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Improbable Heroes

By Carl L. Steinhouse

Authorhouse. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 380 pages. Jews in Italy flourished under Mussolini's reign until the late thirties, when Hitler was approaching the apex of his power and Mussolini, now recognized as a vainglorious, pompous and strutting leader who liked to go to war but had no idea how to conduct one, now became the junior partner in the Axis relationship. He then sought to ingratiate himself with the Führer by copying Hitler's anti-Semitic programs and laws. However, unlike the German citizens and clergy, the majority of Italians would not only refuse to participate in the persecution of the Jews, they would actively protect their Jewish brethren from Nazi attempts to exterminate them. Improbable Heroes is the true story of how most of the Italian Jews and foreign Jews who had fled to Italy from the Nazi onslaught in other parts of Europe were saved by extraordinary acts of bravery by improbable heroes: ordinary Italians and the clergy. Improbable Heroes explores how the plans of the Vatican to condemn the Nazi persecution of the Jews were derailed by the untimely death of Pope Pius XI and the ambivalence of his successor, Pope Pius XII, fearful for his fellow Catholics in Germany, to speak...



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