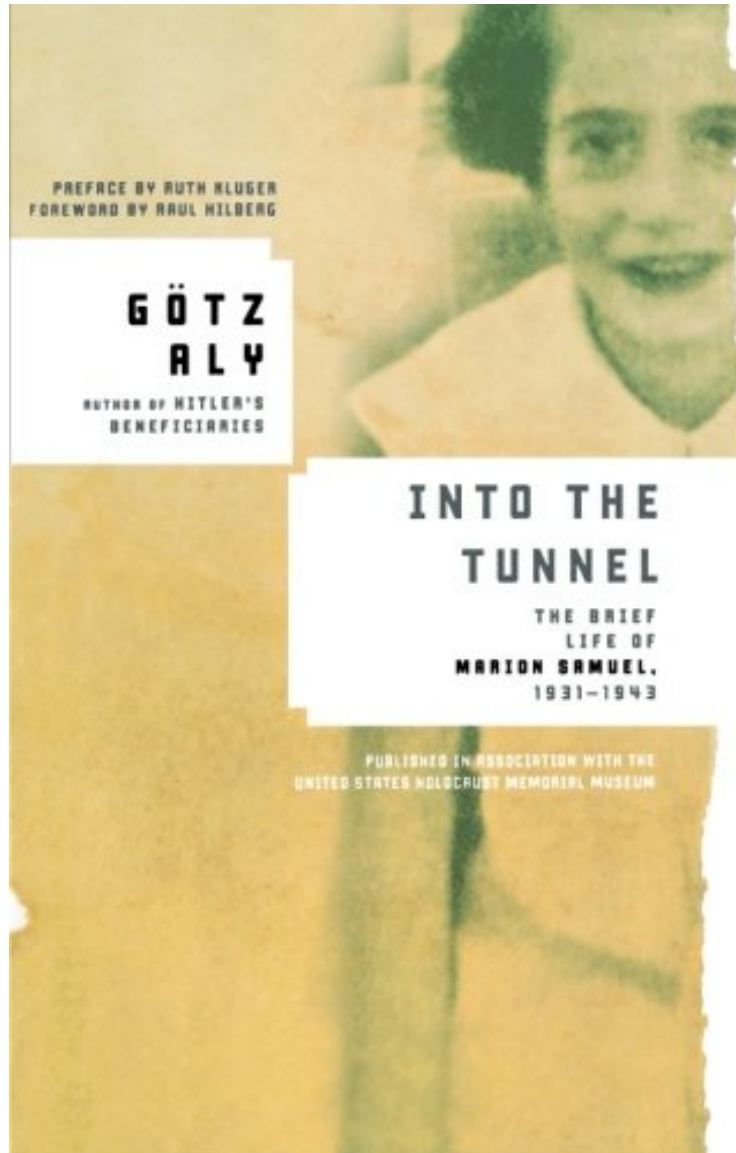


(Download pdf ebook) Into the Tunnel: The Brief Life of Marion Samuel, 1931-1943

Into the Tunnel: The Brief Life of Marion Samuel, 1931-1943

Goetz Aly

*audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#1106965 in Books Holt Paperbacks 2008-01-08 2008-01-08 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.50 x .33 x 5.50l, 1.00 #File Name: 0805089144144 pages | File size: 64.Mb

Goetz Aly : Into the Tunnel: The Brief Life of Marion Samuel, 1931-1943 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Into the Tunnel: The Brief Life of Marion Samuel, 1931-1943:

14 of 15 people found the following review helpful. "People go into a tunnel in the mountain, and along the way there is a great hole and they all fall in and disappear." By Kerry Walters One of the abiding insights that comes through in Goetz Aly's Into the Tunnel is just how efficient bureaucracies can be at transforming vibrantly alive human beings

into impersonal statistics on official forms. In their extermination program, the Nazis, with an eerie fidelity to record-keeping, felt the need to document every detail of the lives they were destroying. That's why Aly is able to trace the unhappy fate of the beautiful little girl, Marion Samuel, who is the protagonist of this unhappy tale. Such exercises are important; they help to keep memory alive. But Aly's book is more of a model of historical research than a sustained biography that captures who Marion Samuel was. This is as it must be. Nazi documentation records dates when the Samuel family loses its business, moves from one locale to another, and is rounded up for deportation to Auschwitz, but little else. There are few photographs left, and family memories on both Cilly's (Marion's mother) and Ernst's (her father) side have dimmed (or were outright obliterated by the Holocaust). So what we have in this book is a lot of data that leaves us with the sinking awareness that the 12-year old Marion simply disappeared in a wide ocean of bureaucratic files and forms even before she was murdered and incinerated at Auschwitz. Still, we get glimpses of her, and those glimpses are all the more poignant for being so incomplete. One of her schoolmates recalls that in 1938, a full five years before her murder, an 8-year old Marion was already feeling the burden of the Nazi horror. She remembers (p. 82) that at one point a near-hysterical Marion blurted out her fear that Jews were disappearing into an ominous tunnel. We also know that at the final roundup, Marion was separated for three full days from her parents, and sent to a detention warehouse full of equally parentless children. Marion's mother, Cilly, was sent on to Auschwitz and quite likely was immediately murdered. Marion and her father Ernst were reunited in the same transport that took them both to Auschwitz. One can only imagine the forlornness Marion experienced before she was reunited with her father for their final journey into the tunnel. Both were murdered a week later. It's good that Aly's work allows us to know something of a child, unspeakably murdered before she barely had a chance to live, who otherwise would've totally disappeared.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A worthy tribute
By Bookski
Gotz Aly set out to discover who Marion Samuel was after being named the recipient of the "Marion Samuel Prize." Using the best of his historical detection skills he was able to piece together her short, tragic life that ended at the hands of the Nazis. This book is concise, informative, and heartbreaking.

