

THE WILD PLACE, by Kathryn Hulme (Atlantic-Little, Brown). Miss Hulme, a young Californian, served from 1945 to 1951 as deputy director of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration center at Wildflecken, a onetime Sun Valley for the S.S. in the Bavarian highlands. In this bittersweet memoir, she recalls with a calm that suggests emotional exhaustion the horrifying, hilarious, heartbreaking stream of battered Poles—men, women, and children—that passed before her eyes, a thousand a week, during those years of hope, hopelessness, and resignation. A shattering book, and one that defines, once and for all, the meaning of that ghastly twentieth-century invention, the displaced person.