

Address Unknown Kressman Taylor

About the Book

Originally published in 1938 in *Story* magazine, this fictional collection of letters between two friends in Germany and the USA became an immediate social phenomenon and literary sensation. When it was published in book form a year later, it was banned in Nazi Germany.

Discussion Questions

Please note that some of these questions will act as spoilers for the book.

1. what kind of relationship do you think Max Eisenstein and Martin Schulse share at the outset of their letters? Are they only business partners?
2. Martin outlines how the Nazis come to power in the early letters of this book. Do you think Max takes him seriously? How do you think Max felt when receiving the letter of July 9, 1933?
3. what relationship do you think that Martin and Griselle have shared?
4. why did Martin not help Griselle when she asked? Do you think the letter of December 8, 1933 gives a true account of events?
5. when you read this book, what were your initial thoughts about the letters from Max which start on January 3, 1934?
6. do you have any sympathy for Martin when he sends his letter on February 12, 1934?
7. in the afterword, we hear that the author felt that the pen could be used as a weapon – that ‘You could murder one of these Nazis by writing letters to him’. Do you think that this is the case? How far do you believe this to be true?

You can use HMD resources to find out more about the introduction of anti-Jewish laws by the Nazi authorities <http://www.hmd.org.uk/genocides/15091935-the-introduction-of-the-nuremberg-laws/> and the treatment of Jews before and during the Holocaust <http://www.hmd.org.uk/files/1168248884-140.pdf>.