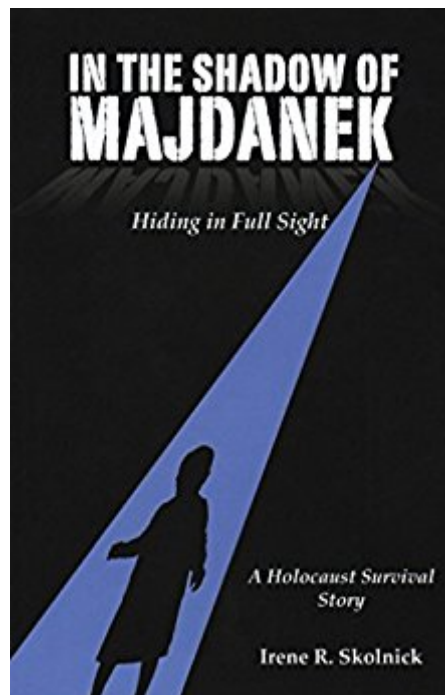




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In The Shadow Of Majdanek. Hiding In Full Sight . : A Holocaust Survival Story



Synopsis

Once a Jew was trapped under Nazi occupation there were only four ways one could hope to survive: with luck one could survive the camps, one could be hidden by a courageous gentile, one could escape and live in the forest with partisans, or one could change one's identity, pretend to be Catholic and blend into the ambient population. This is what mother decided would be our best chance at survival. This was not an easy undertaking. To blend into the Polish community it was essential not to look Jewish; not to sound Jewish; to know a fair amount about Catholicism; and be able to think on your feet when unexpected events occurred. Above all one needed to be lucky. With counterfeit documents we changed our name and moved to Lublin, the site of Majdanek, the second largest concentration camp in Poland. At that time I was five years old and my brother was seven. We had to learn new names and to never reveal our past. No sooner we got settled that members of my father's family descended on us seeking shelter. In a small, primitive house we hid up to eight members of my father's family.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I almost didn't finish this book mostly because of the way it was written. I'm not sure how to explain it because even though it was interesting to know some of the details and facts of what happened to this family, it just wasn't very compelling to read.

A determined father does everything he can to save his family and others. An admirable family who struggles to survive the Holocaust!

Very good well written and informative .. highly recommend

In the Shadow of Majdanek: Hiding in Full Sight: A Holocaust Survival Story is by Irene R. Skolnick. This is a true story based on the author's Father's account. She had to add background information for clarification. This book tells of one family's plight during the Holocaust and how their faith drew all of them together. Irene's Father, Maurice Rinde, had written down his memoirs shortly after the family arrived in the US after World War II. His memoirs had been unpublished and left where they were for many years. After his death, Irene started to write this book but found several events that made sense to her and her brother; but not to her husband. She found it necessary to build bridges by the way of adding background information and explanations to the story. Friends questioned the lack of emotions to the story. For five- to seven-year-old Irene and her brother, all they felt was fear. She isn't sure what emotions her parents felt. This book takes the family from their relatively rich home life to the terrible home life very close to the camp of Majdanek. A family of four grew to include fifteen people to care for. It was her Mother's insistence that they change their identity from Jewish to Catholic and live openly. They moved to Lublin and eventually out by Majdanek with their relatives in tow. Overall, fifteen members of the family survived and moved to Canada, Palestine, and the US. The book is well written and reads well. It gives a different view of outlasting the Holocaust.

Too many characters,; lost track of who was who and where they were because there was too much chronological 'jumping' back and forth throughout the story. And, too many typos and omission of punctuation which necessitated rereading to make sense of the sentences.

This is different from many Holocaust memoirs in that the author recollects the story of herself and her extended Jewish family in Poland during that terrible time. That they managed to escape imprisonment and extermination is absolutely miraculous. The author tells their story in a straightforward manner that keeps one's interest to the end.

This was an all right read. Nothing special or much different from other books of this genre.

So well written, so readable. A tribute to her family, a living legacy. Forever remembered. My salute to you for putting your story to print. It is one your readers can share for all time.....

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