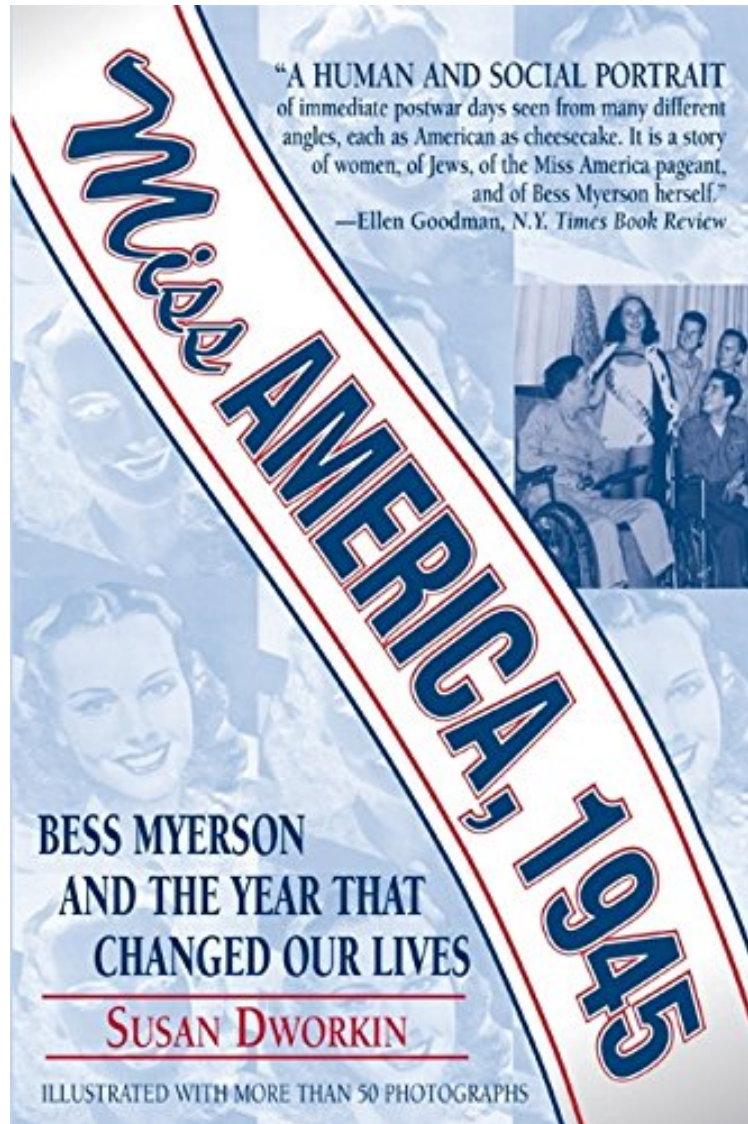


Miss America, 1945: Bess Myerson and the Year That Changed Our Lives

Susan Dworkin

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Susan Dworkin : Miss America, 1945: Bess Myerson and the Year That Changed Our Lives before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Miss America, 1945: Bess Myerson and the Year That Changed Our Lives:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Loved this book! - and Bess Myerson narrating it. By JonellaI LOVED this book! It was far more interesting than I suspected it would be. It gave wonderful insight to the experience

of growing up Jewish in New York at a certain time in Jewish-American history (1940's) - and then, to the experience of winning the Miss America contest - AND having to BE Miss America for a year. I deeply appreciated the book and recommended it to all my friends. And I loved that Bess Myerson actually narrates most of her story. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. excellent book By blue blue one excellent, well written, interesting historical information, reading this led me to search in greater depth various historical information discussed 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Year Of Change By Mark A. Czubek I just finished reading the book "Miss America, 1945: Bess Myerson and the year that changed our lives" and i tell you it's very thought provoking book about what Bess Myerson went through during her reign as Miss America with all the prejudices that she went through. Although it's set in 1945, it's still holds true today. You can honestly say that from the end of World War 2 up to the late 1940's was an important period of change in America where a Jewish girl from the Bronx achieved the dream of every girl who wanted to win the crown of Miss America and two years later Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in Major League Baseball. Over all it's a great book and it's something that everyone must have for their book collection.

First time in paperback, this unique biography and cultural history is based on History extensive research and interviews with more than one hundred witnesses from the period. Acclaimed novelist and playwright Susan Dworkin skillfully interweaves the absorbing first-person account of how Bess Myerson became the countrys first, and still only, Jewish Miss America in the same year that World War II ended, with a fresh portrait of what life was like for women and Jews in America in the 1930s and 40s. Her tale of one girls coming of age in prefeminist America is poignant and appealing . . . as much a cameo of an era as a work of biography. ALA Booklist

From Library Journal Though a portrait of Myerson, who still has the distinction of being the only Jewish Miss America, this book is also part social history, as it explores the importance of that event, especially in light of the Allied defeat of the Third Reich. In her rise to national recognition, Myerson faced sexism and anti-Semitism but overcame it all. The 1987 text is complemented by numerous monochrome photos. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Miss America, 1945," reads with all the suspense not of a whodunit but of a who-won-it. -- James Kirkwood A fascinating and thought-provoking book about 1945 as seen through the eyes of a Jewish girl who won a beauty title. It's about the boys coming home crippled from the war to a world not ready to deal with them. It's about Jewish Americans finding out about the horror of the Holocaust and how that made their Miss America a symbol of hope. It's about growing up poor and Jewish in New York City in the Depression. And it's also about Bess Myerson. -- Milwaukee Journal A human and social portrait of immediate postwar days as seen from many different angles, each as American as cheesecake. It is a story of women, of Jews, of the Miss America pageant, and of Bess Myerson herself. -- Ellen Goodman, The New York Times Book Intriguing social history. -- Kirkus s From the Publisher This is a fascinating tale for everyone who is interested in what Tom Brokaw calls, "the greatest generation." It is a great nostalgia trip for older listeners, and an eye-opener for younger ones.