

Just finished reading "The Splendid and the Vile", the newest book by Erik Larson. He is one of my favorite non-fiction authors and I have been looking forward to this book since I first heard about it over a year ago. He does extensive research on whatever subject matter he happens to be writing about and he has the ability to make you feel like an eyewitness to events. This book is no exception. However, it is not one of my favorites in his collection. It concerns Winston Churchill and his first year as prime minister during the start of the German bombardment of Britain. Larson has included many details not only of Churchill's public life, but also his private and personal friendships and family life. The author describes the catastrophic effects of the continual bombardment of cities by the Germans, the loss of life and property and the daily struggle to survive under such conditions. Churchill's strength lies in his strong character and his belief that his country would defend itself against Hitler's anticipated invasion. I would recommend this book which offers an insight into Churchill's and Britain's early experiences of WWII. Our stress and difficulty of self-distancing at this time in history pales in comparison to the daily life of average citizens in Britain just trying to survive German bombs destroying everything in their path.