

A moving and detailed portrait of women in the most terrible circumstances, by a respected author and Holocaust survivor

WOMEN'S EXPERIENCES IN THE HOLOCAUST

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Press Release

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Women's Experiences in the Holocaust In Their Own Words

Agnes Grunwald-Spier

This book brings to light women's experiences in the Holocaust. It explains why women's difficulties were different to those of men and how they coped. Men were taken away and the women were left to cope with children and elderly relatives and strange new roles. Women like Andrew Sachs' mother had to deal with organising departure for a foreign country and making choices about what to take and what to abandon. They would also have to deal with feeding those in their care and with medical issues. They had to deal with their own physical needs, which could include pregnancies, abortions and, in some camps, medical experiments. Many women wrote diaries, memoirs, letters and books about their experiences and these have been used extensively here. The accounts include women who fought or worked in the resistance like Zivia Lubetkin, who was part of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. Dr Gisella Perl was a doctor in Auschwitz under the infamous Dr Mengele and young girls acted as 'Kashariyot', underground couriers, between ghettos.

The author herself is a female survivor born in 1944. Her mother struggled to keep her safe in the mayhem of the Budapest Ghetto when she was a tiny baby and dealt with Russian soldiers in her flat after the liberation of Budapest in January 1945.

Whilst there are many books about the Holocaust, there are too few specifically about women's experiences, told in their own words.

- Author is experienced with media including TV and radio, and as a speaker.
- Of particular interest to media that focus on women e.g. Woman's Hour.

Praise for 'The Other Schindlers':

'That rarest of works, a book about the Holocaust that lifts the spirit...

By telling the story of those who saved lives often at the risk of their own.'

LORD SACKS

Praise for 'Who Betrayed the Jews?':

'A deeply impressive book, the many thumbnail sketches vividly bringing to life the many stories of heartbreak and betrayal.'

SIR MARTIN GILBERT

THE AUTHOR

Agnes Grunwald-Spier was born in July 1944 and sent to the Budapest Ghetto with her mother in November 1944. She was liberated, aged 6 months and came to England in 1947. Her father, who had been a forced labourer committed suicide in 1955. Agnes was a Founder Trustee of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust and was awarded an MBE in 2016 for her work on the Holocaust. She has an MA in Holocaust Studies at Sheffield University and was a member of the Board of Deputies of British Jews for 15 years and a magistrate for 30 years. She will receive two honorary doctorates in 2018 for her work on the Holocaust.





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