



# The Mascot: Unraveling the Mystery of My Jewish Father's Nazi Boyhood

*Mark Kurzem*

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**The Mascot: Unraveling the Mystery of My Jewish Father's Nazi Boyhood** Mark Kurzem  
The "spellbinding" (*The New York Times*) true story of a Jewish boy who became the darling of the Nazis

When a Nazi death squad massacred his mother and fellow villagers, five-year-old Alex Kurzem escaped, hiding in the freezing Russian forest until he was picked up by a group of Latvian SS soldiers. Alex was able to hide his Jewish identity and win over the soldiers, becoming their mascot and an honorary "corporal" in the SS with his own uniform. But what began as a desperate bid for survival became a performance that delighted the highest ranks of the Nazi elite. And so a young Jewish boy ended up starring in a Nazi propaganda film.

After sixty-three years of silence, Alex revealed his terrible secret to his son Mark. With his son's help, Alex retraced his past in search of answers and vindication. His story is at once a terrifying account of survival and its psychological cost as well as a brutally honest examination of identity, complicity, and memory.

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### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Jason Urso:**

Spent a free the perfect time to be fun activity to complete! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or their friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, likely to beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? May be reading a book might be option to fill your free of charge time/ holiday. The first thing that you ask may be what kinds of reserve that you should read. If you want to test look for book, may be the book untitled The Mascot: Unraveling the Mystery of My Jewish Father's Nazi Boyhood can be great book to read. May be it could be best activity to you.

#### **Leticia Nielson:**

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them friends and family or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, as well as playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity here is look different you can read a new book. It is really fun for you personally. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent all day every day to reading a book. The book The Mascot: Unraveling the Mystery of My Jewish Father's Nazi Boyhood it is quite good to read. There are a lot of people that recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore very easily to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book provides high quality.

#### **James Wendler:**

The reason? Because this The Mascot: Unraveling the Mystery of My Jewish Father's Nazi Boyhood is an unordinary book that the inside of the e-book waiting for you to snap it but latter it will shock you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book close to it was fantastic author who else write the book in such awesome way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining technique but still convey the meaning thoroughly. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book have such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking means. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I have been you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

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