



# The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story

By Diane Ackerman

Download now

Read Online ➔

**The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story** By Diane Ackerman

**The *New York Times* bestseller soon to be a major motion picture starring Jessica Chastain.**

**A true story in which the keepers of the Warsaw Zoo saved hundreds of people from Nazi hands.**

When Germany invaded Poland, Stuka bombers devastated Warsaw and the city's zoo along with it. With most of their animals dead, zookeepers Jan and Antonina Zabinski began smuggling Jews into empty cages. Another dozen "guests" hid inside the Zabinskis' villa, emerging after dark for dinner, socializing, and, during rare moments of calm, piano concerts. Jan, active in the Polish resistance, kept ammunition buried in the elephant enclosure and stashed explosives in the animal hospital. Meanwhile, Antonina kept her unusual household afloat, caring for both its human and its animal inhabitants: otters, a badger, hyena pups, lynxes. With her exuberant prose and exquisite sensitivity to the natural world, Diane Ackerman engages us viscerally in the lives of the zoo animals, their keepers, and their hidden visitors. She shows us how Antonina refused to give in to the penetrating fear of discovery, keeping alive an atmosphere of play and innocence even as Europe crumbled around her. 8 pages of illustrations

↓ [Download The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story ...pdf](#)

📄 [Read Online The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story ...pdf](#)

# The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story

*By Diane Ackerman*

**The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story** By Diane Ackerman

**The *New York Times* bestseller soon to be a major motion picture starring Jessica Chastain.**

**A true story in which the keepers of the Warsaw Zoo saved hundreds of people from Nazi hands.**

When Germany invaded Poland, Stuka bombers devastated Warsaw and the city's zoo along with it. With most of their animals dead, zookeepers Jan and Antonina Zabinski began smuggling Jews into empty cages. Another dozen "guests" hid inside the Zabinskis' villa, emerging after dark for dinner, socializing, and, during rare moments of calm, piano concerts. Jan, active in the Polish resistance, kept ammunition buried in the elephant enclosure and stashed explosives in the animal hospital. Meanwhile, Antonina kept her unusual household afloat, caring for both its human and its animal inhabitants: otters, a badger, hyena pups, lynxes. With her exuberant prose and exquisite sensitivity to the natural world, Diane Ackerman engages us viscerally in the lives of the zoo animals, their keepers, and their hidden visitors. She shows us how Antonina refused to give in to the penetrating fear of discovery, keeping alive an atmosphere of play and innocence even as Europe crumbled around her. 8 pages of illustrations

## **The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story By Diane Ackerman Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #5416 in Books
- Brand: Ackerman, Diane
- Published on: 2007-09-17
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.60" h x 1.20" w x 5.80" l, 1.20 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 368 pages

 [Download The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story ...pdf](#)

## Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

**Amazon Significant Seven, September 2007:** On the heels of Alan Weisman's *The World Without Us* I picked up Diane Ackerman's *The Zookeeper's Wife*. Both books take you to Poland's forest primeval, the Bialowieza, and paint a richly textured portrait of a natural world that few of us would recognize. The similarities end there, however, as Ackerman explores how that sense of natural order imploded under the Nazi occupation of Poland. Jan and Antonina Zabiniski--keepers of the Warsaw Zoo who sheltered Jews from the Warsaw ghetto--serve as Ackerman's lens to this moment in time, and she weaves their experiences and reflections so seamlessly into the story that it would be easy to read the book as Antonina's own miraculous memoir. Jan and Antonina's passion for life in all its diversity illustrates ever more powerfully just how narrow the Nazi worldview was, and what tragedy it wreaked. *The Zookeeper's Wife* is a powerful testament to their courage and--like Irene Nemirovsky's *Suite Francaise*--brings this period of European history into intimate view. --Anne Bartholomew

