



I Was A Doctor In Auschwitz

Gisella Perl

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I Was A Doctor In Auschwitz Gisella Perl

The author offers this book as a monument commemorating the events of the years 1940-1945, commemorating Nazi bestiality, Nazi sadism, Nazi inhumanity and the death of their six million innocent Jewish victims. Every individual story, every picture, every description is but a stone in that monument which will stand forever to remind the world of this shameful phase of history, and to ask of it vigilance, lest the events of these years be repeated.

I Was A Doctor In Auschwitz Details

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Author : Gisella Perl

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From Reader Review I Was A Doctor In Auschwitz for online ebook

Edwina Callan says

The most fascinating book on the Holocaust that I have ever read.

In 2003, a film entitled Out of the Ashes was released. It was based upon the story of Dr. Perl's life, and starred Christine Lahti as Dr. Perl.

It you don't read the book then at least see the movie.

Elisabeth says

This story is about a Hungarian Jew doctor who was sent to Auschwitz where she stayed until the war was almost over. The chapters are short but each tell about a different person or facet of the stay there in Auschwitz with even a chapter about Irma Greze. Right at the time when Auschwitz was to be liberated the SS took her away and after some time, she ended up at Bergen-Belsen where Liberation finally came.

A very compelling and gripping read.

Sarah Gatewood says

I had been waiting to read this book for several years. I had been unable to get this book without spending quite an amount of money. I was lucky enough to check it out from my library's interlibrary loan through another library. They stopped the program at the end of June which is so disappointing. This book is very different from a lot of accounts of those that survived The Holocaust. Dr. Perl talks about specific people that she was with and their eventual passing. In her speaking of these people, I felt she memorialized them and remembered them for more than people that died horrifically. The other thing different is Dr. Perl is the only doctor to go on record of performing abortions in Aauschwitz. Reading Dr. Perl's accounts of these abortions, only done because of the situation is heartbreaking. Dr. Perl would be transferred to another camp where she would eventually deliver the first child to be born free right after liberation. The only things that disappointed me about this book was the lack of follow-up about Dr. Perl's life in the eventual years and a lack of accuracy. Dr. Perl had some mistakes of spelling of Dr. Mengele's name as well as the name of the camp Bergen Belsen. I believe these mistakes were due to this book being wrote so quickly after the war and correct names not being fully known. Dr. Perl lost both her son and her husband during The Holocaust.

Sofia Aguilar says

This book... I have no words. Even though I finished in a few hours it has been one of the hardest books to read. Every now and then I had to pause and take a deep breath. Being a true life's testimony it shows the reality of three different concentration and extermination camps. I really recommend this book, not only to the ones that are curious about this topic but also to everyone, we do not forget about this time in history. Even though my county was not directly involved of affected by this war I feel all the sorrow and pain the

victims went through. I feel like sometimes we forget our humanity, and this is a really good book to be reminded of that, and to always be kind to each other no matter our beliefs, races, sexual preferences, among other things, because remember that no one is better than anyone and we are always equal human beings and we cannot destroy each other.

Chubsi says

A completely tormenting book. Too disappointing to read the details of how seemingly sympathetic civilian Germans become greedy like the evil regime who overtook them. Too excruciating to read how the ordinary people saw their lives fall apart too quickly, from being thrown out from their homes to being torn away from their countries, and seeing their lives fade away slowly or in a whiff after settling in the unspeakably horrid places they never thought existed. Immensely cruel and crushing to the spirit. The stories of different people Dr. Perl has woven into this book show the uselessness of that fight over supremacy the Nazis waged. It never resulted to any good. It killed not only the physical bodies of those victims but also their dreams, innocently perishing only because they are deemed not humans, when, in the strictest sense of reality, the Nazis are the ones who aren't!

It has made me wonder more about why a group of people see themselves as superior, determined to grab the power to rule over all, that no one has to excel above them; loathing it when the people who outdo them are those who they think are inferior. How I so want to slap not only this book, but all other books related to Holocaust, to the faces of those people who plan to do something those evil Nazis have done years ago. I want to make them realise the utter stupidity such ideologies embody.

As long as one group of people is bent upon taking over the entire nations for their selfish motives, we must never feel complacent that we are living in better times. Humans never have shaken off their propensity to bestiality. We must be wary of what the future has in store for us. We'll never know when that bestiality suddenly erupts again. I hope we can work together despite our differences to stop such people from repeating the Nazi's foolish and senseless abuses and love for stirring fears to satisfy their inhumanity.

Devan says

I think this book was amazing. This woman really gave every brutal detail that she encountered. I have read a lot of these memoirs feeling that is important to learn these tragic stories and hear their voices. But this book disturbed me more than any other has. She took the time to tell amazing and inspiring stories about these individuals she met, all who wanted to live, only to perish. She was strong and had to do horrible, unthinkable things to save others. She was and remains a hero. I feel so deeply sorry for her loss and the things that this world allowed to happen. Education is the only way to be free and we must prevent this type of thing from ever happening again.

