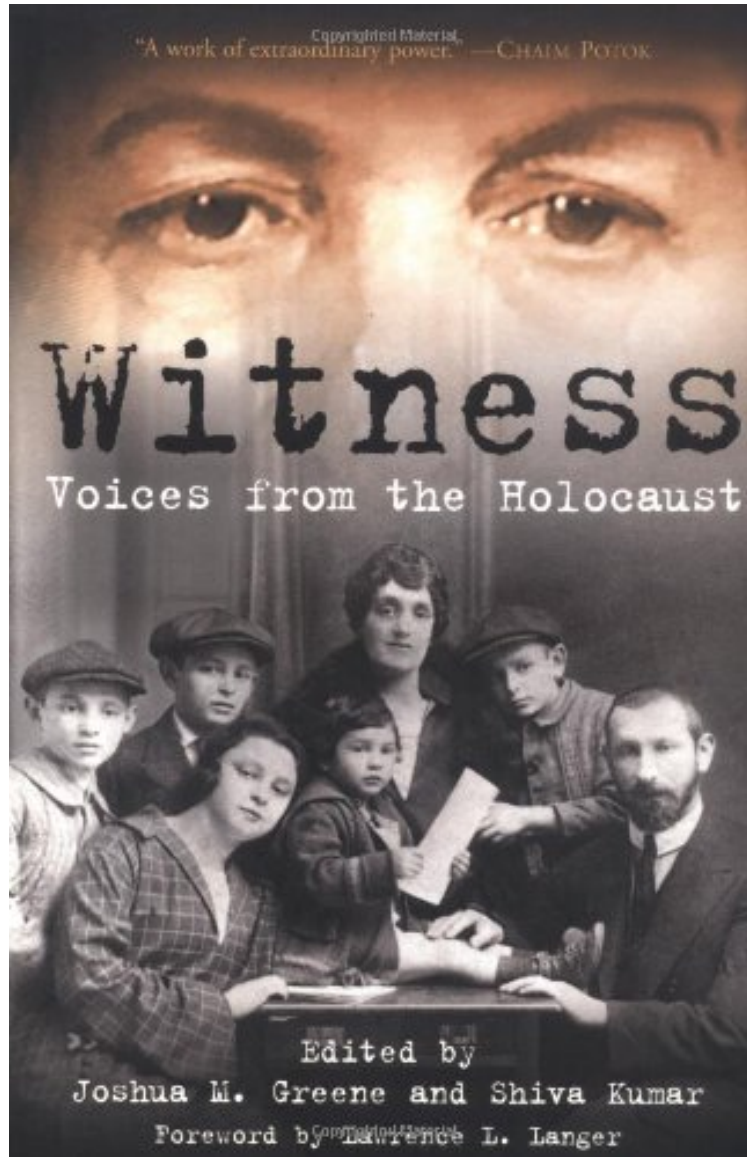


(Download ebook) WITNESS: Voices from the Holocaust

## WITNESS: Voices from the Holocaust

*Joshua M. Greene, Shiva Kumar*  
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**Joshua M. Greene, Shiva Kumar : WITNESS: Voices from the Holocaust** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised WITNESS: Voices from the Holocaust:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Voices of the victimizedBy Patricia L. MattisonThis collection of accounts by some of the victims is a "must include" in reading about the systematic murder of millions of Jews and others in Europe by Hitler's Nazis and his allies. Lawrence Langer's Foreword helps explain some of the reasons of how and why all of the European Jews did not know what was going to happen to them. The witnesses own accounts

add further explanation of the terrors they lived and so many died through. As Langer states, "The Germans left archives of material that help us to understand how a bureaucracy of death was organized and transformed into a killing process...." However, there are no accounts by the Europeans themselves--the regular, everyday people--who willingly assisted the bureaucracy carry out the systematic annihilation of their neighbors, friends, co-workers. How did once-decent, educated, religious people turn into cruel, greedy, murderous fiends who turned in Jews, stole their property, and denied them help in escaping the Holocaust? This collection of accounts by the victims is a "must include" in reading about the imprisonment and murder of millions of Jews and others in Europe by Hitler's Nazis and his allies and the European people themselves. I recommend this book as an addition to the other books you have and should read about Hitler's Nazi Europe, World War II, and the murder of over six million Jews and over 12 million others. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. First-hand accounts...By A reader This book is a collection of individual experiences and instances that took place during the Holocaust. I think when people refer to the Holocaust, their description of the events that took place were no doubt horrible, but usually very vague; genocide, gas chambers, forced labor...but what exactly did each person see?? What were they eyewitness to? This book gives detailed person to person first-hand accounts of some of the worst days, or minutes of their life that they were forced to endure. Although this book was heartbreaking and difficult to read at times, I still couldn't help but recognize that this book was based on only a handful of interviews and painful testimonies of Holocaust survivors. It only made me think that for every story I heard there are literally millions of other stories unaccounted for that we will never know. It's important to understand other people's pain, feel compassion, and appreciate what we have in our lives. This book will make the reader understand that not only were these people affected by the sufferings and cruel treatment during WWII but they carried their pain, burden, and even sometimes guilt with them throughout the rest of their lives. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. emotional but excellent read! By N. Spruill This book is one that drew me in! I really enjoyed this book, from beginning to end. It covers many young people, their struggles from the beginning from the war to their end--either by their release or their untimely demise by Nazi soldiers. The story gives many perspectives, with photos, and gives other information (the individuals' stories do not end at the finish of a sentence) This book did make me tear up from time to time, so you may need a box of tissues, but it's hard not to get attached to the writers of this trip back into the genocide of WW2.

