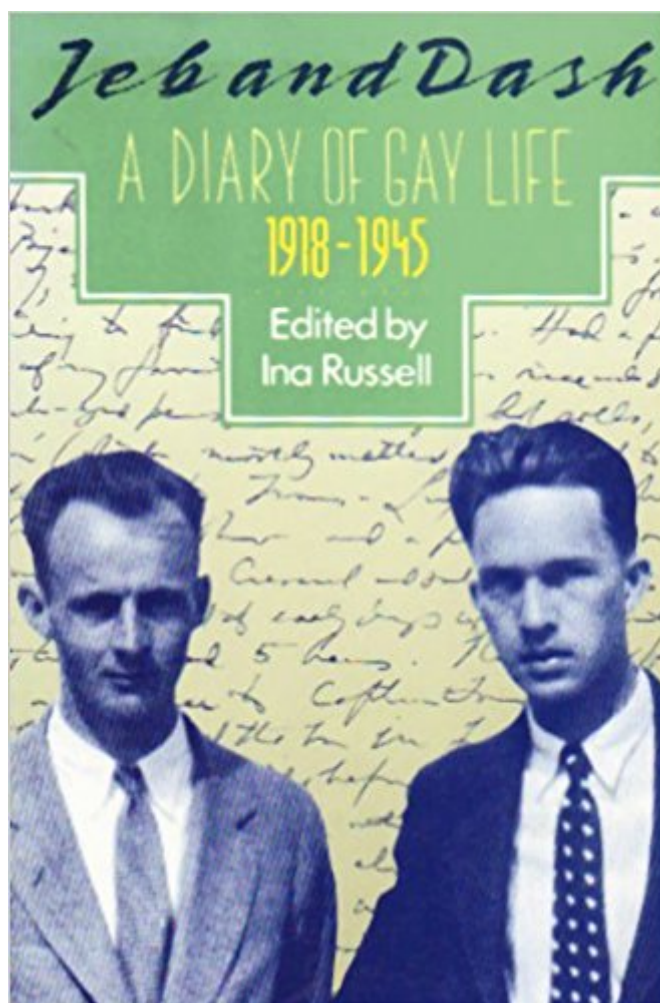


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Jeb And Dash: A Diary Of Gay Life 1918-1945



Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Jeb Alexander" is a pseudonym for a gay man who lived in Washington, D.C., for the first half of the twentieth century. He was prolific in keeping a diary, which he left to his niece, Ina Russell, who has edited the many volumes down to this one small, but meaty, book. As a native Washingtonian, I most appreciated Jeb's take on the mundane details of Washington life, and of gay life at a time when homosexuals had no socially-accepted methods of meeting each other. Somehow, he managed to find several like-minded friends, including his school chum, "Dash," for whom he seemed to have carried a lift-long torch. More accurately, he was fixated on Dash. Jeb Alexander, was a government worker; not a bureaucrat, simply one of the many people who do their daily stints year after year until they are eligible for a pension. He wanted to be a writer. He was a copious writer, but only when it came to his hand-written diaries. One could argue that at least he ultimately was published (30 years after his death) but he was not the kind of writer he aspired to be. There seems to be an underlying sad parallel between the prolific diarist / stalled writer that Jeb was and the energy that he wasted as a result of his obsession with his friend. Because of either his constitution or his circumstances, he seemed averse to being alive, and frittered away his time in pursuits that I can't imagine he ever felt would amount to anything. "Jeb and Dash" is a portrait of a "small" life-small like the lives most of us live. I enjoyed the view the book gave of some of the trivia of daily life and of my hometown. I also enjoyed the view it gave of some of the ways gay men lived their lives at a time when it was tougher than today.

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