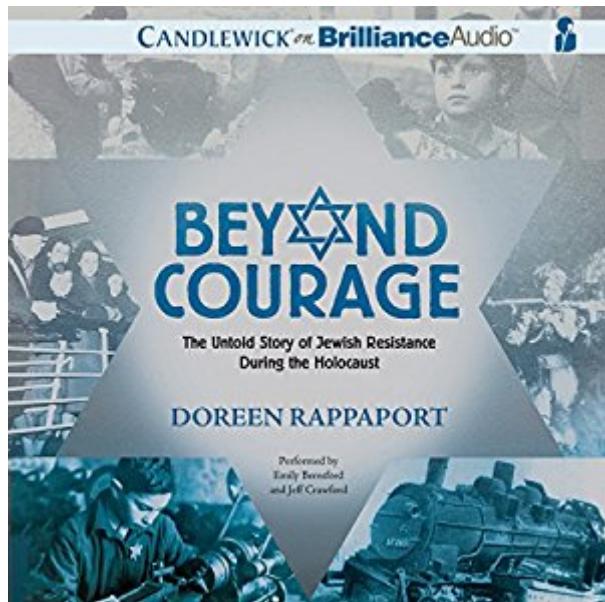


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Beyond Courage: The Untold Story Of Jewish Resistance During The Holocaust



Synopsis

Under the noses of the German military and French police, Georges Loinger smuggles Jewish children out of occupied France into Switzerland. In Belgium, Youra Livchitz and two other resisters ambush a train destined for a death camp, allowing scores of Jews to flee from the cattle cars. Four brothers lead more than 1,200 ghetto refugees deep into the Byelorussian forest, where they build a partisan fighting force and self-sufficient village. Forced to make detonators for German bombs, Estusia Wajcblum smuggles out gunpowder, grain by grain, to be used to blow up the crematoriums in Auschwitz-Birkenau. Despite debilitating wounds to both his feet, 14-year-old Idel Kagan helps dig an escape tunnel out of a forced labor camp in Poland. Sarika Yehoshua forms an all-girl unit of guerrilla fighters in the mountains of Greece, teaching them to shed their traditional ways and become soldiers. And 12-year-old Motele Shlayan entertains German officers with his violin moments before setting off a bomb. Through meticulously researched and stirring accounts - some well known and some chronicled here in book form for the first time - Doreen Rappaport brings to light the defiance of tens of thousands of Jews in Nazi-occupied Europe during World War II. These resisters answered the genocidal madness and unspeakable depravity that was Hitler's Holocaust with the greatest weapons of all - courage, ingenuity, the will to survive, and the resolve to save others or to die trying.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In a stunning work of nonfiction for young people, award-winning author Doreen Rappaport has just published an ambitious new work profiling little-known true stories of Jewish resistance during the Holocaust, a book that took her six years to research and write. Her extensive research for this

project included interviews with some of the survivors whose stories are told in this volume. This is a massive topic for a book for young people, but Rappaport manages to make it comprehensible by dividing her story into discrete sections and concentrating on a selection of individual stories. The first section, titled *Realization*, deals with the years up until the beginning of the war, when Hitler came to power. The second, *Saving the Future*, discusses brave Jews who smuggled Jewish children to safety in Holland, Belgium, France, and the forests of the Soviet Union. In part three, Rappaport examines resistance stories from the ghettos, not only the famed Warsaw ghetto uprising, in which a few thousand Jewish fighters held off the might of the Nazi army for nearly a month, but organized escapes from the Vilna ghetto and secret magazines penned by children in Theresienstadt. Other chapters discuss resistance in the concentration camps and partisan warfare conducted by Jewish resistance fighters against the Nazis. As Rappaport notes in her introduction, few of these remarkable and heroic stories are known to the general public. Even in Jewish families, we generally learn that Jews went to the gas chambers like "lambs to the slaughter." In this volume, she takes pride in showing that stereotype is untrue, and that there were many Jews who defied and resisted the Nazis in a variety of ways.

Not all Jews walked obediently into Hitler's gas chambers during the Holocaust. There are many stories of Jews who took up arms and fought the might of Nazi Germany. Despite being vastly outnumbered, out gunned and out-trained, these Jews refused to succumb to Hitler's genocide. They fought in city streets, villages, forests, ghettos and inside Nazi labor and death camps. Many Jews who escaped from the camps joined local partisans to continue this desperate fight. Jewish civilians understood that they had no chance to defeat Hitler's mighty Third Reich. Yet, with remarkable bravery, they refused to surrender. Beyond Courage author Doreen Rappaport reveals powerful stories of defiance through twenty one scrupulously researched accounts of Jewish courage in eleven nations. The reader can sense the terror that continuously plagued Jews. We learn the names, faces and places of Jewish heroism. Readers sense the valor that drove Jews to accept the ultimate sacrifice, to die fighting rather than accept starvation, forced labor and death in a Nazi camp. Some events are told in book form for the first time. Many captured Jews believed that they would remain alive as a source of labor. Soon tales of terror and mass murder arrived from Jews who had escaped Nazi death camps. By 1942, fresh stories flourished about thousands of Jewish families rounded up in Eastern Europe who were murdered and buried in huge pits. Jews under Nazi control gradually accepted that their days were numbered. No one heard from Jews deported to the East. Most Jews realized that they had two choices. They could meekly wait, hoping

for a swift Allied victory, or they could fight back with whatever means possible.

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