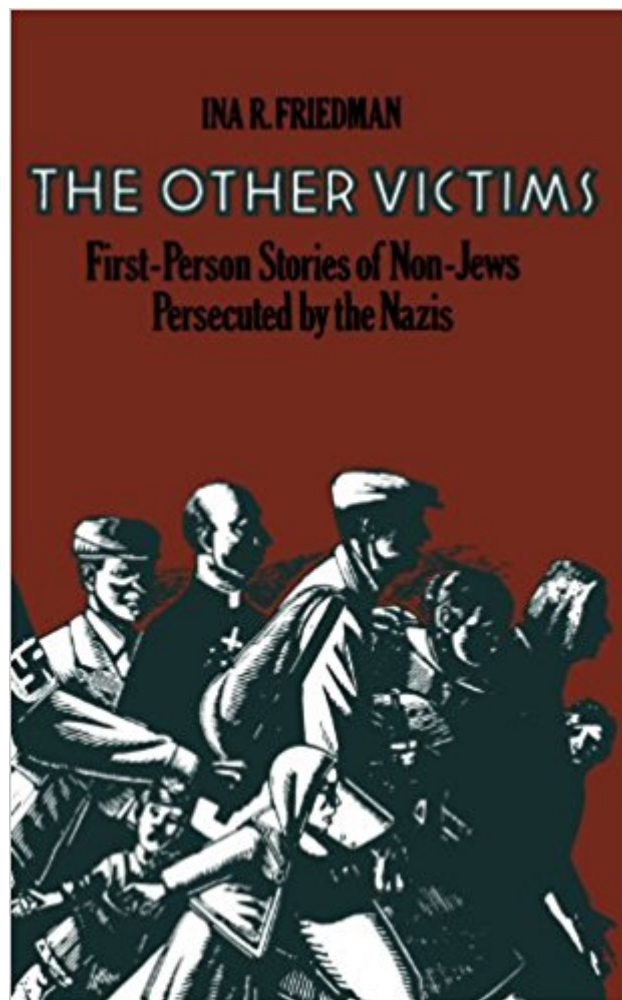




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The Other Victims: First-Person Stories Of Non-Jews Persecuted By The Nazis (Sandpiper)



Synopsis

A series of personal stories from some of the non-Jews, including gypsies, political and religious activists, the physically challenged, and other "undesirables," who were persecuted but escaped the fate of the five million Gentiles murdered by the Nazis.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 780L (What's this?)

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Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

Customer Reviews

The author of *Escape or Die* sought survivors of other groups deemed undesirable by Hitler, including blacks, clergy, Jehovah's Witnesses, Poles, political prisoners, Gypsies (the only other group Hitler wanted to eliminate entirely) and homosexuals (very few survive and none could be found to interview). Suspenseful vignettes are enlivened by historical background, dialogue, and a not-always happy yet satisfying afterword, telling what eventually happened to each individual. Valiant efforts in the face of total degradation are nothing short of inspiring, and many of these stories are not widely known, such as the underground medical schools where cadavers were corpses picked up from the street. Each moving chapter points up complexities readers may not have thought about: shortened lifespans resulting from harsh treatment; the shock of escaping to an American cousin only to find he is part of the Bund; the ingenious devices by which people strove to survive, from inventing coded language to hiding in graves. Ages 10-14. Copyright 1990 Reed

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Grade 5-9-- The pervasiveness of Hitler's attack on civilization is the focus of this informative and involving account of the non-Jewish victims of Nazism. Against the backdrop of mass murder, Friedman has compiled first-person narratives of survival and heroism, each of which is set into historical context by a short preface. She shows how Hitler's diabolical war machine singled out for persecution ethnic, racial, religious, and lifestyle groups such as gypsies, blacks, Jehovah's Witnesses, and homosexuals--all of whom Hitler viewed as outsiders to his "master race." Friedman emphasizes the experiences of political opponents of Nazism in Germany and of those who fought to defend their homeland against Nazi invasion (Poles, Czechs, and the Dutch). These moving stories bear witness to these victims (and to the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust). Some of the same weaknesses in Friedman's *Escape or Die* (Lippincott, 1982) appear also here: fictionalized dialogue, a sameness in narrative style, and a failure to fill in key details. However, this book is more successful in communicating the drama and tragedy of the survivors. Friedman ends with a sound and sobering warning to her young readers about the dangers of totalitarianism and about the responsibility we all have not to let this happen again. --Jack Forman, Mesa College Library, San Diego

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Great resource and very informative.

I would really recommend this book for any upper elementary or Junior High School teacher teaching students about the Holocaust. It gives a VERY GOOD over view of non-Jewish victims in the Holocaust that are usually left out of Holocaust Studies. It is a quick read and really connects with the reader.

This book explored a side of the Holocaust that remains widely untold. "The Other Victims" describes situations of non-Jewish people who were terrorized by the Nazis. It includes homosexuals, gypsies, Jehovah's Witnesses, and others.

It would seem that the world has been held hostage thinking one group or another deserves more because they have suffered more than anyone else. Our history books have misinformed us and downright lied about the experiences of so many people as if they did not exist. When we speak of

genocide the first thing ringing in our ears is the Holocaust in Germany and what happened to 6 million Jews. What about the 20 million Armenians on April 24, 1919 (or thereabouts). What about 9 million Africans drowned in the Middle Passage. How about the annihilation and almost termination of the indigenous people of the Americas. The importance of this book lies in taking a factual, first person, look at the other resident citizens of Germany who were also issued a death penalty under Nazi rule. Hopefully knowing the world wide experience of Genocide (still going on), we as people of the world can stop it.

This wonderful book is a collection of short biographies of people who were persecuted by the Nazis but were not Jewish. These stories will touch your heart and help us to keep the story of the horrors of WWII alive.

I received my book in a timely fashion, and in very good condition. Thank you.

I know most people don't read the introductions to books, but for this particular book, I recommend reading it! The introduction just tells you that most people after the Holocaust thought that only the Jews were the victims of the Nazis, but that is not true. Not only were the Jews victims, but so were the Gypsies, the African Americans, and the homosexuals. I just think to help you understand the different stories, READ the introduction! In the beginning of the book it talks about the different races that were all part of the concentration camps. In the concentration camps, for the Nazis to be able to tell apart from the different races, they each had their own different colored triangle on their striped pajamas. The Gypsies had brown triangles, the Jehovah's Witnesses had a purple triangle, the homosexuals had pink triangles, and then the Jewish had to yellow triangles into the shape of the Star of David. Each chapter talked about how the Nazis dealt with each race, and then a non-fiction example was given. I would recommend this book for grades 7 and older, because I feel like for you to be able to understand this book well, you should just be a little older! -Addison Groves

In "The Other Victims", Ina R. Friedman recounts the treatment of non-Jewish people during the Nazi occupation of Germany. From Blacks to Deaf people, the Nazis used sterilization, euthanasia, and even mass murder to stop apparent "defects." Each section includes a brief description and a first-hand account of an individual from each group. One notable story is that of Fanny Schwarz. Fanny was born deaf to deaf parents. As such, the government decided that she was defective and tried her to determine whether she should be sterilized. During the ensuing years she was sterilized

twice, the second time in addition to taking her reproductive capabilities, they also took the child she was carrying. Schwarz recounts her physical and emotional pain during this dark period. Other stories are equally moving. This book is an excellent teaching resource! I would recommend it to both students and history teachers alike. Not only does it present narratives on people often overlooked during discussions of Nazi persecution, it also does so in small chunks, easy to read or take alone in specific teaching units. Definitely a worthwhile resource!

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