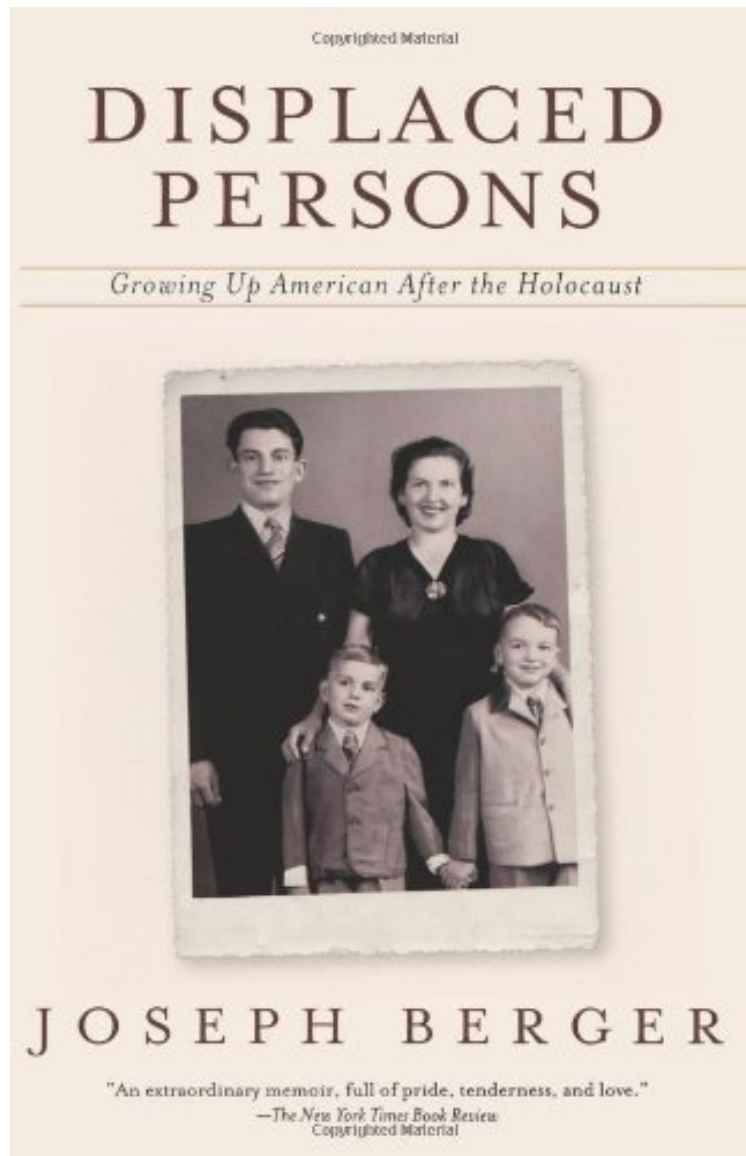


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Displaced Persons: Growing Up American After the Holocaust

Joseph Berger

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Joseph Berger : Displaced Persons: Growing Up American After the Holocaust before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Displaced Persons: Growing Up American After the Holocaust:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Heart wrenching By J Romero This book was a recommended book by my religion class,. I enjoyed the way the book was written. The characters and their stories evolved and blossomed

nicely. I recommend this book3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Displaced Persons: Growing Up American After the Holocaust: Purchased at .comBy depDisplaced Persons is the story of growing up in the United States, both Joseph's parents are survivors of the Holocaust. Joseph, his little brother, and parents came to the United States in March 1950. They had one relative in the area, unbeknownst to them he had died. Eventually both parents found jobs, Joseph's father working in a factory, his mother making hats. Both the boys were enrolled in school, thus began life as immigrants in another country. I thought this was a wonderful book, it really described so many of the feelings of an immigrant. Shame, about not fitting in, shame in how Joseph looked at his parents. I was pleased that the book included some history about Joseph's mother growing up in Poland before the war. There was very little information about his father's past, I think his father just couldn't articulate something with so much pain. His father, also from Poland, lost both parents, and six sisters. Joseph had one uncle left on his mother's side of the family. There was also a lot of happiness in this book, the over all feeling was very positive which is why I gave it five stars.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Helene KalksteinWonderful book.

In this touching account, veteran New York Times reporter Joseph Berger describes how his own family of Polish Jews -- with one son born at the close of World War II and the other in a "displaced persons" camp outside Berlin -- managed against all odds to make a life for themselves in the utterly foreign landscape of post-World War II America. Paying eloquent homage to his parents' extraordinary courage, luck, and hard work while illuminating as never before the experience of 140,000 refugees who came to the United States between 1947 and 1953, Joseph Berger has captured a defining moment in history in a riveting and deeply personal chronicle.

From Publishers WeeklyIn Proustian fashion, this memoir begins with a flood of memories triggered by a seeded roll, a staple of Manhattan bakeries that was an early childhood treat for the author, who, along with his parents and brother, was a Polish-Jewish refugee living on New York's Upper West Side in the 1940s. From the smell and taste of fresh-baked bread, Berger, deputy education editor at the New York Times and author of *The Young Scientists*, tumbles headfirst into a tale about survival in a new country that was dangerous and mysterious as much as it was a haven of safety. Written in simple, elegant prose, the book largely focuses on Berger's parents' lives (particularly before the war). His father, whose Yiddish gave the family vital access to the city's Jewish community even though the author viewed it as "the mark of a conversational cripple," is a quiet man who could be moved to violence when necessary to protect his family. His mother conveys to her children the complex tapestry of their European heritage. Both come alive in this vivid narrative, softened by a reflective somberness that is only occasionally tinged by nostalgia. Berger frequently interrupts his own story with shorter anecdotes in the voices of his parents, who tell stories about their families and their childhoods that both enhance and illuminate the primary story. By conjuring a complexly interwoven familial history that takes the reader across the boundaries of time, Berger lays the foundation for his thoughts about the larger immigrant experience. Agent, Joel Fishman. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalIn this gripping and beautifully written memoir, New York Times reporter Berger tells the story of his family, Polish Jews and Holocaust survivors, who migrated to New York City in 1950. Having been born in Russia in 1944 and arriving in the United States at the impressionable age of five, Berger recounts with humor and pathos the tale of his own coming of age, with his parents' reminiscences as backdrop. The story of such refugees, about 140,000 of whom came to the United States between 1947 and 1953, remains a little-known aspect of Holocaust history. Berger's account is painful at times, as he recalls his own struggle to belong as both he and his parents fought to "shoehorn" their way into American life in the 1950s and early 1960s. His childhood remembrances of simple pleasures like Sunday visits to the bakery, the pleasure of new school supplies housed in cigar boxes, and the proud excitement of the arrival of the neighborhood's first TV set will bring smiles to the faces of general readers. Most touching is the celebration of family, community, and continuity so prized by these survivors. Highly recommended.- Marie Marmo Mullaney, Caldwell Coll., NJ Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.From BooklistBerger, a New York Times reporter, was born in Russia in 1944 and came to New York with his parents and three-year-old brother in March 1950. His parents were Polish Jewish refugees who had survived the Holocaust. They came to the U.S. because they had no place else to go; they had lost their homes, their parents, their brothers and sisters, their villages and neighborhoods. Berger recalls what it was like being a child of people who survived the war and found refuge in the U.S., taking pride in the ordeals his parents had surmounted but also being embarrassed by their awkwardness in a strange land. Berger points out that they--like other refugee parents--lavished volumes of attention on him and his brother and that the two boys would provide the affection and entertainment that the dead no longer could. Berger vividly chronicles their extraordinary lives. George CohenCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved