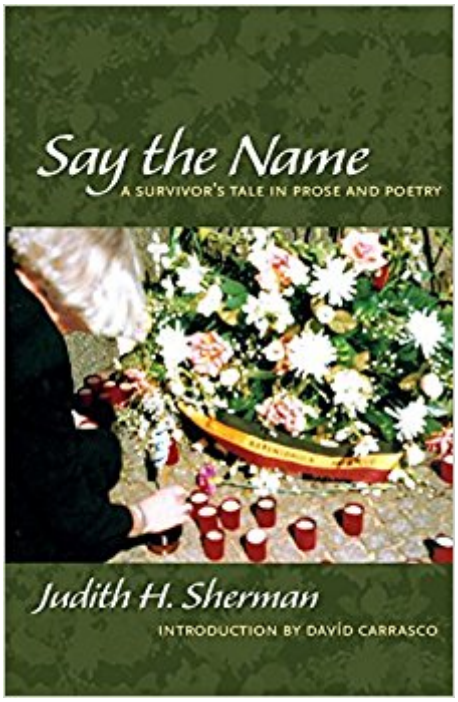
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Say The Name: A Survivor's Tale In Prose And Poetry



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Synopsis

Say the Name vividly describes in the voice of a fourteen-year-old the experiences of a Jewish girl who was imprisoned in Ravensbruck Concentration Camp during World War II. Miraculously, Judita Sternova of Kurima, Czechoslovakia, survives persecutions, hiding, flight, capture, deportation, and the Camp. Like the few other surviving Jews, she could not bear to remain in her village emptied of family and other Jews and emigrates to England and, eventually, the United States. After more than fifty years Sherman gets up from her years of memories, private resistance, and public silence to write this book. She is triggered to do so upon hearing a lecture by Professor Carrasco at Princeton on "Religion and the Terror of History."The narrative is interspersed with Sherman’s powerful poems that grab the reader’s attention. Poignant original drawings made secretly by imprisoned women of Ravensbruck, at risk of their lives, illuminate the text. Sherman courageously bears witness to the terror of man and simultaneously challenges God for answers.This book should "jolt us into remembrance, warning, and action."

Book Information

Paperback: 198 pages

Publisher: University of New Mexico Press (July 1, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0826334326

ISBN-13: 978-0826334329

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.5 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 29 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #324,079 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #275 inÃ Â Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Europe > Germany #4087 inÃ Â Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry

Customer Reviews

"This is a beautifully written book. It touches the soul and tears at the heart. Read it. You will not forget it.""Sherman takes readers on a painful guided tour of the Holocaust. . . Valuable primary source material for studies on the Holocaust, this slim volume shouts the names of those who cannot speak for themselves.""With an unflinching eye, Sherman sketches the devastating story of the nightmare that engulfed her when she was a young teen--a story of the slow stripping away of Jewish property, Jewish freedom, Jewish life.""This is an engrossing memoir of a Slovakian-born Jewish woman whose intertwined prose and poetry narration appeals to young and adult readers

alike. . . As a useful and timely addition to the literature of Holocaust survivors, the book will certainly be appreciated on the shelves of public, school, special, and academic libraries.""ÃƒÂ•ShermanÃ Â¨ is a master painter with words. The book contains selections in poetry and selections in prose, complementing one another to produce a powerfully impressive canvas. . . ÃƒÂ•"Say the Name"Ã Â¨ is an indispensible read for fuller understanding of the Shoah period.""[Sherman] is a master painter with words. The book contains selections in poetry and selections in prose, complementing one another to produce a powerfully impressive canvas. . . ["Say the Name"] is an indispensible read for fuller understanding of the Shoah period."

The experiences of a fourteen-year-old girl imprisoned in the Ravensbruck concentration camp during World War II. Illustrated with drawings made secretly by other camp inhabitants.

Beautifully written story of a horrific time in Judiths' life. The Holocaust was so unbelievable in its utter cruelty, but Judiths' story of courage is truly a celebration of her beautiful life she has made.

Good !

This is the story of one woman's story of surviving the holocaust. It is soulful, lyrical, and poignant telling that speaks to resilience in the face of loss, and the emergence of a poet, family therapist, mother and author up from the depths of despair.

Beautifully written memoir. The images are haunting and visceral. Sherman's wonderful poetry is a unique backdrop describing the holocaust experience of a 14 year old. Her story will stay with you for a very long time.

I was privileged to have been able to read this book prior to its publication. I was so inspired by the music of the language, that I had to buy it. I preordered it on . When it came, I read it again and I felt as if I had read it for the first time. When I read it a third time, it was even better. I highly recommend this work of art. Anyone who reads it will enjoy a level of inspiration rarely achieved.

