

House of Exile: The Lives and Times of Heinrich Mann and Nelly Kroeger-Mann



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HOUSE OF EXILE: THE LIVES AND TIMES OF HEINRICH MANN AND NELLY KROEGER-MANN

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FSG. 1 Paperback(s), 2008. soft. Book Condition: New. (Winner of Australia's 2009 Prime Minister's Literary Award for Nonfiction) In 1933 the author and political activist Heinrich Mann and his partner Nelly Kroeger fled Nazi Germany, finding refuge first in the south of France and later, in great despair, in Los Angeles, where Nelly committed suicide in 1944 and Heinrich died in 1950. Born into a wealthy middle-class family in Lübeck, Heinrich was one of the leading representatives of Weimar culture. Nelly, 27 years younger, was the adopted daughter of a fisherman and a hostess in a Berlin bar; as far as Heinrich's family was concerned, she was from the wrong side of the tracks. In this impressionistic collective biography from Australian literary publisher Evelyn Juers, Heinrich and Nelly's story is crossed with others from their circle of friends, relatives, and contemporaries. Heinrich's brother Thomas Mann; his sister Carla; and their friends Bertolt Brecht, Alfred Döblin, and Joseph Roth (and beyond them, writers James Joyce, Franz Kafka, and Virginia Woolf) all appear in Juers's portrait of a generation of exiles. "An engaging, unconventional exercise in collective biography . [that] mixes historical research with almost poetic imagination, creating a compelling panorama." *Times (London)* "Juers creates a composite subjectivity through which the reader experiences the unfolding political events with unusual intimacy and immediacy. Her use of various running motifs to connect different parts of the story adds to the effect. It's a provocative but inspired application of the methods of poetry to non-fiction. [There is] an implicit assertion that, in the right hands, history and biography can do everything the novel can do, only better. [Juers] certainly makes a good case for it." *Guardian (London)* 384.



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