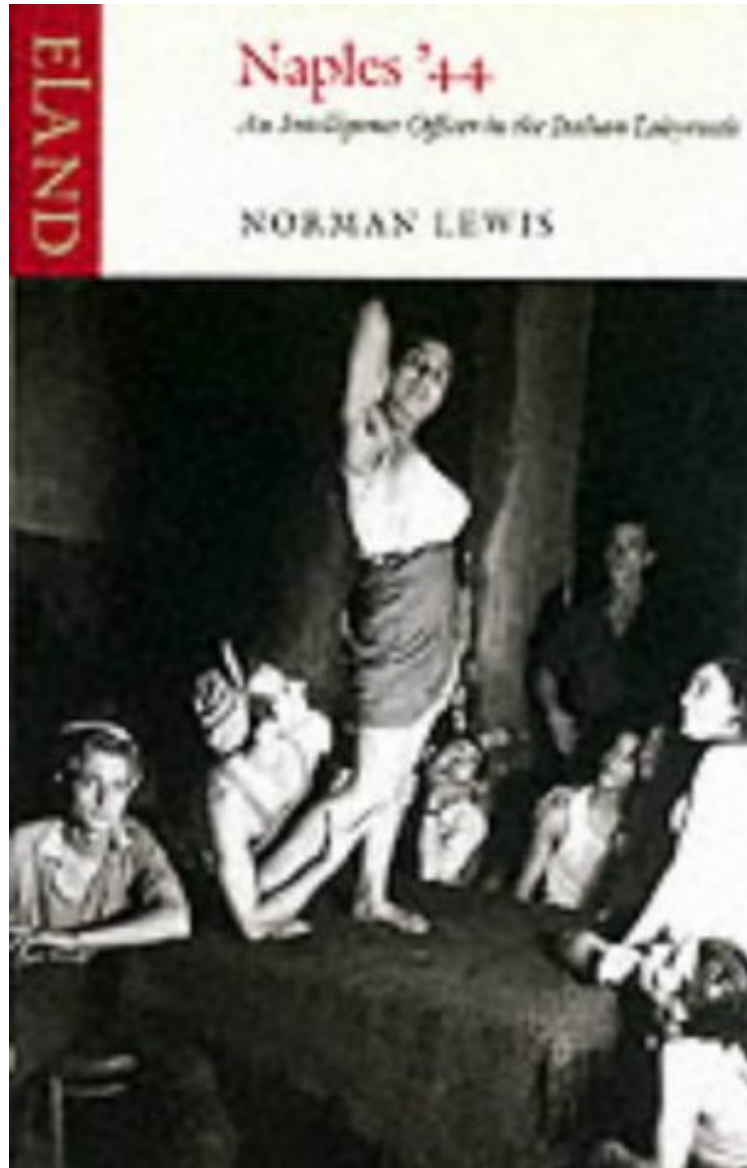


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Naples '44: An Intelligence Officer in the Italian Labyrinth

Norman Lewis

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Norman Lewis : Naples '44: An Intelligence Officer in the Italian Labyrinth before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Naples '44: An Intelligence Officer in the Italian Labyrinth:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A real screen-swiper!By CustomerFor those of us who know, or, more correctly, thought they knew, Italy, this book is irresistible. I fear I devoured it in 24 hours, instead of savoring it, like a good glass of cognac, sip by delicious sip. Mr. Lewis was stationed in Naples toward the end of WWII. He

served as an investigator for the British Army and hence was in an ideal position to do what he does best: observe people, places, and situations that can only arise in a certain time and culture. The result is a portrait of remarkable detail and veracity. At the end of the book, Mr. Lewis has been ordered to leave Italy for Egypt. I wonder if he ever returned and, if so, what his impressions were once the country had moved past the war. It will be delightful to read more of this book. This was my first; it will not be my last! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. If you care about what happened after armies coursed through Italy during WWII, this will be a good read for you. By EG75 If you're lucky enough to travel to Naples or if you're a history buff about WWII, you will want to read these essentially diary entries of a British officer living in the area for over a year. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Really good not romanticized first person of Naples By Customer Really good not romanticized first person of Naples. Interesting for me as was in US Navy in Italy long, long after, in 1980s. If you want to understand the craziness of post war justice, reconstruction, romance and people responding to end of major war, read this. A bit of a gem.

Norman Lewis arrives in war-torn Naples as an intelligence officer in 1944. The starving population has devoured all the tropical fish in the aquarium, respectable women have been driven to prostitution and the black market is king. Lewis finds little to admire in his fellow soldiers, but gains sustenance from the extraordinary vivacity of the Italians. There is the lawyer who earns his living bringing a touch of Roman class to funerals, the gynaecologist who "specializes in the restoration of lost virginity" and the widowed housewife who times her British lover against the clock. "Were I given the chance to be born again," writes Lewis, "Italy would be the country of my choice."

"Norman Lewis is one of the greatest of twentieth century British writers and Naples '44 is his masterpiece" Will Self About the Author Norman Lewis is Britain's greatest living travel writer, with a list of some 10 travel books and several books of collected journalism to his name. However Lewis regards his greatest achievement to have been the reaction to his article Genocide in Brazil, published in The Sunday Times in 1968. It led to a change in Brazilian law relating to the treatment of the Indians and to the formation of Survival International which fights for the survival of indigenous peoples everywhere.