



THE MARRANO LEGACY

*A Contemporary
Crypto-Jewish Priest
Reveals Secrets of
His Double Life*

AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR

TRUDI ALEXY

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**The Marrano Legacy: A Contemporary Crypto-Jewish Priest
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The Marrano Legacy chronicles the astounding, intensely personal correspondence between two strangers from different countries who shared the unusual connection with discovering within their teens that they were Jews: "Simon," a descendant of Spain's medieval Marranos who submitted to baptism to escape the Inquisition, and Trudi Alexy who survived the Holocaust when her family fled from Prague to Paris and hid in Fascist Spain as hastily baptized Catholics. Schulweis, author of *For Those Who Can't Believe* Simon provides lived the hazardous lifestyle of a Crypto-Jewish Catholic priest, providing security to a large community of top secret Jews living as Catholics in a Latin American country.

"Trudi Alexy has created a spellbinding reserve revealing the clandestine lives of people of our situations who had been coerced to cover up their identities. Within their correspondence, Alexy shares her very own internal conflicts as she struggles to understand why Simon continues to live in constant danger of discovery by both Catholics and mainstream Jews, wrestling with doubts and coping with personal tragedies that nearly trigger him to abandon his faith in God and his Jewish identification. This is simply not a work of fiction. The individuals presented are real people encountered by the writer and they include confessional letters that instruct us about the gain and losses of self-revelation."-Rabbi Harold M. Fifty years later, when she set out to recapture her lost Jewish identity, she uncovered a spiritual kinship with the medieval Marranos who, though these were forced to cover their Jewishness, held with their ancient traditions in key.



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Review of The Marrano Legacy "The Marrano Legacy" by Trudi Alexy is among finest books I have read lately. With 149 web pages, it is a fast go through. Additionally it is a must-read for everybody who is thinking about this subject. Personal Torture Wonderfully informative. She touches on her behalf own life and relates it to the letters which go back and forth between her and "Simon". It all appears like Internet trolling if you ask me, I'm sorry: some young person somewhere was jerking Ms.. The reserve is beautifully created and quite revealing about both Ms Alexy and "Simon" though his anonymity offers been preserved. I found it shifting because I am a Jewish Child Survivor of the Holocaust and, following the war (World Battle II) was over, still had to hide my Jewishness because my parents explained so, so it was possible for me to relate with "Simon's" circumstance. If anyone is not now very interested in crypto-Jews, you will certainly be after you read this book. I would - and indeed will - highly recommend this publication to everyone. Hiding becomes a habit and this holds true for "Simon" aswell. Ms Alexy explains in her Prologue what sort of story that is: "an intensely personal" one, both on her behalf and the crypto-Jewish priest "Simon". The emails and added dialogue gives one an insight in to the emotional dilemma of crypto Jews and other people who lead a "double" existence. Well written This book is well written and covers a great deal of the history of marrano's as well. Alexy's mysterious, secretive priest has some idea of the harm he inflicted on her behalf reserve by refusing to become forthcoming, refusing to response questions, refusing to meet, therefore forth--to an absurd and needless extent. appreciative Very informative mainly because my children's father is/was Marrono. Left me feeling a little baffled.. The Prologue also clarifies what is meant by a "crypto-Jew". I'm grateful to opportunity for coming across it in the library and recommend it to anyone of "blended" cultural or religious origin. Don't believe I believe all of the priest is saying but the author is worth reading. "Simon's" voiced assertions that he is delighted by her publishing news and that he desires her to tell his tale are disingenuous, considering what lengths to which he has truly gone to avoid offering any answers to her questions beyond the most vague--then creating a disaster to excuse staying away from a meeting, followed by a terminally broken heart to excuse closing all communication about Crypto-Judaism. Specifically vile was "Simon's" announcement that two youthful Ashkenazi Jewish men evidently traveled to his little town somewhere in Latin America and murdered his uncle, a Catholic priest (decades before), because he was a Crypto-Jew: vile because he then refused to go over the incident additional, and soon afterwards stopped cooperating. As it stands, it is certainly only a mean fiction. Apparently in the end he became a nonsecular type of interfaith person, which really is a shame if, mainly because he claims, he was the end-product of 500 years

of lovingly maintained Jewish tradition in his family. They are very moving letters, painful letters frequently, which explore intensely personal emotions. Jews the world over study hard to be able to undertake their full duties as adult Jews. Back in those days--'98 and '99--that was all too common. If this is the impression "Simon" has remaining us with, he'll be clear around: it is all our fault! We worship with several ex-"Crypto-Jews," and I could tell you that man is certainly not their finest representative. Alexy around for the mere sake of entertainment--and after that started desperately casting around for ways to get out of the ruse. His fury seemed to affect Ms. Crypto-Jews have hidden for 500 years, he says, therefore despite their large Catholic credentials, Jews should just believe them and welcome them as fully educated, bar mitzvah'd Jews! Serious questions Just a note to indicate that the two earlier reviewers' comments are unfair to The Marrano Legacy. All our fault for not only knuckling under and believing whatever any stranger chooses to claim about his very own heritage. That's how it's carried out. Alexy deeply, but perhaps didn't make her extremely angry because she herself have been a concealed Jew, and so was by description not one of those at whom her priestly pen-pal was therefore enraged. I don't know whether to be angry at a fraud who targeted an honest and caring girl or a priest who showed himself to possess a shallow intellect and fragile personality. I did so enjoy reading the reserve because the author's design is engaging and she actually is forthcoming, sincere, and genuine. I'll probably read her previous book, "The Mezuzah in the Madonna's Foot," which appears like it is just filled with verifiable and interesting stories. Ultimately he is so angry at Jews for not really welcoming Crypto-Jews as already-bar mitzvah'd Jews (though he has evidently not even attempted) that he rejects Judaism entirely. Trudi Alexy is completely aware that she's no physical proof the presence of her mysterious Crypto-Jewish correspondent and discusses this problem in her book. Additionally it is more than obvious that she is aware that the Sephardic Jews who converted to Christianity did this never to get away the Inquisition, but to stay in their native property, Spain; the Inquisition prosecuted them as Judaizing Christians, much less Jews. The book poses serious questions about group and religious identity and is incredibly well written. I hope Ms.

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