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Survivors Club: The True Story Of A Very Young Prisoner Of Auschwitz



Synopsis

This program includes a preface read by both authors with an afterword read by Michael Bornstein. A bonus conversation with the authors, archival recordings, and a pdf of photos are also included. In 1945, in a now-famous piece of World War II archival footage, four-year-old Michael Bornstein was filmed by Soviet soldiers as he was carried out of Auschwitz in his grandmother's arms. Survivors Club tells the unforgettable story of how a father's courageous wit, a mother's fierce love, and one perfectly timed illness saved his life and how others in his family from Zarki, Poland, dodged death at the hands of the Nazis time and again with incredible deftness. Working from his own recollections as well as extensive interviews with relatives and survivors who knew the family, Michael relates his inspirational Holocaust survival story with the help of his daughter, Debbie Bornstein Holinstat. Shocking, heartbreaking, and ultimately uplifting, this narrative nonfiction offers an indelible depiction of what happened to one Polish village in the wake of the German invasion in 1939. This thoroughly-researched and documented book can be worked into multiple aspects of the common core curriculum.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“This book is published as narrative nonfiction for young readers, but the equal measures of hope and hardship in its pages lend appeal to an audience of all ages . . . Remarkable.”
—Ruta Sepetys in the New York Times Book Review
“A wrenching, shocking, and ultimately inspiring memoir, a tale of unrelenting optimism and resilience that is no less than miraculous . . . [Survivors Club] is hauntingly timely.”
—Esquire
“Enhanced by

meticulous archival research, Bornstein's story unfolds in novelistic form . . . This moving memoir [is] an important witness to the capacity for human evil and resilience.

Publishers Weekly, starred review "[An] exceptional book of memoir and history . . . worth reading more than once. It is compelling; there is something novelistic about it. It certainly reads with more verve and detail than most straight testimonies . . . Although listed for ages 10 & 14, it also makes excellent adult reading.

Jewish Book Council, starred review "A tenderly wrought tribute to family, to hope, and to the miracles both can bring. A powerful memoir.

Booklist "The most memorable part of this extraordinary nonfiction work is the hope amidst tragedy and the ways individuals and families banded together despite unimaginable odds, including the challenges to rebuild after breaking free from the concentration camps only to find a world still filled with hatred and fear.

VOYA "A powerful reconstruction of family history . . . An ideal follow-up selection for students who have read The Diary of Anne Frank.

The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books "Middle schoolers will be engrossed by Bornstein's account . . . The book is written in a soothing tone, which helps balance some of the grim details of Jewish life under the Nazi regime . . . The storytelling is fast-paced, and readers will be fascinated by this family's survival and endurance. Few Holocaust survivors are still alive; Bornstein's account is an excellent addition to middle school collections.

School Library Journal "In today's world, it remains more important than ever to remember these survivors.

Kirkus Reviews --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Michael Bornstein survived for seven months inside Auschwitz, where the average lifespan of a child was just two weeks. Six years after his liberation, he immigrated to the United States. Michael graduated from Fordham University, earned his Ph.D. from the University of Iowa, and worked in pharmaceutical research and development for more than forty years. Now retired, Michael lives with his wife in New York City and speaks frequently to schools and other groups about his experiences in the Holocaust. Debbie Bornstein Holinstat is Michael Bornstein's third of four children. A producer for NBC and MSNBC News, she lives in North Caldwell, New Jersey. She also visits schools with her father, and has been working with him for two years, helping him research and write his memoir, Survivors Club, although she has grown up hearing many of the stories in the book her entire life. Fred Berman is a five-time winner of the AudioFile Earphone Award for Audiobook Narration and the recipient of the 2013 Audie Award for narration in Spy the Lie. He

has read a number of audiobooks for young listeners, including Judy Blume's *Soupy*, *Saturdays with The Pain & The Great One* and Andrew Clements' *The Last Holiday Concert*. He has also narrated the audiobooks for Robert Kirkman's popular series, *The Walking Dead*. Berman is an accomplished actor of both the stage and screen as well, performing on Broadway as Timon in *The Lion King* and off-Broadway in *Hamlet*, *Twelfth Night*, and *King Lear*. On television, Berman has had roles on NBC's hit series *Smash* as well as *All My Children* and *Law and Order*. He lives in New York City.

A wonderful and inspiring true story of a very young survivor. Written beautifully with great information for someone unaware with the happenings of the Holocaust and also informational for a more knowledgeable audience (i.e., myself). Candidly, I am not a big 'reader'; however, this book was hard to put down. I felt invested in each character's storyline and read it swiftly over the course of four days. As such, I highly recommend for any and all!

Adding his story to the literature of the Holocaust, Michael Bornstein is among the sadly few survivors of humankind's darkest history. It is a testament to our mission to NEVER FORGET. And if you think the human mind cannot conceive of worse torture than Hitler's final solution, you are wrong.

Very well written! This is another book that is a must read, it should be mandatory reading in high school and the book contains anniversaries but offers many gifts, as follows. This extended family takes the high road despite so many tragedies. The book "gifts" incredible strength, intuition, valor, heroics and will teach the reader that despite life seeming to be not worth living, it reaches the reader how to overcome and strive with hope that wins in the end despite sadness during life's storms. The positive wins out. Lastly, this should be required reading for others unaffected such as tragedies. The willingness to strive for hope, think positive futures, strive to maintain humanity and compassion are treasured gifts. Most importantly, those unaffected by tragedies won't understand the evil that can lurk right in front of us. History will be repeated if everyone thinks it could never happen. We are only two generations from this kind of madness. And while we aren't exposed to such madness, all the more reason to make this book mandatory reading. To the author; thank you for letting us know what most of us can't perceive.

This book is a good read. I only read two chapters a day otherwise I would have finished in one

sitting. So now I read my two chapters and contemplate on the struggles these Jewish people had to endure during the Nazi take over of Poland. A must read for anyone over the age of 70 to find out if their fathers were sent over seas during WWII. I found out that my father-in-law was actually in Poland and Germany during this time.

This Book & Biography Is So Well Written & Interesting That It Definitely Should Be Made Into A Movie Also. Words Cannot Explain How Much The Pictures In This Book Are So Intriguing & Interesting To Look At. I Bought Several Copies For Family & Friends Also So They Would Have Some Knowledge On This Book As Part Of History.

The stories of Mr. Bornstein and his family members were incredible and it was interesting to read about the Holocaust from a different perspective than one I had read before, a young child. I did not realize until after reading several other reviews that this book is intended for younger readers; I still found the content engaging for an adult, although perhaps that explains how I was able to get through it in just a short time. I would definitely want my (pre-school aged) children to read this when they are older, to help understand the atrocities of a time in history that we must truly never forget. I am thankful that the author decided to share his stories.

I saw Mr Bornstein and his daughter on MSNBC discussing the book and I immediately bought it and spent the whole night reading it. It is excellent. We will never forget.

This is not the type of book one would say they loved but it contains information that should be of interest to all who read it - especially those of us who follow World War II events. It has pictures of some of the individuals in the book and the fact that some of those involved were still living at the time it was written is worthy of note. I have recommended it to friends. Well written and well documented.

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