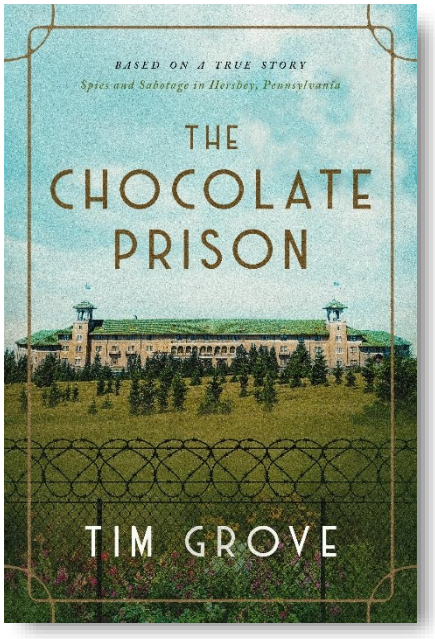
PRESS RELEASE FOR *THE CHOCOLATE PRISON*



Spies, international intrigue, and potential danger come to small-town Hershey, Pennsylvania, during World War II when the US State Department detains the Vichy French diplomatic corps in the luxurious Hotel Hershey.

November 1942. As fighting rages overseas, Americans on the homefront are adjusting to wartime life and facing the reality that the war is not going well for the Allies. Spies of all shapes are hard at work attempting to undermine competing causes. The United States' tenuous relationship with the government of Vichy France suddenly collapses with the Allied capture of French North Africa. Government leaders need to negotiate an exchange of the French diplomats with their American counterparts now trapped in hostile French territory.

The State Department staff rounds up the diplomats and detains them in the grand Hotel Hershey overlooking the world's largest chocolate factory. When the French arrive in Hershey, ***anything can happen!***

Two groups of people are attempting to endure the war: the town's residents who sacrifice daily through rations and hard work and the pampered, bored French diplomats, prisoners in a gilded cage where rations do not apply. Mysterious swastikas appear tramped in the snow, unruly French boys run around yelling "Heil Hitler," and fights break out. Even the French ambassador, with his trusty Dalmatian dog Pop, is secretly hoarding rationed items.

The State Department's agent, mild-mannered Fred Fulton, must find a way to manage the chaos. His challenges increase when he receives intelligence suggesting that Nazi spies are likely embedded in the group. Indeed, a Nazi spy is plotting sabotage against the iconic chocolate company and a second spy Betty Peck, along with her French lover, is secretly pursuing her own agenda.

Will Fulton manage to stop the spies before damage is done?

Will Hershey survive this French invasion?

Based on the true World War II story of the town that is home to "The Great American Chocolate Bar."



TIM GROVE, established historian and nationally published author of six nonfiction books, releases his debut novel in adult historical fiction. His work has earned awards such as a Kirkus star, a Washington Post review, and a YALSA excellence in nonfiction finalist distinction. Tim approaches his writing from a unique platform of thirty years' experience in the field of history museums, including twenty at the Smithsonian Institution. Tim is passionate about making American history relevant, accessible, and interesting to all ages.

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