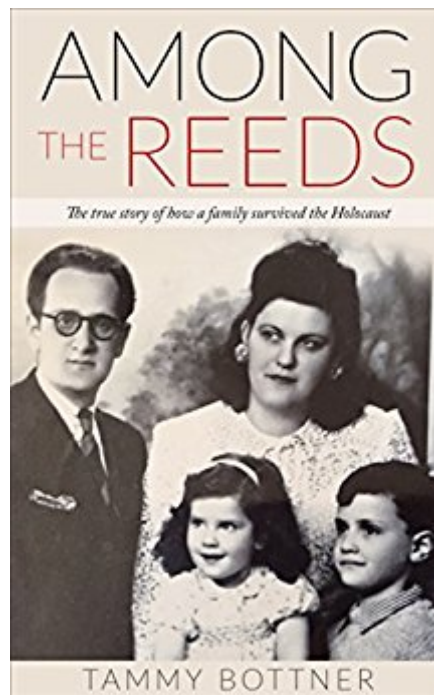




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Among The Reeds: The True Story Of How A Family Survived The Holocaust



Synopsis

During the dark days of the Holocaust, a Jewish family struggles to survive. When her son was born, Tammy Bottner experienced flashbacks of being hunted by the Nazis. The strange thing is, these experiences didn't happen to her. They happened to her grandmother decades earlier and thousands of miles away. Back in Belgium, Grandma Melly made unthinkable choices in order to save her family during WWII, including sending her two-year-old son, Bottner's father, into hiding in a lonely Belgian convent. Did the trauma that Tammy Bottner's predecessors experience affect their DNA? Did she inherit the "memories" of the war-time trauma in her very genes? In this moving family memoir, told partly from Melly's perspective, the author, a physician, recounts the saga of her family's experiences during the Holocaust. This tale, part history, part scientific reflection on epigenetics, takes the reader on a journey that may read like a novel, but is all the more fascinating for being true. Scroll up and grab a copy today!

Book Information

File Size: 19664 KB

Print Length: 265 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Amsterdam Publishers (June 6, 2017)

Publication Date: June 6, 2017

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B071G6Y11V

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #2,955 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #1 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Medical eBooks > Basic Science > Genetics #2 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Science > Genetics #4 in Kindle Store > Medical Books > Basic Sciences > Genetics

Customer Reviews

This was not a great literary work, but was interesting, informative and insightful.

Interesting

I have read many Holocaust books over the years; however, I have never read one where the readers could follow the journey of a whole family. Bottner gives a detailed chronological account of the war and how the family survived. Through her accounts we do not just learn about the events that took place but specific chapters are dedicated to specific people. Through this we learn about children like Bobby and Melly. This is by far my favourite feature of the book. Overall, this is a heart-breaking yet inspiring story that will leave you thinking about it even after you have finished reading. I have been given this book in exchange for my honest review.

Beautifully written and well researched. The author interspersed historical facts with her family's history. It was amazing how her grandparents survived. I found it terribly sad reading the effect the hiding had on her father and his sister, her aunt. I was haunted after reading that. Of particular interest was her discussion of epigenetics and how she could see the effect it had on her family and just epigenetics in general. I highly recommend this book.

Tammy Bottner shares the story of her family's survival during the Holocaust in a way that grabs the reader from page one. Ms. Bottner writes in a way that honestly leaves you feeling as if you personally know each character. My only complaint is that her story is written so well that I find it hard to put down at night. Thank you for sharing your family's beautiful but tragic story; I hope it will teach and inspire all of us to live lives of kindness and acceptance so that we learn from the past and create a world going forward that is filled with love and hope.

For so many of us, the Holocaust remains shrouded from view outside of the insights offered by Wiesel, Frankl, Levi, Anne Frank, Spiegelman and others. The reason of course is that for those who did survive, the details of survival were too painful to recount. Bottner was faced with the same personal challenge - she heard shards of stories of survival while growing up, but the broader story was unrevealed. Inspired to address the trauma passed on to her, she worked carefully to research and recreate the narrative of her family's survival. With an economy of words and reminder of many of the key events behind the Nazis' rise, Bottner successfully captures the plight of her family. She represents what she cobbled together through the voices of her relatives and gently fills in the

historical lacunae in between. The result is an achievement which can be viewed as a living testament to the perseverance of her own family. By taking the time to document her family's story, she does the good deed of creating cohesive memory where there was none. In a world sorely in need of reminders that there are opportunities for good deeds everywhere - and that those deeds can have extraordinary impact - Bottner provides a roadmap of how these actions literally alter the course of history.

I definitely agree with the above reviews of Tammy Bottner's amazing first book "Among the Reeds" I have read many Holocaust books over the years but this one held me in a very heartfelt way. In each chapter I found myself transported into the actual physical presence of the person being described, and felt I could identify with the emotions they must have been experiencing. The book carried me along as events unfolded, making it hard to even put it down. I particularly liked Tammy's alternating between first and third person from chapter to chapter. I am definitely recommending this book to my bookclub.

This is a surprising book, precisely written in short chapters that provide intense connections with the characters as they face unthinkable challenges during the time of the Holocaust, and somehow manage to continue on, driven by the will to survive and the deep love for their family. The book is written like a Russian novel, with simple but powerful descriptions of the author's family. One feels outraged at the lack of humanity and the senselessness of the attempt to eliminate all Jews from the European continent which is portrayed with bluntness and great insight by the author. One also feels privileged to learn much about the beauty and intensity of the Jewish culture. The book is haunting, inspiring, shocking, and magnetic; and is a must-read story!!!

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