Fifty-five years after the end of World War II, the Holocaust continues to cast a dark shadow. For the past two decades, the Fortunoff Video Archive at Yale University has sought to preserve the human side of this inhuman era by videotaping testimonies from those who lived through the Nazi regime, a project that has led to an acclaimed documentary film and this extraordinary book. Fifty-five years after the end of World War II, the Holocaust continues to cast a dark shadow. For the past two decades, the Fortunoff Video Archive at Yale University has sought to preserve the human side of this inhuman era by videotaping testimonies from those who lived through the Nazi regime, a project that has led to an acclaimed documentary film and this extraordinary book. The Wall Street Journal called the documentary eloquent and unsparing, and Daily Variety said it was a staggeringly powerful record. The Washington Times said that *Witness* gives new meaning to the term documentary. [It is] as pure a document as I have ever seen on television. In *Witness: Voices from the Holocaust*, Joshua M. Greene and Shiva Kumar weave a single and compelling narrative from the first-person accounts of twenty-seven witnesses, including camp survivors, American military personnel, a member of the Hitler Youth, a Jesuit priest, and resistance fighters. The vivid and detailed memories of these witnesses testify to the continuing impact of this human catastrophe, and their impassioned words lend immediacy to events that resonate to this day.

.com Sometimes at night I lay and I can't believe what my eyes have seen. I really cannot believe it. --Helen K., Auschwitz survivor So much has been written about the Holocaust, from academic treatises to popular histories, but it's rare to find a book that captures the texture of everyday living in Nazi Germany. *Witness* is such a gem. Since 1979, Yale University has videotaped testimonies from Holocaust survivors and witnesses. Twenty-seven of these first-person accounts have been woven into *Witness*, creating a rough narrative of life before, during, and after the Nazi era. The witnesses are a diverse group: Colonel Edmund M.'s unit liberated Mauthausen concentration camp, Robert S. was in the Hitler Youth, Werner R. survived a death march that killed thousands, Celia K. joined the partisans and sabotaged German railways. The editors wisely remain on the fringe; capsule biographies of each witness and brief introductory pieces allow the testimony to take center stage. Herbert J. was an American POW liberated from Mauthausen concentration camp. He describes how local children were encouraged to assault the prisoners as they were marched to the quarry for work. One girl: ...had a barrel stave. She come and she hit me with it, and I was stubborn and I wouldn't fall down right off easy. And she hit me a couple of times, and finally I went down ... and she bent over me, and she's calling me names and whatnot, and she says quietly, "Here! Here!" And so I reach up defensively and she's poking something at me. It was soft, and I put it inside my shirt. Brotenspeck--broiled pork fat between German bread. Every day after that she was there and she'd do the same thing--only it didn't take as many whacks with that barrel stave to get me to fall down. ... And she never got caught. It would have cost her her life.

Abraham P., a Romanian Jew who survived Auschwitz and Buchenwald, remembered telling his little brother to stay with their parents when they arrived at Auschwitz. "Little did I know that--that I sent him to the--to the crematorium. I am--I feel like--I killed him [crying]." When Helen K.'s brother died in her arms en route to Majdanek, she made up her mind "that I'm going to defy Hitler. I'm not going to give in. Because he wants me to die, I'm going to live." Many of these accounts are painful to read, but, as noted Holocaust scholar Lawrence L. Langer writes in his foreword, "Without survivor testimony, the human dimension of the catastrophe would remain a subject of speculation." Witness illuminates this dimension, providing a powerful and personal history of the Holocaust. --Sunny Delaney

From Publishers Weekly

Textbooks and historical accounts can provide a broad view of the Holocaust, but nothing can come close to the power of the testimony of those who were there. As Holocaust scholar Lawrence Langer writes in his introduction to this collage of first-hand accounts, "Without survivor testimony, the human dimension of the catastrophe would remain a subject of speculation." For more than two decades, the Fortunoff Video Archive at Yale University has been videotaping the oral histories of Holocaust survivors and eyewitnesses. This extraordinary project has resulted in a documentary that will air on PBS in April and in this companion book. Editors Greene, a filmmaker, and Kumar, a scholar specializing in ethics and morality in global TV production, have woven together the testimonies of 27 individuals into an unforgettable narrative of the Holocaust: starting with pre-WWII Jewish life, they go on to describe the war's outbreak, ghettos, resistance and hiding, death camps, death marches, liberation and life after the Holocaust. Through careful selection and sequencing, the editors have succeeded in their goal: "to edit without editorializing." These painfully sad testimonies speak for themselves, providing the horrific details of people's experiences. The common link among these speakers is the eternal scars they bear. One survivor concludes his remarks with the haunting words: "I can't tell you everything in an interview. I couldn't even describe one day in the ghetto. I don't want to live with that pain, but it's there. It's there. It forms its own entity and it surfaces whenever it wants to." These voices bring us a step closer to comprehending the lasting anguish of the Nazi genocide. Photos. (Apr.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

A companion volume to both a PBS documentary (scheduled to air in April 2000) and Yale's Fortunoff Archive ([www.library.yale.edu/testimonies](http://www.library.yale.edu/testimonies)), this print compilation of the remembrances of 27 Holocaust witnesses is an excellent addition to the literature. The "voices" here range from the Jewish experience to that of non-Jews, American POWs, and resistance fighters. Editors Greene, an award-winning film producer, and Kumar, who teaches graduate seminars on ethics and morality, have wisely chosen to group the narratives chronologically and to edit them only minimally. The results are cohesive and compelling firsthand stories that begin in the 1930s and end with the still very painful memories of today. Many of the individuals in Witness lay bare their emotions, having never before discussed their experiences; hence, this work contrasts with other Holocaust memoirs in which the writers have had time for introspection and editing. Recommended for public and academic library Holocaust collections. -Maria C. Bagshaw, Lake Erie Coll., Painesville, OH Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.