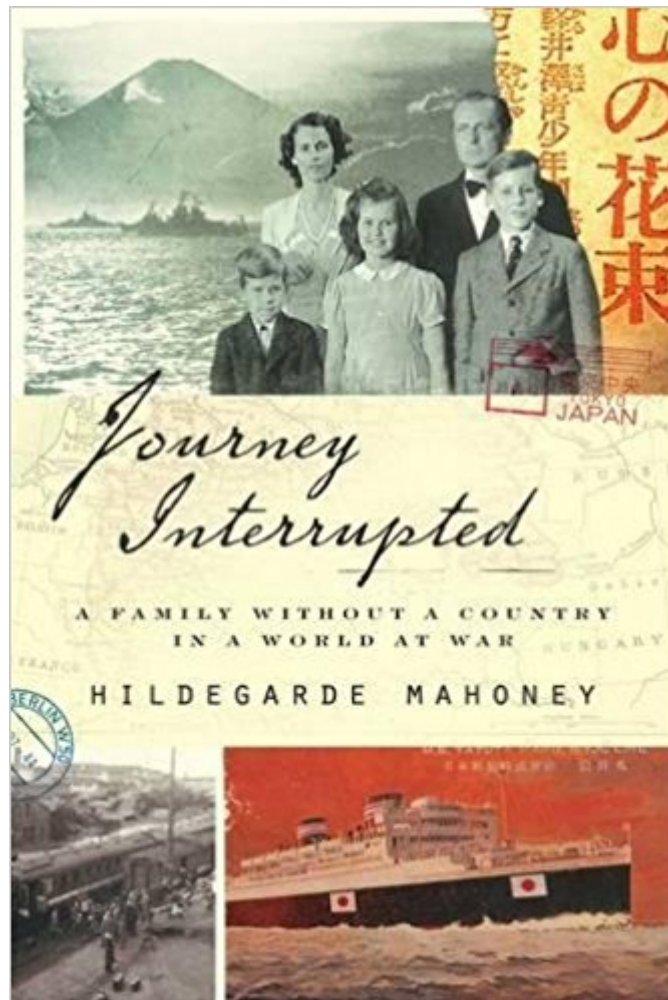




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# Journey Interrupted: A Family Without A Country In A World At War



## Synopsis

In the midst of World War II, a German-American family finds themselves stranded in Japan in this inspiring tale of an extraordinary family adapting to the hazards of fate, and finding salvation in each other. In the spring of 1941, seven-year-old Hildegard Ercklentz and her family leave their home in New York City and set off for their native Germany, where her father has been recalled to the headquarters of the Commerz & Privat Bank in Berlin. It was meant to be an epic journey, crossing the United States, the Pacific, and Siberia—but when Hitler invades Russia, a week-long stay in Yokohama, Japan becomes six years of quasi-detention, as Hildegard and her family are stranded in Japan until the war's end. In this spellbinding memoir, Mahoney recounts her family's moving saga, from their courage in the face of terrible difficulties—including forced relocation, scarce rations, brutal winters in the Japanese Alps—to their joyous reunion with their German relatives in Hamburg, and their eventual return to New York City in 1950. Richly detailed and remarkably vivid, *Journey Interrupted* is a story unlike any other—the inspiring tale of an extraordinary family adapting to the hazards of fate, and finding salvation in each other.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A heroic story of the love and strength of one family stranded in Japan just as Hitler made one of the worst mistakes of World War II, breaking his alliance with Stalin and invading the Soviet Union. As a result Hillie Mahoney and her family were caught in Japan for the war. During the uncertainty, deprivation, and repression, Hillie Mahoney with the strength and love of a family of two exceptional parents and two brothers, demonstrates that family solidarity and love can help you

