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AUTHOR DREW BANKS PUBLISHES SECOND NOVEL IN THEMATIC TRILOGY

A follow-up to *Able Was I* (2005), *ERE I SAW ELBA*, published August, 2009, portrays one woman's lifelong struggle to overcome the unforgivable and explores the tragic consequences of denial.

Synopsis

Following a brief detainment, Brigitte Sureau and her parents are released seemingly intact from Drancy, a Nazi internment camp on the outskirts of Paris. After the war, when Brigitte's mother captures the public eye as a model for Christian Dior's "New Look," the reunited Sureaus become France's standard for reconciliation. The notoriety veils the family's quiet disintegration, ending in devastation and forcing Brigitte's escape to Elba for a new life isolated from her past. Fifty years later a chance encounter exposes fact from fiction, and Brigitte must face the betrayal that shattered her youth.

Ambitious in its scope, *Ere I Saw Elba* transports the reader on a journey through the second half of the twentieth century, from the Holocaust to the new millennium.

Reviews

"A fascinating examination of a woman claiming her life after trauma. I couldn't put it down."

- Mary Jane Ryan (www.mj-ryan.com), *New York Times* bestselling author (*AdaptAbility: How to Survive Change You Didn't Ask For*, *Random Acts of Kindness* series) and former CEO, Conari Press

"In *Ere I saw Elba*, Drew Banks cleverly mirrors a woman's struggle to come to terms with her personal trauma within the context of post-WWII France and its struggle to recover from its Vichy past. An insightful treatment of the recovery and forgiveness on both a personal and political level."

- Kathe Sweeney, Executive Editor, Jossey-Bass/Wiley

"Drew Banks paints on an exquisite canvas that spans decades, inviting in luminaries from history and transporting readers to a time when glamour and art were tainted by exile and fear."

- Brianna Smith, former editor, Henry Holt and Chronicle Books

"I know Drew as a fellow businessman who shares a deep respect for the application of Maslow psychology within the workplace. It is fascinating to see how he applies this same analysis to this beautifully crafted page-turner that explores the ramifications of his protagonist's psychological dissociation."

- Chip Conley (www.chipconley.com), author (*The Rebel Rules*, *Peak: How Great Companies Get Their Mojo from Maslow*) and Founder and CEO, Joie de Vivre Hospitality

"Vivid characters and an discerning eye for psychological detail make *Ere I Saw Elba* a fascinating read. Drew Banks is a writer to watch."

- Eliot Shreffer, novelist and contributing author to *The Huffington Post*

About The Author

Drew Banks (www.drewbanks.com) is a native North Carolinian and a 1984 graduate of NCSU. He is an entrepreneur, business author, and novelist. In his business writing as well as fiction, Banks deconstructs behavioral patterns in an attempt to explore causal motivations and deterrents. While Banks' first two books, *Beyond Spin* and *Customer. Community*, examine organizational implications of various social psychologies, he is drawn to fiction as a more intimate medium for delving beneath the surface of an individual. Visit Drew's website for more information and reviews of his work.