

The Lucky One



A Prize Winning
Short Story

Ray Kingfisher

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An elderly woman is haunted by memories of her escape from the holocaust.

But how reliable are painful memories that have been kept at bay for nearly sixty years?

And at her time of life, what exactly is she searching for?

(A short story of approx. 3,500 words taken from the collection: Tales of Loss and Guilt)

The Lucky One Details

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From Reader Review The Lucky One for online ebook

Liza Robertson says

This was heartbreaking to read about much less to have suffered so just for being different. Why can't we all just get along as God intended? I so wish for world consumed by peace and kindness to one another.

Ladonna Creech says

A Very Interesting Short Story

I thought this was a rather interesting short story. I was relieved after finding out that it's part of another, much larger book because after reading this book, I was left wanting to know more about the entire story. It would be kind of pointless to read this book without reading the overall story. This book is only a small part of a bigger picture, involving more characters and issues. It's a really great introduction to the full-length story, a book called "The Sugar Men". I'll be looking forward to this book, too.

Cheryl says

A horrifying, emotional story of a Holocaust survivor's need to revisit the site of the concentration camp where she was held. They called her The Lucky One - but is she really?

Ted Tayler says

"Chilling tale"

Above average short story about a Holocaust survivor from an accomplished wordsmith.

Edwina Callan says

Very well written short story about an elderly Holocaust survivor who travels back to Bergen-Belsen, after sixty-four years have passed by, in search of answers as to why she was "The Lucky One".
(This short story is actually the teaser for the full-length novel: "The Sugar Men".)

Ryanne says

A short yet emotional story about a woman affected by the holocaust. I only wish there were more details on what she experienced!

Ashley M says

A woman haunted by her past in the Holocaust

This is a sad tale of a woman trying to reconcile with her past in the Holocaust. She needs to confront the death of all those around her years ago before she can be ready to face her own mortal end. I really liked this because it brings her memories to life, and the pure sadness and fear of how she feels. There was a conversation between her and her two adult children which was somewhat important to the story, but I didn't really like that part of it. Overall, it is worth the time to read.

Amanda Smith says

My review from amazon.com dated 5/13/2013

Title: Kind of Short

I do enjoy short stories because I get to read something new without spending days on the topic. Just a quick hour read is nice every now and then. I really liked the beginning but wish the author provided us with more towards the end. I wanted the story to continue and give us more insight on why they called her the "lucky one" and more on what that entailed.

I would have loved to have more story on this one, was too short in my opinion because it did not wrap everything up.

Matt says

A Holocaust survivor, now elderly and dying, travels back to Hamburg to revisit the place she barely came out of alive. A great story that really puts you there!

Tanya says

Susannah Zuckerman is a survivor of the Holocaust. When she only has a few months left due to her cancer, she decides to travel to Germany and revisit the death camp she luckily escaped decades ago. During her visit in Hamburg, she is troubled by the tourists' innocent questions and the illusions of her past nightmares.

The story has a good start. However, the narrative style can be a little bit confusing at times. The ending is too abrupt and there're many loose ends that fail to be wrapped up. I still don't know what actually happened to Susannah years ago in that death camp and I have no idea how she managed to escape those SS guards. There's no explanation to why Susannah is the "lucky one." The concepts and ideas are intriguing, though.

Daniell Marsh says

A very quick look into a woman that was held in the camps in Germany during the war. It follows her as she visits where it all happened. I think it gave a quick look at what one person felt as she went remembered what happened. For a short story it sketched out everything it needed.

Hana says

This well-structured short story takes us through flashbacks to Nazi Germany. That era fascinates me in its peculiarity, and intensity.

If you believe, wholeheartedly, that no human race should be subject to ethnic cleansing or any form of mass injustice, then you'll have the feels for this book.

I like the idea of this being sort of a preface to a novel (Sugar Men). Not a sample, yet a consequential part of a whole.

Michael says

A really good read

This is a well written short story and I would be interested in reading the full length novel based on this short story.

A brilliant story, even better considering it is a free download from Amazon.

Louise says

Definitely a short story. Makes you think about the permanent trauma those victims lived with.

Jonathan Hill says

For a long time, I have been drawn to books and films set around the Holocaust. It is a period of history that both appals and fascinates me. This prize-winning short story by Ray Kingfisher offers a perspective that is less frequently written about.

Susannah is the eponymous 'lucky one' and has lived almost a lifetime since surviving a World War II death camp. The story moves seamlessly from past to present and blurs reality with Susannah's 'visions' to nightmarish effect. Susannah, dying in the present day, decides to revisit the camp. Why does she do this?

It's a complex issue as you might expect, but an imagined meeting with an SS guard suggests the fate that Susannah would perhaps have preferred over living a lifetime of guilt and wondering.

The lucky one here is anything but lucky and, as is the case with the best Holocaust fiction, this story hits you hard. A well-written, emotional read.
