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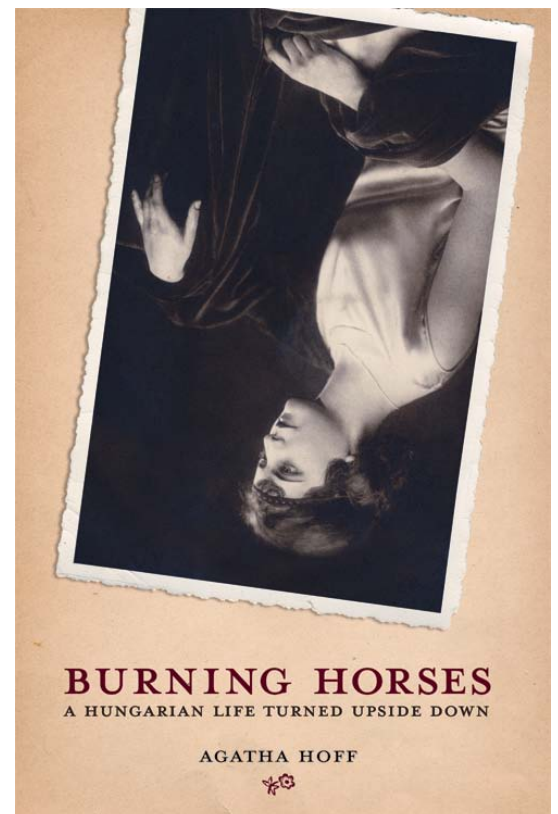
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## Press Release

### ***Burning Horses: A Hungarian Life Turned Upside Down*** **by Agatha Hoff**

Éva Leopold, the protagonist of *Burning Horses: A Hungarian Life Turned Upside Down* (15 June 2010, Sweet Earth Flying Press), was born in 1905 in Hungary to affluent Jewish parents who converted to Catholicism. Throughout her childhood and adolescence, Éva enjoyed a privileged life that continued throughout her early adult years following her 1926 marriage to Jóska Badics, a doctoral student from an aristocratic gentile family. During World War II, when anti-Jewish laws were established by the pro-Nazi Hungarian government, Éva was initially protected by exemptions for Jewish women married to gentiles. When all exemptions were waived in 1944, Éva's life became dominated by her endeavors to stay alive, avoid deportation to a death camp and protect her family.



*Burning Horses* recounts a number of harrowing episodes, such as Éva's making a life-or-death decision when suddenly accosted by a Nazi lieutenant and his ferocious Doberman; leaving her family and hiding for weeks in order to avoid deportation to a concentration camp; and witnessing the awful screams of burning horses trapped in a building fire that Éva and her family barely escaped during the bombing of Budapest. *Burning Horses* also describes the daring attempts that Éva's family made to emigrate to the United States.

Hungarian-American author Agatha (Aggie) Hoff wrote the story as if her mother were telling it. This fictionalized biography is reconstructed from Éva's written and oral accounts as well as Hoff's childhood memories. In *Burning Horses*, Hoff gives a poignant description of the poverty, hunger, and terror that gripped Hungary under the Nazi and Russian regimes during World War II. *Burning Horses* is a testimony to the strength of her mother Éva, her love and will to survive during the turbulent times that turned her life of comfort and security upside down and reshaped her sense of self and purpose in a difficult, unpredictable world.

### **Advanced Praise for *Burning Horses***

*In this powerful imagining of her mother's autobiography, Agatha Hoff explores how the carefree world of pre-World War II Hungary was made to face the most awful realities of Nazi occupation and war.*

Clifford Chanin  
President,  
The Legacy Project

*This is a book that will shock us all out of our apathy to the violence which continues to dominate the news, our culture, and our world. This is a must read for all . . .*

Sister Nancy Morris, RSCJ  
President Emerita, San Diego  
College for Women

*Agatha Hoff's recreation of her mother's story presents an instructive Holocaust narrative as well as a compelling family story.*

Mimi Gladstein  
Professor of English,  
University of Texas at El Paso and  
2009 American Book Award winner for  
co-editing, with Daniel Chacón, *The Last  
Supper of Chicano Heroes: Selected Works  
of José Antonio Burciaga*

## **Publication Information**

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