

ON THE BOOKSHELF

"The Cat's Eye-- In the President's Service Series: Episode 13"

By Ace Collins

(Elk Lake Publishing)

Ace is back with a new series, new heroes and new villains. Helen Meeker works for the President in 1942. Her old team is scattered or dead; her new team consists of a mysterious American Indian woman named Teresa Bryant, and two young men, Napoleon Lancelot and Dizzy Vance. They are looking for Nazi spies in the USA, but a bigger assignment is pending. The Office of Strategic Services (OSS, the precursor to the CIA) wants to send them behind enemy lines in Nazi Germany to help the Underground to destroy a Nazi research center.

Before they get to Germany, they have to find a Nazi mole in America. That takes Meeker and Bryant to a greasy spoon diner, a bookie joint, a dangerous alley, a gunfight, and the investigation of either a suicide or murder of a Japanese-American woman. Her husband is sure that it was the act of someone who hated the Japanese since Pearl Harbor. He sets a trap for those he considers suspects, and Meeker's team comes along undercover. They discover there is a bomb on board, which ups the ante a little. They

The team eventually gets to Germany, where they rendezvous with a grimly-determined Underground resistance. They plan to destroy the top-secret nuclear bomb research facility. Its proximity to a Nazi breeding camp for Aryan warriors and the large number of captive workers in the atomic bomb plant mean many innocents will die.

Of course, the odds are good that some of the Resistance and Helen's team might not make it back alive, either, but they are willing to take the chance to stop Germany from developing an atomic weapon. It will take all their skill and savvy to pull off this mission. But they find a silver lining in the discovery of a kidnapped girl thought by her father to have been killed, if they can get her back to America.

Helen and Teresa get the opportunity to talk about the Bible, Christian faith, and the way the white settlers brought that along with guns and death. Meeker is a dedicated believer, and she wonders about the actual age and identity of Bryant. Another mystery to be solved, IF they survive.

Ace Collins pulls out all the stops in this, his first full-length novel since *The Yellow Packard*. It's a solid read, well-researched and creative, filled with twists and turns, losses and gains. *The Cat's Eye*, by the way, is the name of several important plot points in the three inter-related accounts. All are excellent reads!