

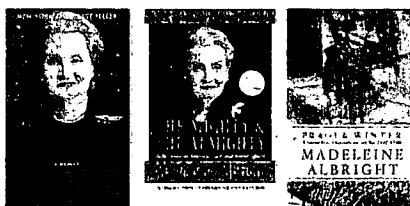
RELEASE IN PART
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From: LISSA MUSCATINE [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, April 22, 2012 8:55 PM
To: H
Subject: madeleine's new book

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I thought you might be interested in our blog this week on the P&P website about Madeleine's new book. Let me know if you have a copy of the book and, if not, I'll send one over. xoxo -- Lissa

Madeleine Albright's Prague Winter



Madeleine Albright covered a lot of territory in her decades as a diplomat, and she's done so again more recently as a best-selling author. From her classic memoir, **Madame Secretary** (Miramax, \$14.95), to her witty and artful **Read My Pins** (HarperCollins, \$40), to her examination of the role of religion in world affairs in **The Mighty and the Almighty** (Perennial, \$14.95), to her **Memo to the President Elect** (Perennial, \$14.95), her books have been bold, candid, and elegantly written.

Given this literary track record, we eagerly awaited her newest title, **Prague Winter: A Personal Story of Remembrance and War, 1937-1948** (HarperCollins, \$29.99). And what a book it has turned out to be.

Prague Winter is part family history, part political and cultural history, and part lesson on the moral dilemmas and choices people and nations face in the tumultuous context of war. It is also a page-turner. Reading the manuscript before he died, Albright's friend and hero, former Czech President Vaclav Havel, called it "a remarkable story of adventure and passion, tragedy and courage, set against the backdrop of occupied Czechoslovakia and World War II."

The impetus to write **Prague Winter**, as Albright explains in the opening pages, was her desire to delve more deeply into her family's past, most notably her discovery at age 59 that three of her grandparents and many other family members had died in the Holocaust. The information, uncovered by a *Washington Post* reporter shortly after Albright became U.S. secretary of state in 1997, was stunning. She had been raised by her Czech parents as a Roman Catholic.

In the years following the discovery of her family's Jewish roots, she began her own journey, taking trips to the Czech Republic to renew acquaintances with a cousin she had known as a child, mining her father's voluminous papers, and retrieving newly released documents related to her father's career as a diplomat, democratic reformer, and head of wartime broadcasting for the Czechoslovak government in exile. Along the way, she realized that her family's complicated past could only be fully understood in the context of Czech history and the upheaval generated by World War II.

Indeed, the tales of Albright's family and of her native land are intertwined. Czechoslovakia was a small strategically located country used as a bargaining chip by the major European powers, resulting in the appeasement of Hitler and the onset of global conflict. In less than a dozen years, hundreds of thousands of Czech citizens, including Albright's parents, were uprooted, thrust into new roles, and forced to grapple with questions of identity, belief, and survival in a climate of fear and mistrust.

Albright captures the heroism, resilience, and sadness of that period, as well as the characters and events that defined it, with a historian's eye, a writer's touch, and a humanist's heart. Even those already knowledgeable about the era will learn something new and meaningful in every chapter.

We are delighted to host Secretary Albright for a special Politics & Prose event at 5 p.m. on April 29th at Sixth & I Synagogue in Washington, DC. She will discuss her book with Leon Wieseltier, the literary editor of *The New Republic*. **Prague Winter** will be on our shelves at Politics & Prose beginning April 24th. **Order your book online now or by calling 202-364-1919.**

--Brad and Lissa