bear the worst life may present to you. Brilliantly written, a book that reads like a novel, it tells a story of a family's values of great relevance to the challenges we face today." • "Rudy Giuliani, Mayor of New York City 1994-2001" Journey Interrupted is a great book. It is a look at a marvelous woman with an incredible life. I've known Hillie Mahoney for many years, but had no idea about this amazing part of her life. You will not want to put it down." • "Larry King" "There are countless stories about World War II. Some are tales of genocide or of heroic resistance and liberation. Yet there are also many tales of individual luck, endurance, and survival. Journey Interrupted is one such story. Hildegard Mahoney has lived an extraordinary life; her journey has taken her from Manhattan to Imperial Japan to post-war Germany, then back to the United States. Hers is a remarkable tale of adventure, suffering, and triumph, and stands as a testament to the power of hope." • ">, president of Carnegie Corporation" "Journey Interrupted is a rare and riveting story of a family's endurance of wartime hardship, and of how all survived to harness their sorely tested spirits to climb to life's heights. Ms. Mahoney, growing up, was one of the few Westerners to spend World War II stranded in Japan with her family. Sharp is the contrast between the perils and deprivations there and her later life, first as a top model in Manhattan, then as a familiar figure in rarefied corporate and international social circles, and, finally, with her late husband David, as an endower of important brain research at the Harvard Mahoney Neuroscience Institute and the University of Pennsylvania. This is the well-told tale of experiences that shaped a very unusual and exciting life well-lived." • ">, former publisher of The Wall Street Journal, retired chairman of Dow Jones & Co., and author of Newspaperman" "With a powerful, forthright style and superb insight into the unexpected effects of war, Hillie Mahoney recovers a personal, but universally inspiring history of family, friends, and unexpected twists in life during the second World War." • ">, president and CEO of the New York Historical Society" "A compelling read from first page to last." • "James. A Cox," Midwest Book Review

Hildegard Mahoney is the chairman of the Harvard Mahoney Neuroscience Institute in Boston, Massachusetts.

I read this fascinating book in one sitting and thoroughly enjoyed it. It was for me a refresher course in the events of WW II, written with clarity by someone who had direct experience with both the Japanese and the European parts of it. She and her ex-pat German-American parents and two brothers lived in comfort on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. A few years later, they found themselves freezing and starving in a mountain town in Yokohama because for some reason, the

parents thought this would be a good time to return to Germany the long way round to visit the grandparents in the middle of the war! I'm still not quite sure why this decision was taken, and I would have loved to know how the author felt about it. An Atlantic crossing was too dangerous, so they crossed the Pacific, ending up in Japan, where they could proceed no further for over a year. Eventually when the war ended they all got back to New York. The last part of the tale seemed like another book entirely, with our heroine ending up as a glamorous beauty queen, who eventually married the fabulously wealthy marketing and advertising genius David Mahoney. It's just about the most amazing true story I've ever read and it left me wanting more.

I liked the way in which the author portrayed her transition from a young girl to a young woman during the course of the journey. At its beginning, she is focused on childish delights and disappointments, but as she matures, she becomes focused on serious matters and begins to appreciate the difficulties and dangers with which her parents were coping on a daily basis - particularly her father, who took his duty of protecting and providing for his family seriously, all the while being deprived of the ability to earn any money or communicate with relatives and friends in both America and Germany who might have been able to help them. I wish that I had known her father well; I could have learned much from him. Perhaps most wonderful, at the end of the story the author realizes that the family's detention in a small town in Japan during the war years was actually a blessing. Had they stayed in America or arrived in Germany, they would almost certainly have ended up in a concentration camp. God saved them from that.

Slow, overly detailed. Kept hoping it would get better, but never did.

This was a great story because it was interesting throughout the entire story. It had a happy ending. I found myself feeling so happy for Hildegard for all of her successes. She was truly blessed although she and her family had went through some pretty tough times. But they made it through.

From the moment I started reading this book, I couldn't put it down. It really captured my attention. I highly recommend it!

So well written . How war in a far off land can change the lives every American.Excellent read

Ok

A seemingly short visit by an American family bringing three young American children to visit their German grandparents in 1941 turns into a nearly decade long journey. Side tracked to Japan before Pearl Harbor then after of the war began treated as enemy, Americans in Japan, living day to day in different locations, often with little food, inadequate clothes for the harsh weather and constant risk of arrest. Then after the War on to former concentration camps in Germany, before connecting with relatives then finally arriving back in the States. Wonderfully told tribute by the eventual 1955 Miss Reheingold of her parents steady and stable perseverance and positive outlook which made the dreadful ordeal seem more like an adventure. Heart warming and personally told, often through the eyes of a child-then teenager just living her life.

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