



Here There Is No Why

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“Here There Is No Why” was the infamous Dr. Joseph Mengele’s answer to Roma, the author, and to millions of Jewish victims of the Holocaust.

Written to fulfill a promise made in the darkest moment of human history, this simple and eloquent story is unique in that it spans the geography of the Nazi’s Final Solution.

Rachel (Roma in Polish), the teenage daughter of a journalist, relays to us the experiences of a schoolgirl and her classmates under the German occupied Warsaw Ghetto. She is a witness and participant in the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. After the Nazis smoke her out of hiding, she bravely faces the reality of the gas chambers and concentration camps in Poland and Germany.

Originally written in Polish, this is an eloquent and unforgettable account of survival.

Here There Is No Why Details

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Author : Rachel Roth

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Brian Leach says

An amazing recollection from a survivor of three Nazi death camps including Auschwitz. The detail is harrowing. For example, Roth describes how her life depended upon which direction Josef "Angel of Death" Mengele swung his rubber baton during the regular selection process when those deemed too unfit to work were sent to the gas chamber. The only reason why the author survived was unbelievable perseverance and chance. In another instance her group is sent to the waiting pen for the gas chambers and is only released when it is discovered there has been a clerical error. It never ceases to amaze me that this actually happened in modern times in "high culture" Germany.

Lora G Coonce says

Excellent details of life in the ghetto and camps

I have read many books about the holocaust but was impressed with this one because of how the author detailed life in the ghetto as well as life in the camps. This is an enthralling read, full of hope and perseverance.

John says

Among the best of the Holocaust memoirs. Rachel Roth is an excellent writer. While most memoirs are rather narrow as each victim has a very limited and personal view of the catastrophe, Ms. Roth's experiences are very varied and wide ranging. Not to sound too flippant, but she is like the Forrest Gump of the Holocaust, her charmed life led her practically everywhere.

Vikki Ascuena says

Holocaust story told simply

this reads as though a neighbor sat down next to you and told her story without any attempt to write in a literary manner. Although authors such as Elie Wiesel have told of their harrowing experiences, this is a conversation with the reader.

Rishon Blumberg says

An unbelievable insight into the Warsaw Ghetto and the Holocaust experience as a whole. Exceptionally detailed.

Ginger Miller says

A new definition of courage

I was amazed by the courage of Roma and Hela. To have survived at all is almost unbelievable. The individual stories of Holocaust survivors are the ones that truly tell the entire story of the most inhumane time that ever existed in this world. The most amazing part of Roma and Hela's story is that they kept their faith. How? Heartbreaking but in the end a complete triumph over a reign of godless evil and its collaborators.

Jill says

While the Warsaw resistance wasn't the main focus of the book, the author did contribute to that effort and lived in the ghetto until it was liquidated.

Dawn Walker says

A hard read

Tears, fear and endurance. What a brave, brave pair of ladies. Difficult to read but well worth wiping away the tears to read the next pages

Denise says

Stunned, depressing! First book I've ever read on the Holocaust. I knew what it was but to read a first hand account of the atrocities that were encountered was very sad! The author was saved time and time again. No other explanation but the hand of God!

Marsmannix says

There are a handful of Holocaust memoirs that bring the horror to life in an immediate way, and this is one of those books. You are able to feel the author's vibrancy, courage, and love of life through her use of first person/present tense style.

Amazing book. Am Yisroel Chai

Andy Bryant says

Stunning. This will tell you more about the effects of Nazi ideology and SS brutality than any 1000 page history book.

Laura says

Poignantly told and vivid accounts.

Rebecka says

I've read two Holocaust related memoirs after one another, one featuring a male prisoner and one featuring a female prisoner. The latter (=this book) definitely paints a much milder picture, with minimal torture and brutal killings. This is the story of a woman who spent several years in concentration camps, which is something that is hard to grasp when you read other accounts where people survive mere weeks. Roth manages to escape death over and over again, and actually stays together with a family member throughout the entire thing. Amazing. If you want to know more about "daily life" in a camp (and not just the extreme days) as well as ghetto life, then read this.