Kitty Wenham says

This book doesn't seem to be for sale at all anymore, but it is pretty easy to find various PDF versions on the internet. It's not the most amazingly written, like more the more famous books by Elie Weisel, but I imagine this is down to imperfect translations and a lack of editing. However, many people often forget that gender

was a large issue during the Holocaust, and this book sheds a light on that. Gisella Perl performed hundreds of secret abortions at Auschwitz and saved the lives of countless women. Her story should be as well known as others.

Barbara says

This is a really awesome, powerful book. I have trouble putting it down. It reminds me a lot of Anne Frank.

Hetal Desai says

I was looking for this book for over a year, it's out of print but managed to get a PDF file. An easy quick read with descriptions of the inhumane, abominable treatment of prisoners at Auschwitz. Whether it is the exchange of 3 uncooked potatoes for a bag of diamonds, the ill fitting wooden slippers of different sizes on each foot, foraging for survival necessities in a pile of cadavers, this book paints vivid pictures of the horrors at Auschwitz that stay etched in your mind forever. Brilliant read!

Nandita Goswami says

This has by far been one of the most difficult books I have read till date! The sheer atrocities committed against humanity will give you goosebumps.

Also, it being a true account gives you an inside picture of life in, not one, but three concentration camps. Definitely makes one thankful for living in the times that one does now.

Dina Marie Gangale says

This was the most intense book that I have read, ever. I think it is very sad that it is no longer in print and available. If you are lucky enough to get your hands on it, you NEED to read it.

Sudeep Laha says

the best book to describe the actual brutality happened in the Jew camps. Without any veil, the author gave details on the conditions of the Jews.... it's like a memoir of a Holocaust survivor, and one can relate a lot with the Anne Frank journals... the book is small and 190 paged yet is something one cannot finish it quickly because of the dreadful memories stories and inhumane brutality... at many points in the book you will be filled with disgust by the brutality and each one of the detail will drain you emotionally... its a painful read but a must read

Melanie Rightmyer says

This was one of the more gruesome accounts of the Holocaust that I have read. If you find the descriptions of what occurred in the concentration camps difficult to read then this is not the book for you.

Gayle Francis Moffet says

Much like *Night*, Gisella Perl's memoir was written very shortly after the war and her anger and fear are still very much at the forefront. She performed amazing feats of medicine with absolutely nothing she really needed to do them, but she speaks of her acts as though they were simply what needed to be done and not a sign of amazing inner strength and conviction.

Dr. Perl doesn't mince words about the horror and awfulness she witnessed and how low down she went. But she came back up, like so many other survivors, and we have her story.

M— says

I had a hard time reading this. It's a slim little publication, not 200 pages, but it took me weeks to complete. I had to omit my original plan to read it during lunch breaks — I couldn't read a paragraph without getting teary, which I'd rather not have happen at work — and I eventually holed up in my bedroom the day this was supposed to be due back at the library to read it in one late night, marathon session.

As for the book itself, it was exactly what it was: a memoir of surviving the Holocaust, which is to say it was both more and less than what I had expected it to be. I have more of an interest in medical nonfiction than I have in historical, and I sought out Perl's book because she was a medical doctor, specifically because she was known as the abortionist of Auschwitz in her attempts to keep inmates of the camp away from the attentions of Nazi scientists. I would have liked if the memoir had been more expanded. Perl covers strictly her time as an inmate in the camps from just before entering to just after being freed, but I had been wanting more to learn about her life following the war, about being suspected and cleared of assisting in Nazi atrocities, about locating her one surviving family member (her daughter, who was mentioned so little in this book that I had forgotten she existed until I looked up Perl's Wikipedia article), about relocating to New York and becoming a renown specialist of infertility issues. (I read an article once that, after the war ended, she approached every pregnancy she delivered with an attitude of, 'You owe me a living baby, God.' [Link.](#))

It's also very much a memoir of passion, so much so it feels nearly incoherent at times. I was left with the impression that Perl had certain vignettes of her experience that she needed to tell, needed to put to paper, in an attitude of 'This happened, I was there, I saw it.' but it resulted in a disjointed narrative that, for me, detracted from the power of Perl's survival. I'll have to try hunting for a more fleshed-out biography.

My copy of this came by means of inter-library loan, shipped from Los Angeles to Philadelphia. Originally published the year my house was built, the year before my father was born; this edition printed the year my younger brother was born. Faded highlighting and pencil flagging left behind by previous readers throughout. Inked on the first blank page following the last page of writing, written where it would not

obscure text, were inscribed the symbols of the cross and the star and the words *God bless*, heavily enough to emboss the three pages beneath it.

Four stars.

Additional links:

Holocaust History Project bibliography (via the Wayback Machine): [link](#)
