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My Mother's Ring: A Holocaust Historical Novel



Synopsis

~Runner-up in the 2013 London Book Festival~
Genre: Historical Fiction
The Holocaust didn't really end in 1945. Not for everyone. Even after the war, survivors' lives were influenced by their terrifying experiences. Some of them were never able to retell their stories--for others, it took decades.
In *My Mother's Ring: A Holocaust Historical Novel*, Henryk Frankowski feels compelled to pen his memoir and finally share his poignant story from his hospital bed as he lay dying. His carefree childhood as a Jewish boy in Warsaw, Poland is never far from his mind as he recalls the tumultuous world he endured during the Holocaust. Henryk speaks uninhibitedly about the intense bond he has with his family, particularly his adoration for his nurturing mother. Ultimately, the Frankowskis' lives are broken apart as World War II ignites and the Nazis storm across Europe, imprisoning and killing millions. As senseless restrictions are implemented, living conditions are compressed, circumstances turn dire, and callous disregard for human life runs rampant, Henryk must find the resilience to carry on. All the while, he dreams of a family reunion in Warsaw...

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (253 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

My Mother's Ring is, to date, the most moving and most honest portrayal of events that transpired during the Holocaust in Europe during World War II. The author tells the story in the first person making this book a personal accounting. Author Dana Cornell pulls no punches in descriptions of the horror and human tragedy that befell not only the European Jews but also

millions of other people whose crime was that they were non-Aryan, elderly, sick, political prisoners, or disabled, and therefore, unfit to live. This is not by any means a complete treatise on the Holocaust; it is one person's observation, interpretation, and experience. It isn't the Holocaust that comes alive in this book. The survivor comes to life. I've been studying about the Holocaust for a few years and I have never felt the emotions that surfaced while reading this book. Cornell weaves a story of the weakness and the strength of the human spirit. I would definitely read another of this author's works. The story in this book is both heartwarming and heartbreaking. Make sure you have a box of tissue handy.

This book was an intriguing read that picked up intensity as the story unfolded. The main character gradually makes his way from the Ghetto to the cattle car, and onward through the most nightmarish of circumstances. This is more than a glimpse into the life of a Holocaust survivor. Instead, it is a powerfully gripping journey where the reader feels as though they've witnessed a dichotomous reality -- the chilling atrocities of the Holocaust combined with human vulnerability -- firsthand. In the end, it leaves you gasping for breath as the main character sprints toward the finish line. This is a book that will stay with you long after you've turned the last page. It isn't often that a book can capture my attention for as long as this one did. I'll put this author on my watchlist, and will be waiting with anticipation to read more of her books in the future.

I very highly recommend this book (especially for those interested in the Holocaust). It is very well written, thought provoking, interesting, and difficult to put down! As another reviewer mentioned, the book is certainly not a 'light read'. It is gut wrenching to read about the suffering of so many during the years of the Holocaust. If you purchase 'My Mother's Ring', you will absolutely not be disappointed.

It never ceases to amaze me that Germany, a country filled with intelligent human beings could become part of Hitler's demonic Nazi world. My Mother's Ring will take you on a journey of what a young boy of 17 sustained at the hands of the murdering Nazis for five long years. It tells of the love and the strong bond between a mother and her son as her boy fights for every breath of life. This read is well deserving of five stars.

After reading close to 50 memoirs of Holocaust survivors, this one gave me pause. The sinister Mathausen camp is brought to detail like no other account I've read. The pain of subsistence within

Mathausen and other camps is described with excruciating candor. The author's miracle survival is the final victory for himself, and his family.

Very good book and historically accurate. It starts out a little slow but then gets moving. It's the kind of book when you're reading it, you want to stop reading and contemplate what you've just read but you can't put the book down because you want to keep reading. I also liked how the author describes what happens to people after they left the concentration camps.

How can one say, "I love this book when it is all about the horrors of the Holocaust?" but, in fact, this book was very good, very well written, no slow parts, and no jumping around to different time periods. The author has a very clear voice with vivid and succinct descriptions of circumstances and people. This book will haunt me for a very long time and I will definitely seek out and read more by this author. *My Mother's Ring* is a memoir of a young man and his loving Jewish family prior to and during the rise of the Nazi regime, covering his tumultuous years from teenage through his old age as he fought to stay alive in the German concentration camps, watching first his baby sister sent immediately to the gas chamber, his mother, brother and himself sent to different sections of the same concentration camp. His mother had given him her wedding ring, stating that he would be the one most likely to survive. He carried that ring hidden on his body under his clothes, even swallowing it at times, in order to keep it hidden from the Nazi' prying eyes and confiscations of anything personal. Thoughts of his mother and the ring on his body was his great survival tool during captivity, and later as he was able to relocate to the United States. A beautiful well written story. Most books of WW2 are told from a woman's perspective. This book is told from a man's perspective and is very graphic with detail. The author, Dana Cornell (surprisingly a woman author), makes the reader feel the love of family and the loss of that family with all the pain, agony, desolation, starvation, humiliation, and dehumanization wrought by the Nazis, as well as the great heartbreak afterward during the search for lost family members.

This was one of the best Holocaust book I've read, which have been probably in the fifties. I felt his pain and was brought to tears. I can't imagine how hard it is to relive this to write these books.....but thank God they do so the truth doesn't perish with them. I hope their captors realized the hellish, inhuman acts they inflicted on others and were tormented with it their heinous acts throughout their undeserving, miserable lives! This should be mandatory reading for seniors. Marcia Clark

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