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Salvaged Pages: Young Writers' Diaries Of The Holocaust



Synopsis

This collection of diaries, written by young people during the Holocaust, reflects a vast and diverse range of experiences - some of the writers were refugees, others were hiding or passing as non-Jews, and some were imprisoned in ghettos. The volume contains extensive excerpts from 15 diaries, ten of which have never before been translated and published in English. The diarists ranged in age from 12 to 22; some survived the Holocaust, but most perished. Taken together, their accounts of daily events and their often unexpected thoughts, ideas and feelings serve to deepen and complicate our understanding of life during the Holocaust. The volume begins with a discussion of Anne Frank's diary and offers a framework for thinking about the diaries young people produced in this time of extreme crisis. Alexandra Zapruder assesses the value of these literary fragments as part of the historical record of the Holocaust and provides informative introductions about: when and where each diary was written; the diarist's biographical, religious, cultural and economic circumstances; the fate of the diarist; and the circumstances of the diary's discovery. Finally Zapruder offers a view of the diary's significance. An appendix gives details about the known diaries written by young people during this period, more than 55 in all. A second appendix provides a study of related materials, such as rewritten and reconstructed diaries, letters, diary-memoirs, and texts by non-Jewish young victims of the war and Nazism.

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Customer Reviews

Zapruder, who works in the education department at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, has

done a great service to history and the future. Her book deserves to become a standard in Holocaust studies classes, particularly those aimed at youth or focusing on individuals. The 14 diaries in this anthology most appearing in English for the first time detail the lives of teens and their families, some on the run, some in camps, some in hiding and some during the chilling last days in the ghettos in Nazi-occupied Europe. Each is prefaced with a biography of its author, information on family background and, when known, his or her fate. Zapruder also provides other facts that would have been known to the diarists and their peers, providing readers with a more complete context. Their experiences and reactions vary widely. Peter Feigl's parents baptize him as a Catholic and send him to church, but eventually are forced to send him from Austria to France. He blames the Jewish-identified teens around him for the circumstances that have ripped him from his parents. In contrast, Belgian Moshe Flinker becomes more attached to traditional Judaism, but increasingly depressed. His last entry, in the fall of 1943, reads, "I am sitting facing the sun. Soon it will set; it is nearing the horizon. It is as red as blood, as if it were a bleeding wound. From where does it get so much blood? For days there has been a red sun, but this is not hard to understand. Is it not sufficient to weep, in these days of anguish?" These writings will certainly impress themselves on the memories of all readers. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

For the millions who read *The Diary of Anne Frank* (1952), this collection of 14 Holocaust diaries by young people from all over Europe will extend the history beyond Anne's attic walls. Scholars will want this volume--editor Zapruder's research is meticulous, drawing on archives and museums across the world--but the intensely personal voices of these young people who record the unimaginable will also draw a general audience. In her clear overview and introductions to each diary, Zapruder gives historical context and biography and decries any message of consolation or redemption, pointing out that these stark narratives banish forever the stereotypes of sweet victim, beneficent rescuer, and unfeeling bystander; instead, they suggest the immense complexity of ordinary people. Some writers are dull; some write with heartbreaking power. One diarist focuses on hunger: he's absolutely obsessed with food. Another's anguish is the loneliness, the separation; she cannot forget having to leave her grandmother in the street. The places range from the Czech forests and the Lodz ghetto to Auschwitz and the horrific scenes at liberation. A landmark collection.

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It is always hard to personalize the human beings who died in the Holocaust. There were so many, and so much historic knowledge and cultural context died with them. This book gives voice and life

to a wide variety of young Jews swept up in that huge event. Some died, some survived, but their young voices were preserved in amber by this diverse collection. This book was hard to read but it also remains with me as though I met each of them in life. I recommend the two appendices as well, which are a great reminder that the diarists preserved in the central part of the book were far from the only young people who chronicled what happened. May we always hear each of their voices in our minds, and honor them.

Awesome, awesome, awesome! My students love this book... I swear to you they just begged me the other day to let them keep reading after the timer went off. Includes a collection of diaries written by teenagers during the Holocaust. Each chapter begins with background information about the child before the actual diary entries. When possible, it tells if the child survived or perished. If unknown, it sometimes speculates. HIGHLY RECOMMEND!

Though this is a collection of diaries and writings by adolescents (ranging in age from 12 to 21), it's not a young adult book. It's more academic. Many if not most of the diary excerpts included are either out of print elsewhere or have never been published before. The diaries vary in quality and in detail, reflecting the variety of writers; the only thing they have in common is they were young Jews in occupied Europe. Each diary is prefaced with a detailed introduction describing what is known of the author's life and fate. The book also includes two excellent appendices which list other known young people's Holocaust diaries, and discusses other personal Holocaust writings that don't fall within the scope of the author's project. This is, I believe, a definitive collection and should be included in every library's Holocaust section. (In fact, after keeping the book as a reference/re-read for over a year, I donated it to my own library which did not have a copy.) I was very impressed by the editor's scholarship and the wide range of diaries included. I only wish the author would put out a new edition, since in the decade since this book's publication, several more young people's Holocaust diaries have been discovered and published.

excellent price. speedy delivery. excellent book. the stories were amazing. these children grew up too fast. they saw and experienced things no child should ever experience. some died. very sad

I am always looking for other 'voices' from the holocaust. I've had many classes read Anne Frank's diary and other books that were written after the experiences as adults. This book gives a clear insight into the thoughts, lives, and writings of other children caught in the midst of the experience.

The variety of entries provided comparisons with Anne's experience. We read selected excerpts and viewed the DVD by MTV at the same time. My high schoolers found the stories very compelling.

If you want a first hand look and experience of those who suffered and died in the Holocaust, this book cannot be matched since it is written by those who were persecuted and died in the Holocaust. I dare to say everyone should read this out of respect for what those persecuted went through and what better way than through their own words which they wrote and hoped we would read. These are truly salvaged pages. It is deeply personal, powerful and important.

Salvaged Pages is quite a unique work in that it is a compilation of numerous diaries written by young people who experienced the Holocaust. Some survived, many others perished in the 'inferno' that was the Shoah. The young diarists ranged in age from twelve to the twenties. The diaries were written by young people who came from various backgrounds and who lived in various parts of Europe such as Germany, Belgium, France, Czechoslovakia, Poland, etc. Some of the accounts are of Jews who lived in hiding, posing as Aryans, whilst others write of their lives in the impoverished Jewish ghettos such as the Lodz Ghetto and Vilna Ghetto. There are no photographs here, the only flaw in this book. It would have been interesting to have photographs of some of the diarists, showing their lives before the war, but this might have been difficult to obtain in the cases of the diarists who perished in the Holocaust. The editor has provided an extensive appendix and index, and this is an invaluable primary source for those interested in the Holocaust and for educators (especially in drawing comparisons between Anne Frank's diary and the ones featured here, focusing on themes, etc.).

If you have a heart at all, please read this book slowly and take notes. (the book speaks for itself).

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