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Lalechka: An Amazing Holocaust Survivor Rescue Story (World War 2 Book 1)



Synopsis

An astonishing manifestation of loyalty and courage. The real story of a little girl born into the chaos of war and holocaust. It's a warm and muggy Saturday night in August of 1942. The Nazis are liquidating the ghetto of Shedlitz, an industrial town east of Warsaw, Poland. Zippa, a 27-year-old Jewish woman, finds temporary shelter in a small attic, together with her baby daughter and a hundred frightened Jews. When the Nazi noose is tightened around her neck, Zippa asks her husband Jacob, a Jewish policeman in the ghetto, to save their little girl from certain death. The young father manages to smuggle his wife and daughter to the gentile part of town, where Zippa's childhood girlfriends Sophia and Irena reside. This is the real story of one Jewish family confronted by the terror of Nazi rule. The book follows Lalechka, the little girl born into the chaos of war and holocaust and forced to struggle with the reversals of fortune that led her each time into foreign and terrifying regions. But, beyond that, it is the story of the true friendship of three girls in early 20th Century Poland, a friendship that won't cower before government dictates. An astonishing manifestation of loyalty and courage. This is Amira Keidar's first novel, based on the journal written by the young mother during the annihilation of the ghetto, as well as on interviews with key figures in the story, rare documents and authentic letters. Scroll up and grab a copy today.

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Customer Reviews

An incredible story. the amount of detail provided makes each of these people so real, you feel like you know them. the author did an incredible job of bringing each person to our complete consciousness. The layout of the story itself gives a certain momentum. It begins with a flashback, then explains the preceding events. Then, the story moves from that point forward. With stories from the Holocaust, there are times when the heinousness of the events can overshadow everything else. The author did so well with this. First, the individual people, real people, are the true main focus. While the atrocities of the Holocaust hold a central place, they are a catalyst, NOT a focal point -- the focal point is found in the actions and responses of people who are trapped but persevere through force of love and a commitment to right. Secondly, she brings to the forefront a cost many of us have never considered. We tend to think of the "lucky" ones who survived or narrowly escaped. What if they weren't as lucky as we think the main character - Rachel - sounds like a character in a fairy tale: a beautiful child, loved by all, who has to continually be moved forward to a place of safety. But instead, we learn from her own words her anger, her sense not of being saved, but of abandonment. a small child can hear the words that she is being sent to a wonderful place, but inside, she just wonders where the only family she's ever known is gone, and wonders - without answer - why she can't live with them, and why they don't ever come to visit. Likewise, Rachel's uncle, her biological mother's brother, takes her in for a time, but, like the others, cannot provide adequately for her. We learn of his anguish, as a former POW, that he cannot give this child who has lost so much simply a home and family. A compelling story, all the more heart wrenching because of the amazing life that Rachel goes on to live. I received a copy of this book at a discount for review purposes. Any opinion expressed is mine alone.

This book was so memorable and yet so complex to me that I went back and read it a second time. As others have said, it's told from the perspective of many people, and its honesty and authenticity shine through. One thing I would add is that Lalechka did not have an easy time in Israel as she was growing up, and even into adulthood. Her life was saved, but her identity and happiness had been challenged over and over. Her inheritance was initially three photos that are, in themselves, extremely compelling. What courageous women. It's an amazing, true, story.

I was absolutely floored by this book. I have read several books about the Holocaust and the atrocities that occurred in those years. This one though was like none other I had read. It was told in first person and each chapter featured a different person. It centered around a young girl who was born in the worst circumstances imaginable. It was a story of unconditional love but more so, absolute friendship. As I read the gamut of emotions swelled over me in an unusual fashion. I shed a tear, I was angry, I was disgusted, I was relieved. I hurt for this child who had gone through so much, had lost so much, just to stay alive. The people who loved her did what they could, even from the beginning when her Mother had to let go. She was loved. Is this just another Holocaust story from the historical times? No, this is a true story, a story that had to be told. This is a story that has to be heard like the stories of other survivors. It needs to be told again, and again, so that what happened to this child and her family and the many other families NEVER happens again! Side note: This book goes from before she was born up through present day. You find out what happens to her near the end and you get to see photos too. Hint, the cover photo is her, read this book to find out who the other person is. Disclosure: I received a Kindle copy of this book in exchange for my open and honest opinion. The views expressed here are 100% my own and may differ from yours. ~Naila Moon

I thought the premise of this book sounded like a really interesting story from the Holocaust. However, I was entirely surprised by the richness of each person's character. While I expected to be moved by this story I didn't know the depth of the emotions it would bring forth. This is easily one of the best books I have read about the survivors from WWII. The author has brought history to life and engaged the emotions throughout in a way that is complex and compelling. Nothing about this true life story comes off as dry or unneeded. I think this book would make a splendid film as well, so it could bring this story to a wider audience. I was given a copy of the book to read by the publisher, but all opinions in this review are my own.

"Lalechka", is a true life story about a baby girl born in the Jewish ghetto during the Holocaust. Because of her mother's girlhood friends, Lalechka was saved from the terrible fate that took the rest of her family. Each person in the story told what happened from her/his point of view. This was done very effectively. As a reader, I realized that the people who cared for this little girl were doing so at risk to their own lives. Unfortunately, most people were not that humane. This book kept my interest. It is worth reading.

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