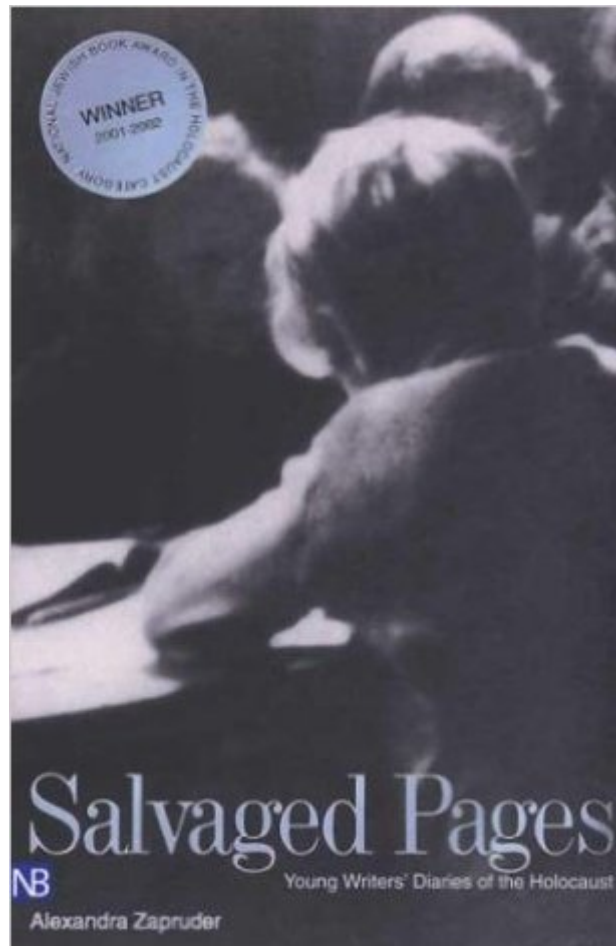


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Salvaged Pages: Young Writers' Diaries Of The Holocaust



Synopsis

This is a stirring collection of diaries written by young people, ages 12 to 22, during the Holocaust. Some of the writers were refugees, others were hiding or passing as non-Jews, some were imprisoned in ghettos, and nearly all perished before liberation.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This collection provides 14 generous excerpts from journals of young people during the Shoah; the earliest diaries are from adolescents who got out before or just as things were getting bad, but as we go further on, the diaries get more intense in scope, moving from adolescents who weren't quite sure what was to come, to people who had some inkling but weren't quite sure the rumors were true, to finally young people in ghettos, young people who therefore knew how bad things were, although they didn't yet know what their final grisly fate was to be. Before each excerpt we also get a generous introduction to the author, his or her surroundings, what generally happened to the Jews of that particular city or town, and the diarist's final fate. Some of these young people survived, others perished, and still others' fates are unknown, though they are presumed to have perished. There's also an appendix detailing a number of other young diarists from the Shoah, some information on them, their fates, whether the diary is in a private collection, a museum, if it's been translated into English, or was published for the general public whatever language it's in. A lot of these young diarists were very literate and intelligent astute young people; it's incredibly sad how some of them died so young and therefore didn't get a chance to possibly become great writers. My

only small complaint is that Poland is a little overrepresented; while it's true that at least half of the murdered came from Poland and that Poland was the nation that lost the greatest percentage of its prewar Jewish population by far, it would have been nice to have some variety in the locations, like maybe include more diaries from Germany, France, and Belgium, or ones from Holland, Hungary, Italy, Austria, Slovakia, and Greece, for example.

Even after countless movies and documentaries, nothing has personally ever made me direct as much attention to the tragedy of the holocaust than these young writers' words written in ghettos and in hiding places. Their optimism is heartbreaking when you learn of their fates, you see their struggles with hunger, fear of an uncertain future, their grief over losing loved ones and identity. But you also recognize their strength in troubled times and end up appreciating their courage to write, because you know it is essential that they should be known.

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.

i highly recommend this book. it is not only for those with historical interests. the diaries are so moving that this book will appeal to all. the writing is very vivid and the diarist's voice will stay with you for some time. zapruder has done an impecable job of introducing each entry. she sets the scene with such biographical and cultural detail that you feel at one with diarist before delving in. i was really moved by this book and encourage all to read it.

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.

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!

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