Judith Sherman's Say the Name is a survivor's account of a teenage girl's struggle with God and humanity in Ravensbruck concentration camp during the Holocaust. Sherman, now a wife, mother and grandmother living in the United States, writes her memoir some 50 to 60 years after the Nazi's

carried out their "Final Solution."Sherman’s poetry and prose in this book reflect a loss of people, places and things that make up the fabric of a person’s life, culture and beliefs. She is, at turns, angry and bewildered. She demands an accounting for these atrocities. But ultimately Sherman’s quest for survival and her insistence on remembering the names of women who were killed conveys a sense of humanity and even of hope. This is Sherman’s first book, and she is not a polished writer. She writes in fragments and one has the sense of poetry scribbled on napkins over the years and then included in the memoir. Her book is all the stronger for this.

Although I was hesitant to choose the review title above, I believe it’s apt. I have read a number of Holocaust memoirs over the years--have read so many because each is unique and has something vital to say. Sherman’s work, however, stands out for a couple reasons.1) Her short, visceral, and stark poetry scattered throughout the book introduces a feeling of immediacy that is unique. We see inside her reactions and arguments with/demands of God. In fact, these are so central to her story I wonder if they were key in her survival. She continued to believe that things should be better. She never accepted that the death camp experience was a reality more important than her previous (real) identity.2) Sherman anchors her story in life before the Holocaust. She spent her childhood and early teenage years in a small village, Kurima, surrounded by a loving and prosperous family. Again and again while in the concentration camp she referred to memories and values from that time. They seemed to remind her what was normal.These two aspects taken together make this book almost a handbook for surviving difficult times. Reading the book left me convinced of the importance of remembering (or cultivating) a strong and positive personal identity.I’ve worked with a lot of abuse survivors over the years in social service. I think I will look at this work a bit differently from now on. Sometimes it’s tempting to get caught up in how wrong things are and to focus on the perpetrators. Sherman, however, spent more time remembering who she was and the good that had been in her life. This seems to have given her the strength to continue to trust her own perceptions of the situation--and therefore she never surrendered to the Nazis’ plan of total, soul-destroying control. She made even waking up in the morning an act of resistance.A humbling and thought-provoking read.

Judith Sherman’s "Say the Name" is a remarkable yet terrifying account of a young woman’s struggle to survive the atrocities of the holocaust. Hers is a story of courage, of determination, and of the struggle of the human spirit to survive...yet it is also a story of our own struggle to make meaning of the horrors of the Holocaust and God’s marked absence in its wake. Sherman therefore

forces upon us the hard questions; indeed she helps us face the problem of Theodicy in a most determined way by provoking the reader to think critically about the problem of evil inherent in our world. How could this happen? And where was God when it did?What separates Sherman from many other important Holocaust writers is how she personalizes and is able to relate her story to the reader. Sherman's vivid descriptions, her language, style and use of poetry allow the reader to enter her world and her struggle, in a way that seems to capture not only the horrors but also the moral, ethical and indeed inward spiritual dilemmas that Sherman faces at every moment and turn.Sherman begins her story by depicting the pre-war years of living in Kurima Czechoslovakia, a small quiet town that is surrounded by abundant nature and beauty. Sherman describes her life in the town, the closeness and warmth she shared with her family, and writes fondly on her memories of comfort, security, and prosperity during these formative childhood years.Indeed it is from this picture of peace that Sherman's life is soon thrust into the dark night of the Holocaust. Her ordeal begins with hiding from the Nazis, continues with an abrupt separation from her parents and ends with a gut-wrenching train ride to Auschwitz, a train ride which was `miraculously' averted to the town of Ravensbruck due to the overpopulation of Auschwitz at the time of Sherman's arrival. It is therefore at Ravensbruck `labor camp' that the full weight of the Holocaust comes to bear on the young Sherman, whose identity is replaced by a number, and whose humanity is continually blotted out by the Nazis who imprison, terrorize and demean her.And it is here that Sherman speaks in great detail of her vehement struggle to resist the Nazi's reversal of human morality and normality, as she hangs onto the memory of her pre-war identity and perhaps sanity. As such, Sherman refuses to become a non-entity, a `thing' in the eyes of her Nazi captors, and uses every vestige of life that is within her to resist becoming passive and numb to the inhumanity and terror that is all around.In her final chapters, Sherman talks about her liberation from the camp and of her life following the war, and provides valuable insight into the lives of her friends and fellow captives who managed to survive the years of torment at Ravensbruck.In summary, `Say the Name' is a must read for those who want to learn more about the Holocaust and gain insight into the daily lives, experiences and inner worlds of Holocaust survivors. It is also an important read for all those who are willing to struggle along with Sherman and ask the most difficult of questions. Why does evil exist? And where does God fit into the equation.Most importantly, to read this book is to Say the Name, and thus to quietly remember all those whose name is the only remnant of their memory.

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