



“Superb WWII fiction ...”

AUDIOBOOK REVIEW

Vienna on Fire: A WWII Story of Survival by [Don Gabor](#); read by [Gabrielle de Cuir](#)

Published by [Skyboat Media](#)

In his first novel, communications expert Gabor (*How to Start a Conversation and Make Friends*) draws upon his familial history to tell the story of Greta Kolbe, an 18-year-old Jewish woman whose world is shattered when German troops annexed Austria in 1938. Forced to flee Vienna, Greta undertakes a perilous escape to Holland, evading the Gestapo and a vindictive ex-suitor. Greta’s journey is marked by danger, as she smuggles diamonds for the Resistance, narrowly escapes Hermann Göring’s advances, and survives an ambush at the German-Dutch border.

Gabrielle de Cuir narrates, offering an emotionally rich listening experience. De Cuir communicates the urgency of Greta’s story, vividly conveying her bravery and resilience. The novel balances fully developed character portraits with historical details, and de Cuir maintains its engaging pace throughout. Gabor’s personal connection to the character of Greta, who is based upon his mother, infuses the narrative with authenticity and heart, allowing listeners to connect deeply with the woman’s remarkable courage. The novel culminates in a thrilling finale as Greta races to board a ship to New York City in a final bid for freedom.

VERDICT A gripping tale of survival and tenacity in the face of tyranny. Superb WWII fiction for fans of Sarah Ansbacher’s *Wave After Wave*.

Reviewed by [Susan McClellan](#), Apr 18, 2025

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