

Diogenes

Shelly Kupferberg
Isidor

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Original title: *Isidor*



Shelly
Kupferberg
Isidor

Ein jüdisches Leben

Diogenes

Dr. Isidor Geller has made it: he is a highly respected business man, an advisor to the Austrian government, a multi-millionaire, an opera lover, art collector and, after two failed marriages, is in a relationship with a beautiful singer. He has come a long way: from a shtetl in the furthest, most impoverished recesses of Galicia to the most elite circles of Viennese society.

No one can touch him now, Isidor is sure of that – and certainly not those vulgar National Socialists.

But in 1938, everything changes from one day to the next.

Book factsheet

History, Current Affairs, Contemporary Literature, Biographies, Bestseller
256 pages
11.6 x 18.4 x 2.1 cm
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Translation rights currently sold:

French (Belfond)
Italian (Keller)

 **Bestseller**

#9 Spiegel Bestseller (non-fiction)

Praise

Isidor

»Shelly Kupferberg publishes a personal and impressive portrait about a Jewish life in Vienna.« – Allegra Mercedes Pirker / ORF, Vienna

»Kupferberg transforms the pictures and documents she digs up in a Tel Aviv attic into an accurate chronicle of robbery and annihilation.« – Dirk Schümer / Welt am Sonntag, Berlin

»She writes in a personal tone without oversharing.« – Natan Sznajder / Der Spiegel, Hamburg

»Shelly Kupferberg's family history is a book that will continue to reverberate and that unfortunately will never lose its topicality.« – Andreas Wallentin / WDR5, Cologne

»His [Isidor's] story is our story, with which you can gain clarity.« – Peter Pisa / Kurier, Vienna

»A book full of history.« – Berliner Morgenpost, Berlin

»Kupferberg's debut tragically provides insight into the history and the lives of individual people, thereby also showing the fate of the many.« – Daniela Winkler / Kleine Zeitung, Graz

»Shelly Kupferberg gently feels her way towards Isidor's fate, she tells the story not only of him but also of the people around him.« – Bettina Baltschev / MDR Kultur, Halle

»Her debut is as gripping and opulently narrated as a novel, but simultaneously as authentic as a documentary.« – Rheinische Post, Düsseldorf

»This is a tribute to an individual fate, and also representative of the many Jewish lives extinguished under the Nazi dictatorship.« – Frank Zimmermann / Badische Zeitung, Freiburg



Photo: Heike Steinweg / © Diogenes Verlag

Shelly Kupferberg, born in Tel Aviv in 1974, grew up in West Berlin and studied journalism, theatre and music. She works as a journalist and presenter for Deutschlandfunk Kultur and RBB Radio3, hosting broadcasts on culture and society. Her first book *Isidor* was very popular with critics and public alike. Shelly Kupferberg lives with her family in Berlin.



Hours Like Days
272 pages
2026

Praise (cont'd)

»Shelly Kupferberg weaves together a tapestry of biographies, making the everyday life of the time much more tangible than any standard historical overview could.« – Wolfgang Popp / Radio Ö1, Vienna

»Kupferberg succeeds in creating a sensitive panorama of the worst moments, borne by a discreet journalistic curiosity.« – Bernd Noack / Nürnberger Nachrichten, Nuremberg

»In *Isidor*, she tells two stories. One is adventurous; one abhorrent. One about a transformation; the other about a murder.« – Julia Voss / Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung, Frankfurt

»She meticulously traces the fate of her great-granduncle in a melancholically sad, sometimes wonderfully distanced tone.«

– Bernd Noack / NZZ, Zurich

»Kupferberg transforms the pictures and documents she digs up in a Tel Aviv attic into an accurate chronicle of robbery and annihilation.« – Dirk Schümer / Welt am Sonntag, Berlin

»Shelly Kupferberg publishes a personal and impressive portrait about a Jewish life in Vienna.« – Allegra Mercedes Pirker / ORF, Vienna

»Shelly Kupferberg recounts her quest and her discoveries before stepping back behind a thrilling biographical novel to immerse the reader in the destiny of Isidor Geller.« – Corinne Renou-Nativel / La Croix, Montrouge

»Shelly Kupferberg's family history is a book that will continue to reverberate and will, unfortunately, never lose its relevance.« – Andreas Wallentin / WDR, Cologne

»A sweeping narrative about what Saul Friedländer calls deep memory and how Shelly Kupferberg tracks it down in her family.« – Harald Welzer

»Kupferberg's great merit is to make history comprehensible once again with *Isidor*. The unthinkable becomes shockingly tangible in view of the individual fate.« – Bernd Noack / NZZ, Zurich

»She writes in a personal tone without oversharing.« – Natan Sznajder / Der Spiegel, Hamburg

»Kupferberg's debut tragically provides insight into the history and the lives of individual people, thereby also showing the fate of the many.« – Daniela Winkler / Kleine Zeitung, Graz

»Her debut is as gripping and opulently narrated as a novel, yet as authentic as a documentary.« – Rheinische Post, Düsseldorf

»[Isidor's] story is our story, with which you can gain clarity.« – Peter Pisa / Kurier, Vienna

Praise (cont'd)

»...the novel is a pleasure to read [...] and what [Shelly Kupferberg] describes, the small world of opera and its supporting players in anti-Semitic Vienna, is captivating.« – Vincent Jaury / Transfuge, Paris

»An intense, deeply moving work...« – Sylvie Lecoules / Le Tarn Libre, Albi