



Winter in the Morning: A Young Girl's Life in the Warsaw Ghetto and Beyond, 1939-1945

Janina Bauman

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Janina Bauman was thirteen-years-old when Hitler's decree forced her family into the Jewish ghetto in Warsaw. The young, bright, lively girl suddenly found herself in a cramped flat hiding with other Jewish families. Then came the raids. To avoid being one of the thousands who were rounded up every day and deported to the camps, Janina was forced to keep on the move. Her escape to the 'Aryan' side was followed by years spent behind hidden doors, where dependence on others was crucial. Told through her teenage diaries, this is an extraordinary tale of a passionate young woman's survival and courage.

Winter in the Morning: A Young Girl's Life in the Warsaw Ghetto and Beyond, 1939-1945 Details

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From Reader Review *Winter in the Morning: A Young Girl's Life in the Warsaw Ghetto and Beyond, 1939-1945* for online ebook

Carrie says

It took Janina Bauma 40 yrs to write this book. I can see why, such heartache and painful memories. This book starts when she is 13 yrs. and are based off her diaries that she was later able to recover from their hiding places. She was the eldest daughter of a prosperous Jewish doctor. She is close to her grandparents and aunts and uncles, they too are involved in her story. She was hidden in many places after surviving the Polish Ghetto of Warsaw. The Germans did regular Aktions, gathering of ten thousand Jews at a time taking to the death camps. Eventually Janina and a few of her family are smuggled into the Aryan side of the Ghetto. Here they moved from safe house to safe house with no personal belongings. Brave were those people who sacrificed and took this family and others like them into their home. I am glad we have books like these to remind of what happened during the WWII

Covey Mcallister says

Very educational and a crystal clear insight into Poland-specific Jewish experiences during WWII.

Magdalena Wajda says

A first-hand account of the life of a Jewish girl in the Warsaw ghetto during WW2, of escaping and living in hiding.

Tim says

Janina Bauman was thirteen when she, her mother and sister were interned in the Warsaw Ghetto and she gives us a deeply moving insight into daily life behind the walls. It's always the detail which creates an intimacy between the reader and the subject, that helps us understand the nature of the world evoked, and Janina has a fabulous eye in this regard. She also writes tremendously well.

The most depressing aspect of this memoir for me was the behaviour of some of the Poles. Outside the ghetto Jews in hiding were often hunted down by gangs of blackmailers or else charged exorbitant "rent" for the hovels they were forced to stay in. Basically you understand that only the very wealthy Jews had much chance of survival. Clearly racism was rife in Poland and made the Nazi's work a lot easier than in countries like Denmark, Holland, Italy and France.

Maria Terra says

Incrível relato dos tempos do holocausto na Polónia!

Maurizio Manco says

"Durante la guerra ho appreso la verità che generalmente scegliamo di lasciare inespressa: vale a dire, che a cosa più crudele della crudeltà è che disumanizza le sue vittime prima di distruggerle. E che la battaglia più dura è rimanere umani in condizioni disumane." (p. 8)

Alwyn says

Good and honestly written. And I might add... she was a beauty when she was young.

Not as compelling as A LUCKY CHILD or A DAUGHTER'S LOVE. Her experiences of the war are tame compared to the authors of those two books. Perhaps because she was never in the death camps or captured by the Nazis as a Jew. In the Warsaw Ghetto, she is among the slightly more privileged as her family has wealth.

Nevertheless, this is an important piece of work and I'm glad I read it.

Guilherme says

A história trágica do Gueto e, entre os escombros da guerra, o primeiro amor de uma jovem.

“Durante a guerra aprendi uma verdade que geralmente preferimos não enunciar: que o mais brutal da crueldade é que ela desumaniza suas vítimas antes de destruí-las. E que a luta mais árdua de todas é permanecer humano em condições desumanas.”

The answer's got to be love.

Paul says

This is an autobiographical account from a teenage girl of life in Warsaw from just before the war until its end. It covers the period of the Warsaw ghetto, which, as Jews Bauman and her family were confined to. We follow Bauman and her extended family through ups and downs via memory and some diary excerpts. Initially the family are quite well off, but once the Nazis invade Poland all that changes and Bauman, her mother and sister spend much of their time in hiding or on the run. Throughout the account the reader also sees Bauman grow up into a young woman.

From a middle class life the reader is taken onto the streets of the ghetto where dead bodies lie in the street. Bauman is honest about her account, honest about her own failings and those around her. She is trying to live

an ordinary life in extraordinary circumstances and trying to find her own identity. The second half of the book is increasingly tense as after the destruction of the ghetto the family hide on the “Aryan” side of the city. They have to move regularly as hiding places are discovered or blackmailers find them: there is a thriving trade in blackmailing Jews in hiding. There are losses as friends and family are caught, some killed, some sent away to camps. With the destruction of Warsaw in the last few months of the war the family end up in a country village.

This is the first of Bauman’s autobiographical writings, she has been referred to as a sociologist of modern life. She writes with poignancy and warmth and even with some humour. Bauman finds the hiding frustrating, but it can’t entirely hide her teenage thoughts and fantasies:

“Perhaps we’ve been wasting the last bits of our lives not even trying to find out what love is”

Bauman was still obsessed with books, boys and romance and there is still that spark there despite the horrors. She is able to reflect at a distance:

“During the war I learned the truth we usually chose to leave unsaid: that the cruellest thing about cruelty is that it dehumanizes its victims before it destroys them. And that the hardest of struggles is to remain human in inhuman conditions”

This is a moving and very human account of Warsaw and its Jewish community and Bauman is an excellent narrator.

Indi says

Beyond These Walls is an amazing book! I loved every bit of it, although some parts were confronting and extremely sad. I would recommend it to everyone, particularly people who liked books such as Anne Frank and other Holocaust memoirs.

Leticia says

true account of one of the luckiest survivors of the Holocaust - it sounds horribly shallow, but she managed to escape alive dozens of times with some of her family members and not having been sent to war camps.

Still, so sad to read about Bella, and All the terrible ordeals.

wasn't crazy about the ending, which left me with questions - I'd love to have known about her life afterwards, why Leeds, why leaving Poland, what happened to Sophie...

Abby says

In all the Holocaust/WWII autobiographies I have read, this was the first account of someone surviving the liquidation of the Warsaw Ghetto AND hiding on the 'Aryan' side. Reading this feels as if you are sitting with Janina in her living room listening to her story. Honest, brave and immediately absorbing this is a rare find and a must-read.

Christina says

Hard going, but interesting.
