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The Bleeding Sky



THE BLEEDING SKY

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Synopsis

These are my mother's recollections of the Shoah (Holocaust). Growing up Jewish in a small Polish town near the German border, my mother and one sister were all that survived from among her parents, 4 sisters, 2 brothers, husband and young daughter. Persecuted and hunted by the Germans. Hiding with friendly Poles. Imprisoned in the Warsaw ghetto, labor camps and Auschwitz. This is the story of how many of them died and how my mother struggled to survive.

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Customer Reviews

The main character is Mala, a young Jewish woman living in Poland. Mala's entire family (her parents and 6 brothers and sisters and their spouses) lived in nearby towns. Mala was married and had a young child at the start of the war. Flash forward to the end of the war and Mala's family then consisted of one sister - everyone else was killed. That fact alone is difficult to grasp, especially now, so many years after the war. Combine that with the hardships Mala endured during the war and the picture is nearly unimaginable. At the start of the war, Mala and her daughter were separated from the rest of their family. They hid in various towns throughout Poland, sometimes staying one night in a barn, other times their stays were weeks in someone's attic. Eventually they ended up in the Jewish Ghetto in Warsaw, where Mala had a "job" (forced labor) retrieving items of

value from Jews as they were brought into the Ghetto. Her young daughter lived in a children's home in the Ghetto since Mala spent the days working and couldn't look after her. One day the Nazis took away all the children in the home. Mala never saw her daughter again. After the war, she discovered that a transport (cattle car) took all of the children from the home straight to a gas chamber. When the Nazis removed all the Jews from the Ghetto, Mala was shipped to a concentration camp. From that point onward, she was moved often, from one camp to another. (I was surprised how many times the Nazis moved her from camp to camp.) Her longest stretch was at Auschwitz. Since she was young and healthy, Mala was chosen for forced labor - this is how she managed to survive. At one camp she found two of her sisters, though both were ill and were sent to the gas chamber soon after she found them.

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