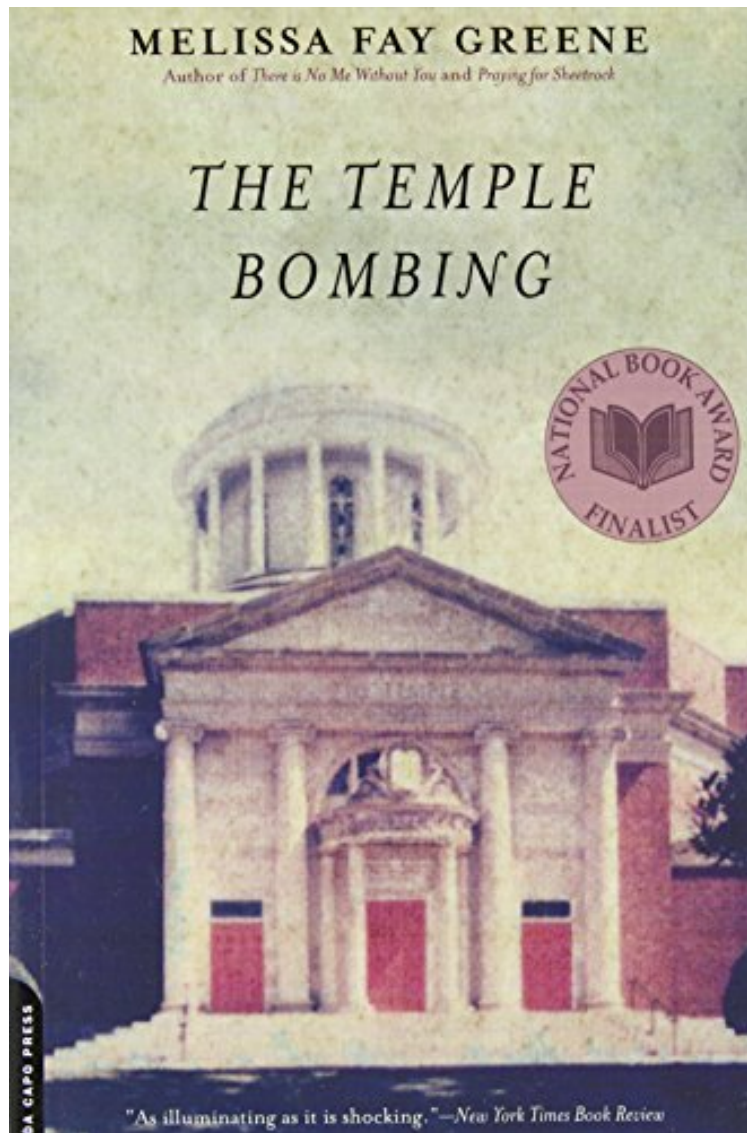


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The Temple Bombing

Melissa Fay Greene

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Melissa Fay Greene : The Temple Bombing before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Temple Bombing:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Compelling Chapters of U.S. History By David Hammerstein The found the book riveting. I connected with the book on many levels. The book's main character, Rabbi Jacob Rothschild, who served as the Temple's rabbi during the October 1958 bombing, began his career at Rodef Shalom Congregation in Pittsburgh where he grew up. I belong to Rodef Shalom in Pittsburgh. The book presents a thought-provoking discussion of the cultural chasm between German and Eastern European Jews. The book uncovers tensions