24 of 25 people found the following review helpful. The Death and Life of an Enemy of the German Volk
By Grey Wolffe
Marion Samuel was eleven years old when she arrived at Auschwitz in March of 1943, she was gassed to death the same day and her body burned in the crematorium. Her ashes were thrown into a pit with hundreds of others and then covered over with soil. There is no marker over where she died. But who was this child and what was her crime that she should be treated so. She came from a lower middle class family from West Pomerania, near the Baltic Sea where the German-Polish border is today. At the age of six she was a witness to Kristallnacht and forbidden to go to the German Public School she had attended for the last three years. Her family lost their business and both her parents became "unskilled" factory workers. Marion was able to go to a "Jewish" school for two more years, before those were shut down. For the last years of her life she lived in a one room ground floor apartment off an alley. Since her parents were away each day, she had to fill her time as best she could. How did she view the world she lived in? Did she wonder why she and her parents were being treated the way they were? Did she have any understanding that she was being punished for a random act of birth? At least we know she was on the same train as her father (who lasted sixty one days in the camp) when she was "evacuated". Thankfully, the horrors at the end for this little girl were tempered by the comfort of a parent. Hopefully, the people that ordered her death, and carried it out, suffered for what they did.

A generous feat of biographical sleuthing by an acclaimed historian rescues one child victim of the Holocaust from oblivion. When the German Remembrance Foundation established a prize to commemorate the million Jewish children murdered during the Holocaust, it was deliberately named after a victim about whom nothing was known except her age and the date of her deportation: Marion Samuel, an eleven-year-old girl killed in Auschwitz in 1943. Sixty years after her death, when Gotz Aly received the award, he was moved to find out whatever he could about Marion's short life and restore this child to history. In what is as much a detective story as a historical reconstruction, Aly, praised for his "formidable research skills" (Christopher Browning), traces the Samuel family's agonizing decline from shop owners to forced laborers to deportees. Against all odds, Aly manages to recover expropriation records, family photographs, and even a trace of Marion's voice in the premonition she confided to a school friend: "People disappear," she said, "into the tunnel." A gripping account of a family caught in the tightening grip of persecution, *Into the Tunnel* is a powerful reminder that the millions of Nazi victims were also, each one, an individual life.

From Publishers Weekly
Aly (Hitler's Beneficiaries) ingeniously reconstructs the life and death of a German-Jewish girl in this impressive piece of detective work. After being awarded the Marion Samuel Prize (established by the German Remembrance Foundation to commemorate the million Jewish children murdered during the Holocaust), Aly decided to learn as much as he could about Samuel and her family. With the help of ads and a speech, both published in German newspapers, he got in touch with individuals who knew the family, was able to find a few surviving relatives and pieced together a narrative from these scant sources. Soon after the family's business was ransacked in 1935, Samuel and her parents left their small town and moved to Berlin, where they lived until they were sent to Auschwitz. Illustrating civilian complicity in their fate, Aly notes a letter from the Samuels' former landlord, asking

the authorities for rent that went unpaid after the Samuels were deported. Aly's account puts a face on the tragedy of the Holocaust. (Jan.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "A book of unparalleled vividness and power."--Booklist "A distinguished and affecting account."--Kirkus "An impressive piece of detective work. Aly's account puts a face on the tragedy of the Holocaust."--Publishers Weekly "A book of unparalleled vividness and power."--Booklist "A distinguished and affecting account."--Kirkus "An impressive piece of detective work. Aly's account puts a face on the tragedy of the Holocaust."--Publishers Weekly "Inspired Aly mines a staggering amount of data to great effect." "The New York Times Book " "A book of unparalleled vividness and power." "Booklist" "A slim but powerful record Into the Tunnel pieces fragments of an ordinary life into an extraordinary fabric of remembrance. By restoring one girl's history, Gtz Aly helps us bear witness to the unique fate of one innocent consumed by the Holocaust." "Bookpage" "Aly ingeniously reconstructs the life and death of a German-Jewish girl in this impressive piece of detective work His account puts a face on the tragedy of the Holocaust." "Publishers Weekly" "A distinguished and affecting account." "Kirkus s" "Inspired... Aly mines a staggering amount of data to great effect."--"The New York Times Book ""A book of unparalleled vividness and power."--"Booklist""A slim but powerful record... Into the Tunnel pieces fragments of an ordinary life into an extraordinary fabric of remembrance. By restoring one girl's history, Gotz Aly helps us bear witness to the unique fate of one innocent consumed by the Holocaust."--"Bookpage""Aly ingeniously reconstructs the life and death of a German-Jewish girl in this impressive piece of detective work... His account puts a face on the tragedy of the Holocaust."--"Publishers Weekly""A distinguished and affecting account."--"Kirkus s"About the AuthorGtz Aly, the author of Hitler's Beneficiaries and Architects of Annihilation, among other books, is one of the most respected historians of the Third Reich and the Holocaust. He has been a visiting fellow at the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., and currently teaches at the Free University of Berlin.