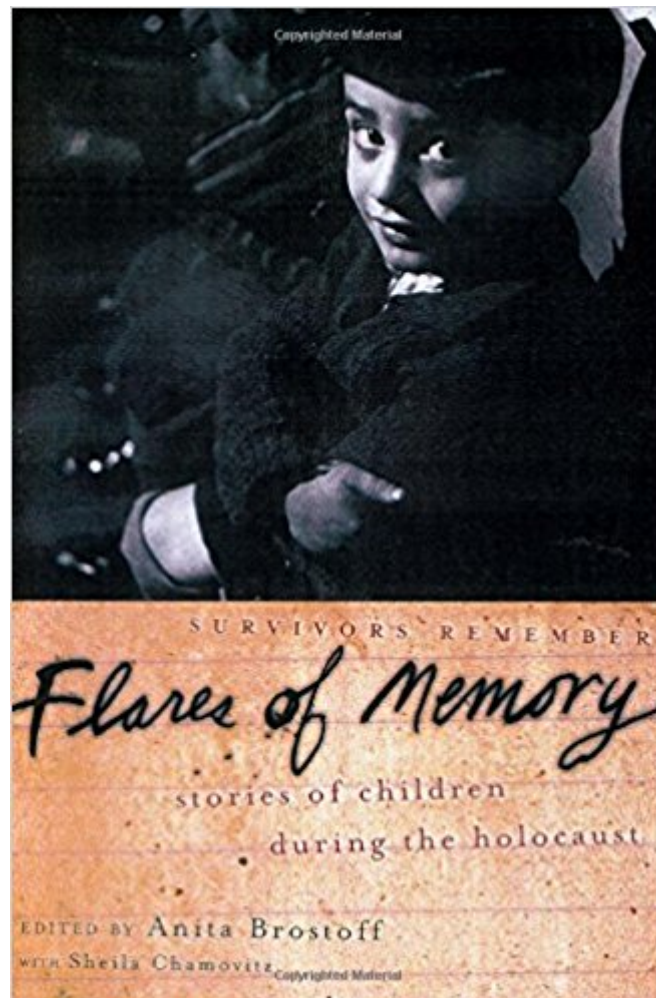




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Flares Of Memory: Stories Of Childhood During The Holocaust



Synopsis

In a series of writing workshops at the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh, survivors who were children or teens during World War II assembled to remember the pivotal moments in which their lives were irreparably changed by the Nazis. These "flares of memory" preserve the voices of over forty Jews from throughout Europe who experienced a history that cannot be forgotten. Ninety-two brief vignettes arranged both chronologically and thematically recreate the disbelief and chaos that ensued as families were separated, political rights were abolished, and synagogues and Jewish businesses were destroyed. Survivors remember the daily humiliation, the quiet heroes among their friends, and the painful abandonment by neighbors as Jews were restricted to ghettos, forced to don yellow stars, and loaded like cattle into trains. Vivid memories of hunger, disease, and a daily existence dependent on cruel luck provide penetrating testimonies to the ruthlessness of the Nazi killing machine, yet they also bear witness to the resilience and fortitude of individual souls bombarded by evil. "I don't think that there will be many readers who will be able to put this book down."--Jerome Chanes, National Foundation for Jewish Culture

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Puts together a series of vignettes gathered at a writers workshop at the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh, of Holocaust survivors who were children or young people when the vents took place. Highly memorable, touching and at parts harrowing. Sections on Jewish life before the Holocaust, where witnesses remember their lives in Europe before the Nazi inferno. For example,

Marga Randall recalls the wonderful large garden of her childhood home in Schermbeck, Germany, the town which she visited against decades later. Dora Zueg Iwler recalls how on their final parting her father said "Before I die I would like to see the blue and white Jewish flag". It was her father's dying wish that motivated her to work for the State of Israel making his dream come true in a small way. The Destruction Of A Society focuses on the brutality of Kristallnacht and the destruction of Jewish life in Germany. Ruthlessness As A system examines the genocide by the Einsatzgruppen and the horrors of the death camps. Survivors relate what they witnessed and how they survived. The very uncertainty and seeming small chance of whether one would survive is captured in The Lottery of Death And Life. Disguise As A Way of hiding relates how Jewish children and teenagers hid from the Nazi killing machine, often disguised as Christians while The Virtuous and the Vicious deals with the heroic gentiles who risked everything to help Jews to survive, as well as those evildoers who turned Jews in or helped the Nazis in their genocide. Other chapters examine other aspects.

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