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From Ashes to Life: My Memories of the Holocaust

Lucille Eichengreen

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Lucille Eichengreen : From Ashes to Life: My Memories of the Holocaust before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised From Ashes to Life: My Memories of the Holocaust:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. From Ashes to Life (Eichengreen) review By WesBA story of the holocaust and it's environs. It is a dark story (any story that accurately covers this subject is going to be dark). It

saddens me that humanity has the power to know evil and still do it. It is well written and understandable by the modern viewer. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. FROM ASHES TO LIFE By Russo Giovanni Augusto Very interesting and moving book. I had already read books about the shoah but they were mainly written by people still living in Europe. Moreover it is the first book I have read dealing with this terrible subject through a woman's eyes. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Gripping By Fritz A. Boehm I had a hard time putting this book down. Eichengreen does a good job of telling her story - it wasn't confusing and I didn't come away with a lot of unanswered questions. Obviously someone who didn't experience the Holocaust first hand will never fully appreciate or understand it, but I feel like I gained some insight into through this book.

In this disturbing but inspirational account of her experiences of the Holocaust, Lucille Eichengreen relates her journey as a young Jewish girl through Nazi Germany and Poland - including internment in the camps at Auschwitz, Neuengamme, and Bergen-Belsen. It was a journey that began in 1933, when she was eight years old and witnessed the beginnings of Jewish persecution, a journey along which she suffered the horrible deaths of her father, mother and sister. Sustained by great courage and resourcefulness, Lucille Eichengreen emerged from her nightmare with the inner strength to build a new life for herself in the United States. Only in 1991 did she return to Germany and Poland to assess the Jewish situation there. Her story is a testament to the very thing the Holocaust sought to destroy: the regeneration of Jewish life. Blessed with a remarkable memory that made her one of the most effective witnesses in the postwar trial of her persecutors, Eichengreen has composed a memoir of exceptional accuracy. As important as its factual accuracy is its emotional clarity and truth. Simple and direct, Eichengreen's words compel with their moral authority.

From Publishers Weekly Sometimes a book profits from its own apparent artlessness. Eichengreen's simple, almost childlike style is a perfect vehicle for retelling the horrors of the Holocaust, allowing the full force of the events to come through without a filtering literary sensibility. In Hamburg in 1933, Eichengreen (born Cecilia Landau) is an eight-year-old girl, living a comfortable existence with her parents and younger sister. But the rumblings of Nazism are already audible. In 1938 her father is transported to Dachau, where he dies. The rest of the family is sent to the Lodz ghetto, where the mother dies of malnutrition. Eichengreen and her sister are separated as they are sent to the death camps. The author survives through a combination of luck and intelligence, her language skills getting her marginally less arduous assignments from the Nazis. When the camps are liberated, she goes to work for the British and testifies against her tormentors at a war crimes tribunal. Eventually she finds her way to New York City, where she meets and marries Dan Eichengreen, and makes the difficult adjustment to normal life. The book concludes with the Eichengreens' 1991 visit to Hamburg and Poland. Photos. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. From School Library Journal YA-Celia's straightforward account begins with name calling by other children in Hamburg, Germany in 1933; continues through her father's deportation and death in Dachau when she was 16 years old; her mother's starvation; and her experiences in Auschwitz, Neuengamme, and Bergen-Belsen. She shares what happened after she left the camps, her role in the war trials, adjustment to postwar life, her return to Hamburg and Poland in 1991, and her analysis of the current status of European Jewry. YAs will particularly empathize with the author's teen years, which included the loss of family, a close female friendship, a disappointing romance, and the degradations and hardship of internment. Readers are offered insight into Eichengreen's sense of survival guilt, her nightmares, and her continued attempts to make sense of what occurred. An accessible, clear picture of the Holocaust. Barbara Hawkins, Oakton High School, Fairfax, VA Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus sA most eloquent Holocaust memoir, distinguished by symmetry of storyline and theme. Eichengreen spins out several narrative threads that braid neatly in the end, beginning with the story of how an American uncle, despite the Nazi threat, refused to sponsor the emigration of her family to the States: Years later, the author confronts this man, as well others who compounded her suffering. Before the war, though, Eichengreen's Hamburg-based, Polish-born family met tragedy head on, culminating in 1941 in her father's return home from Dachau in a cigar box--a clump of ashes briskly delivered by the Gestapo. Soon after, Eichengreen, her mother, and her sister are deported to Poland's Lodz Ghetto, where the author watches her mother swell up and die: "...the skinny, ragged wagoner was seen day after day picking up the ghetto dead.... On July 1, 1942, he stopped at our door." The siblings try to obtain a grave, only to be told by the cemetery keeper, "Today no one buries the dead." But they persevere and, 50 years later, Eichengreen has an approximate grave site at which to mourn. The memoir's past-future patterning continues as a woman in Lodz asks Eichengreen to one day look up her son in New York; eventually, Eichengreen not only manages to chance upon the man but to marry him. Another accidental postwar meeting involves the author's cruel female kapo at Auschwitz: Like other Germans and Poles the author confronts, the former kapo protests, "I didn't do anything wrong." And in yet another mirroring, though Eichengreen can't bring herself to shoot a Nazi oppressor when a British officer gives her the opportunity, she later has the satisfaction of using courtroom testimony to put away a score of war criminals. Meanwhile, postwar letters from an older, married ghetto lover, as well as from the son of a Nazi whom Eichengreen indicted, keep the narration returning to Eichengreen's remarkable past. A skillful, dramatic, unsentimental blend of

introspection and action. -- Copyright 1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.