with Germans looking to move away from the authoritarianism of the Prussian past. Still, from the perspective of 45 years later not a big deal. 3 1/2 stars...

Steve says

After Gunner Vierbein is driven to near suicide by the sadistic treatment of N.C.O.'s, Asch decides to launch a one man revolt against the Wehrmacht -- complicated by his falling in love with a local girl. Kirst's Asch is one of the most completely human protagonists in all of the WWII books I have read.

Jielus Kuijntjes says

Mooi verhaal dat van Duitse soldaten mensen maakt. Intriges in een kazerne net voor de tweede wereld oorlog.

Emilia says

It is a good example of a very well written book. Actually, I rated it 4.5. I see it as an universal book about army.

Lysergius says

One wonders if this sort of behaviour would have been tolerated in the Wehrmacht? I suspect he would have been summarily executed. Still it makes good reading...
