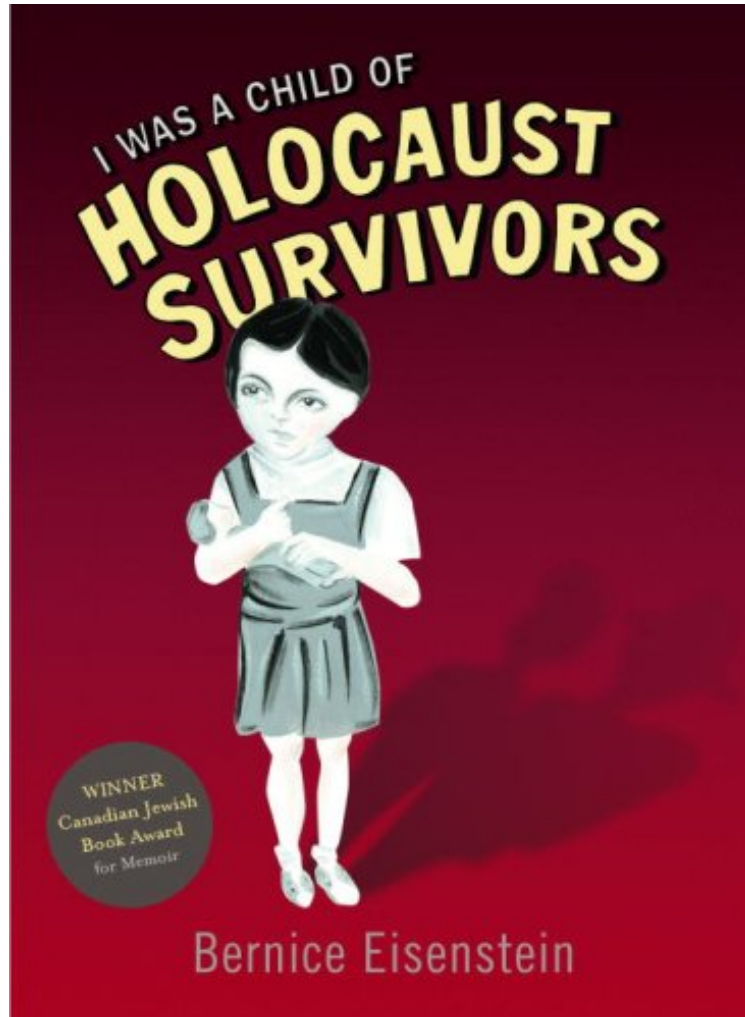


(Read now) I Was a Child of Holocaust Survivors

I Was a Child of Holocaust Survivors

Bernice Eisenstein

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Bernice Eisenstein : I Was a Child of Holocaust Survivors before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised I Was a Child of Holocaust Survivors:

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I Was a Child of Holocaust Survivors distills, through text and drawings, including panels in the comic-book format,

Bernice Eisensteins memories of her 1950s childhood in Toronto with her Yiddish-speaking parents, whose often unspoken experiences of war were nevertheless always present. The memories also draw on inherited fragments of stories about relatives lost to the war whom she never met. Eisensteins parents met in Auschwitz, near the end of the war and were married shortly after Liberation. The book began to take root in her imagination several years ago, almost a decade after her fathers death. With poignancy and searing honesty, Eisenstein explores with ineffable sadness and bittersweet humour her childhood growing up in the shadow of the Holocaust. But more than a book about the Holocaust and its far-reaching shadows, this moving, visually ravishing graphic memoir speaks universally about memory, loss, and recovery of the past. No one who sees this book will not be deeply affected by its beautiful, highly evocative writing and brilliantly original and haunting artwork created by the author. *I Was a Child of Holocaust Survivors* is destined to become a classic. I am lost in memory. It is not a place that has been mapped, fixed by coordinates of longitude and latitude, whereby I can retrace a step and come to the same place again. Each time is different. . . . While my father was alive, I searched to find his face among those documented photographs of survivors of Auschwitz actually, photos from any camp would do. If I could see him staring out through barbed wire, I thought I would then know how to remember him, know what he was made to become, and then possibly know what he might have been. All my life, Ive looked for more in order to fill in the parts of my father that had gone missing. . . . Excerpts from *I Was a Child of Holocaust Survivors*

From Publishers Weekly Starred . Children of Holocaust survivors carry an unusual burden, but you don't come across many who consider their status a form of "cachet" that they can "socially trade on." Yet not only does Eisenstein freely admit to just that, she does it with an eloquent irreverence and a blend of self-absorption and self-awareness that make her debut captivating. The daughter of Polish refugees who settled in Toronto in the late 1940s, Eisenstein is a gifted artist as well as a wordsmith, and her color illustrations take over here when words are insufficient. She grasps that it was her parents who suffered through the Holocaust, but in describing herself as "some Jewish Sisyphus, pushing history and memory uphill, wondering what I'm supposed to be," she neatly articulates her struggle to understand their suffering and get to know them as human beings. Eisenstein treasures the rare moments when her reticent parents share their past. She seeks connections through relatives, books and other survivors. Her frustration and confusion are palpable, but what emerges most strongly is a deep and abiding love for her parents. "Never forget" is a central tenet of Judaism. In this beautiful tribute, Eisenstein shows she's taken that lesson to heart. (Aug.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Born in Canada in 1949, Eisenstein is the daughter of Holocaust survivors who lived through the horrors of the Auschwitz concentration camp. Her parents were born in Poland, and Yiddish was the language spoken at home. "The Holocaust is a drug and I have entered an opium den," she writes, saying that she needed to know what the experience had done to her mother and father. She describes their daily life, her love of books and movies, and her mother's tape of an interview for the archives of the Holocaust Project. Eisenstein tells of her ties to aunts, uncles, and cousins and of family gatherings on Jewish holidays and at bar mitzvahs. In this graphic memoir--the book is filled with illustrations in black and white and in color--Eisenstein examines the consequences of being the daughter of Holocaust survivors. It is a riveting account of what it was like. George Cohen Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved A powerful and emotionally charged memoir. . . . Some of the best writing ever on the subject of the 20th centurys most brutal human catastrophe. NOW magazine (5-star review) A uniquely gripping articulation of the heart. . . . An emotional and aesthetic triumph. Canadian Jewish News Beautifully conceived and constructed, intimate and engrossing. Quill Quire The most lucid, funny, moving book I encountered in 2006. . . . Remarkable. . . . Molly Peacock, Globe and Mail Books of the Year