within the Jewish community about some Jews reluctance to support integration during the post World War II civil rights movement. Although the book spans 502 pages, the story moves quickly. The account of the bombing and the ensuing investigation and trial reads like a thriller. I was disappointed that the trial failed to reach a conviction, leaving the crime unresolved. It was heartening to read how the bombing evoked sympathy within the community at large. To my surprise and delight, I learned of a family member, Rebecca Mathis Gershon, who is portrayed in the book. A Temple congregant, she was a civil rights activist and confidant of Rabbi Rothschild. Her branch of the family provided refuge to my father who fled Nazi Germany in 1939. Author Melissa Fay Greene has enriched tumultuous and vital chapters of our history. I commend her. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Historical book that reads like a suspense thriller!! By Iheartbooks This book was about so much more than just a historical bombing, though it's the title that first drew my interest and attention. It's the story of the Jewish community in Atlanta, Georgia, and in particular one rabbi, who put himself and his congregation at the center of the Civil Rights Movement. It's packed with historical reference and information, but reads a suspense thriller. I'm now a Melissa Fay Greene fan and will see out her other books. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By David Samsky Good read

At 3:37 in the morning of Sunday, October 12, 1958, a bundle of dynamite blew out the side wall of the Temple, Atlanta's oldest and richest synagogue. The devastation to the building was vast-but even greater were the changes those 50 sticks of dynamite made to Atlanta, the South, and ultimately, all of the United States (Detroit Free Press). Finalist for the National Book Award, *The Temple Bombing* is the brilliant and moving examination of one town that came together in the face of hatred, a book that rescues a slice of the civil rights era whose lessons still resonate nearly fifty years after that fateful fall day.

.com When the United States South went into an uproar over the 1954 Supreme Court decision in favor of integration, Jacob Rothschild--rabbi of the Temple, Atlanta's oldest and richest synagogue--responded with an outspoken defense of civil rights. "He was aware that he lived in strange times, when the pronouncement of elemental moral observations stirred political havoc." The bombing of the Temple by neo-Nazi extremists in 1958 was but one climactic moment in a progression of conflicting messages and class struggles experienced by Jews in the post-war South. Melissa Fay Greene is a fine storyteller with a rich, literary style: she portrays the social setting, as well as the crime itself and its aftermath, with a plethora of compelling details. By the end of the book, when Rabbi Rothschild is hosting a dinner for Martin Luther King in honor of his Nobel Peace Prize, the reader has gained a solid sense of a pivotal time and place in Southern history. From Publishers Weekly In 1958, anti-Semitic white supremacists dynamited Atlanta's oldest Jewish synagogue, whose rabbi, Pittsburgh-born Jacob Rothschild, was an outspoken advocate of integration. A trial of the accused terrorists ended in a hung jury, and a second trial in acquittal. The Reform Jewish Temple became a rallying point uniting blacks and Jews in efforts for racial justice, and Rabbi Rothschild (who died in 1974 at the age of 62) befriended Martin Luther King Jr., who in 1960 moved home to Atlanta, the scene of many critical confrontations in the early civil rights movement. Greene recreates these events in a spellbinding narrative written with fierce moral passion and a great sense of historic drama. By delving into the exclusionary policies and attitudes of Atlanta's white Protestant elite, tensions within the city's Jewish community, related terrorist incidents and links among right-wing extremist, racist and anti-Semitic organizations, she has reclaimed a forgotten chapter of the civil rights era. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Atlanta author Greene (*Praying for Sheetrock*, LJ 10/15/91) insightfully examines some important historical issues in this rich work. She offers a penetrating biography of a great leader, Rabbi Jacob Rothchild, a transplanted Northerner who became the rabbi of Atlanta's grand temple after World War II. Rothchild was sickened when he first arrived in Atlanta and saw the signs proclaiming segregated facilities. He invoked the Jewish prophetic heritage in stirring orations and was met with reluctance and resistance. The turning point occurred in October 1958, when the temple was bombed by white supremacists during the night and partially destroyed. This event galvanized his congregants and their Christian friends to action, awakening them to the need for racial equality and justice. Greene has investigated the relationship between the dominant Southern white culture and the Jewish and black minorities, underscoring the potential for racism and violence in Southern culture. She has also written a fine historical overview of Atlanta's Reform Jews from the early 20th century to the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. This beautifully crafted book is recommended for most medium and large public libraries. ?Paul Kaplan, Lake Villa Dist. Lib., Ill. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.