From Publishers Weekly

**Starred Review.** Ackerman (*A Natural History of the Senses*) tells the remarkable WWII story of Jan Zabinski, the director of the Warsaw Zoo, and his wife, Antonina, who, with courage and coolheaded ingenuity, sheltered 300 Jews as well as Polish resisters in their villa and in animal cages and sheds. Using Antonina's diaries, other contemporary sources and her own research in Poland, Ackerman takes us into the Warsaw ghetto and the 1943 Jewish uprising and also describes the Poles' revolt against the Nazi occupiers in 1944. She introduces us to such varied figures as Lutz Heck, the duplicitous head of the Berlin zoo; Rabbi Kalonymus Kalman Shapira, spiritual head of the ghetto; and the leaders of Zegota, the Polish organization that rescued Jews. Ackerman reveals other rescuers, like Dr. Mada Walter, who helped many Jews pass, giving lessons on how to appear Aryan and not attract notice. Ackerman's writing is viscerally evocative, as in her description of the effects of the German bombing of the zoo area: ...the sky broke open and whistling fire hurtled down, cages exploded, moats rained upward, iron bars squealed as they wrenched apart. This suspenseful beautifully crafted story deserves a wide readership. 8 pages of illus. (Sept.)

Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From [Booklist](#)

**\*Starred Review\*** Jan Zabinski, the innovative director of the Warsaw Zoo, and Antonina, his empathic wife, lived joyfully on the zoo grounds during the 1930s with their young son, Ryszard (Polish for lynx), and a menagerie of animals needing special attention. The zoo was badly damaged by the Nazi blitzkrieg, and their bit of paradise would have been utterly destroyed but for the director of the Berlin Zoo, Lutz Heck, who wanted Jan's help in resurrecting extinct "pure-blooded species" in pursuit of Aryan perfection in the animal kingdom. Resourceful and courageous, the Zabinskis turned the decimated zoo into a refuge and saved the lives of several hundred imperiled Jews. Ackerman has written many stellar works, including *A Natural History of the Senses* (1990) and *An Alchemy of Mind* (2004), but this is the book she was born to write. Sharing the Zabinskis' knowledge of and reverence for the natural world and drawing on her poet's gift for dazzling metaphor, she captures with breathtaking precision and discernment our kinship with animals, the barbarity of war, Antonina's unbounded kindness and keen delight in "life's sensory bazaar," Jan's daring work with the Polish Underground, and the audacity of the Zabinskis' mission of mercy. An exemplary work of scholarship and an "ecstasy of imagining," Ackerman's affecting telling of the heroic Zabinskis' dramatic story illuminates the profound connection between humankind and nature, and celebrates life's beauty, mystery, and tenacity. Seaman, Donna

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Jenni Roberts:**

In this 21st century, people become competitive in most way. By being competitive right now, people have do something to make them survives, being in the middle of the particular crowded place and notice simply by surrounding. One thing that occasionally many people have underestimated it for a while is reading. Sure, by reading a book your ability to survive raise then having chance to stand than other is high. In your case who want to start reading a book, we give you this particular The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story book as basic and daily reading publication. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

#### **Jessica Rodriguez:**

The feeling that you get from The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story will be the more deep you looking the information that hide inside words the more you get interested in reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to recognise but The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story giving you buzz feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in selected way that can be understood through anyone who read the idea because the author of this book is well-known enough. This particular book also makes your vocabulary increase well. That makes it easy to understand then can go along, both in printed or e-book style are available. We advise you for having this The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story instantly.

#### **Patricia Rivera:**

In this era which is the greater man or who has ability to do something more are more precious than other. Do you want to become among it? It is just simple way to have that. What you need to do is just spending your time little but quite enough to get a look at some books. One of the books in the top collection in your reading list is usually The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story. This book that is certainly qualified as The Hungry Mountains can get you closer in becoming precious person. By looking way up and review this book you can get many advantages.

#### **Dona Henry:**

As a student exactly feel bored to help reading. If their teacher inquired them to go to the library in order to make summary for some publication, they are complained. Just little students that has reading's soul or real their interest. They just do what the educator want, like asked to the library. They go to presently there but nothing reading very seriously. Any students feel that reading is not important, boring and can't see colorful pictures on there. Yeah, it is for being complicated. Book is very important in your case. As we know that on this period of time, many ways to get whatever we want. Likewise word says, many ways to reach Chinese's country. So , this The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story can make you feel more interested to read.

**Download and Read Online The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story By  
Diane Ackerman #4TB8YUL7QZ2**

## **Read The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story By Diane Ackerman for online ebook**

The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story By Diane Ackerman Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story By Diane Ackerman books to read online.

### **Online The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story By Diane Ackerman ebook PDF download**

**The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story By Diane Ackerman Doc**

**The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story By Diane Ackerman Mobipocket**

**The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story By Diane Ackerman EPub**