



Art from the Ashes: A Holocaust Anthology

By Lawrence L. Langer

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Art from the Ashes provides the most far-reaching collection of art, drama, poetry, and prose about the Holocaust ever presented in a single volume. Through the works of men and women, Jews and non-Jews, this anthology offers a vision of the human reality of the catastrophe. Essays by familiar writers like Primo Levi and Elie Wiesel accompany lesser-known efforts by Yankiel Wiernik and Frantisek Kraus; stories by Tadeusz Borowski and Ida Fink join fiction by neglected authors such as Isaiah Spiegel and Adolf Rudnicki; and extensive selections have been chosen from the works of six poets--the renowned Paul Celan, Nelly Sachs, and Abraham Sutzkever among them. Each selection (except for self-contained excerpts from ghetto journals and diaries) appears here in its complete form. Langer also includes in their entirety a novel by Aharon Appelfeld, a novella by Pierre Gascar, and Joshua Sobol's controversial drama *Ghetto*. In addition, this volume features a visual essay in the form of reproductions of twenty works of art created in the Terezin concentration camp.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Langer (Holocaust Testimonies, Yale Univ. Pr., 1991) has edited a collection of personal diaries, fiction, drama, poetry, historical writing, painting, and essays about the Holocaust. In the introductions to the sections and the individual authors, he explains the historic, political, and moral framework of the destruction of European Jewry. The ghettos, transports, camps, escapes, and killings are all described. Jankiel Wiernik's depiction of Treblinka is profoundly disturbing, as are the diaries of the Warsaw, Lodz, and Kovno ghettos. Aharon Appelfeld's memorable short novel *Tzili*, a story about a child's wandering, is the most poignant example of fiction, while Joshua Sobel's play *Ghetto* and the poetry of Dan Pagis, Paul Celan, Nelly Sachs, and Jacob Glatstein show various attempts to encompass the catastrophe. A pitiless but necessary look at 20th-century history. For public libraries.

Gene Shaw, NYPL

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From Booklist

Lawrence Langer's exceptional collection of Holocaust literature includes both fiction and nonfiction, as well as drama and poetry. Among the nonfiction pieces are excerpts from the ghetto diaries of Abraham Lewin (Warsaw) and Avraham Tory (Kovno), an essay from Primo Levi's *The Drowned and the Saved*, and an essay from Elie Wiesel's *Legends of Our Time*. There is fiction from Ida Fink (two stories from *A Scrap of Time*), Aharon Appelfeld (his short novel *Tzili*), Arnost Lustig (a story from *Street of Lost Brothers*), Tadeusz Borowski (a story from *This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen*), and Sara Nomberg-Przytyk (two stories from *Auschwitz: True Tales from a Grotesque Land*). There's one playwright represented, Joshua Sobol, whose *Ghetto* is presented in full. Also included are 72 poems by six poets, most notably those of Nobel Prizewinner Nelly Sachs, the foremost threnodist of the destruction of European Jewry. Twenty works of art created in the Terezin concentration camp are reproduced here. *George Cohen*

Review

"...[a] remarkable volume, perfectly suited for anyone studying the Holocaust....Compared with these firsthand accounts, fiction could be, one would think, only a pallid version of reality. Yet the fiction Mr. Langer collects...highlights the reality of the Holocaust with stunning intensity....[W]e are driven, privileged, to listen."--Front page of *The New York Times Book Review*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ruth Michel:

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Joseph Chitwood:

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