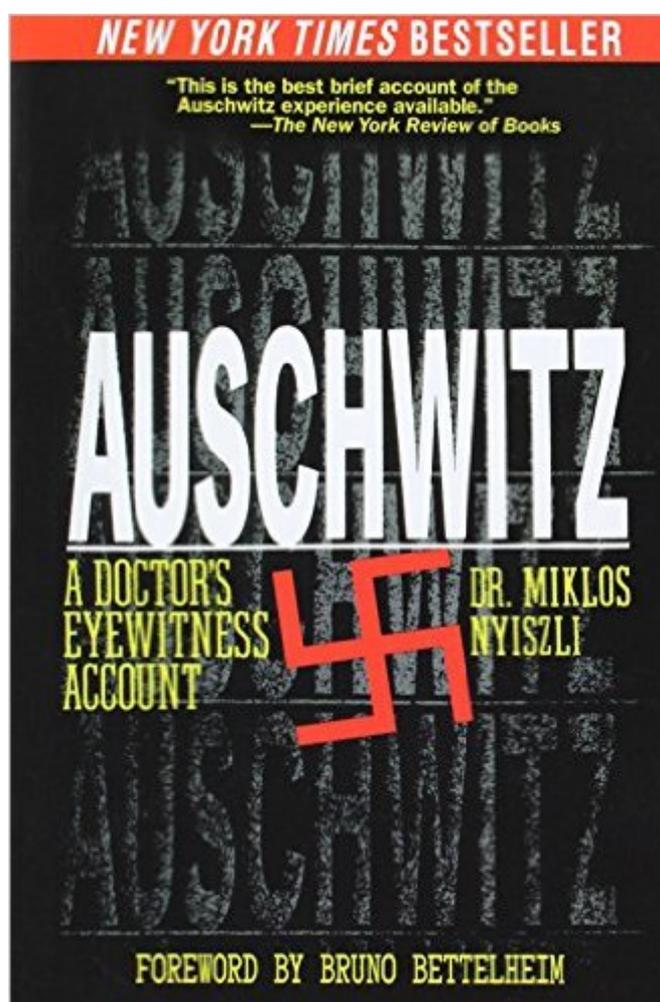


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Auschwitz: A Doctor's Eyewitness Account



Synopsis

When the Nazis invaded Hungary in 1944, they sent virtually the entire Jewish population to Auschwitz. A Jew and a medical doctor, Dr. Miklos Nyiszli was spared from death for a grimmer fate: to perform "scientific research" on his fellow inmates under the supervision of the infamous "Angel of Death": Dr. Josef Mengele. Nyiszli was named Mengele's personal research pathologist. Miraculously, he survived to give this terrifying and sobering account.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Having just finished this book, I will say that it is a must read. This is a very disturbing look into Auschwitz and the atrocities that took place, under the direction of Mengele. This account, from a Dr. details that number of people massacred and how they were relieved of their lives. This man, for one reason or another, managed to stay alive and recount the life in Auschwitz as no other could. He is detailed in his memories of the place and gives a clear image for the reader to understand. It is one of those books that you don't often find, in which once you start, you simply cannot put it down. Truly one of the best accounts to date, as it has held up under the years.

For years I have read books, watched movies and studied the reasons why so many people would just walk to their own death at the hands of the SS. So many Jews died because of "business as usual". After reading this book, I have found the answer. Perhaps now I can get over my obsession with that question. Bruno Bettelheim who wrote the forward to this book has brilliantly answered that question that evades so many of us.

I have always had an interest in the Holocaust, but until I read this book some fourteen years ago, it had always remained at a distance. A reputable colleague at work handed me a copy of this book and said 'this is worth a read'. Having begun, I could not put the book down. The book gripped me from start to finish. The story is horrific but, nevertheless, it is a story that we all owe it to ourselves to be familiar with. The story and the author's experiences were so profound and penetrating that I have spent the last fourteen years studying and reading as much about the Holocaust as I can. I have visited the Concentration Camps at Treblinka, Majdanek, Auschwitz, Birkenau and Plaszow, together with other areas in Poland directly connected with the Jewish Holocaust. I have seen the buildings full of human hair from the Jewish victims, the gas chambers, crematoria and the other hideous instruments of mass murder referred to in this book. The book by Dr. Miklos Nyiszli will not take you long to finish. The voices of the victims referred to have long since disappeared. Many people today are not even aware of the Holocaust and others deny its very existence. Books like these, written by people who were actually there, are essential if our this and forthcoming generations are to be made aware of "man's inhumanity to man" and to prevent such a horror from occurring again.

I read this book recently and found it thought provoking and certainly informative. This isn't a classic or great piece of literature. It's essentially a pretty frank account of the Nazi atrocities as seen through the eyes of a medical professional who worked alongside Dr Mengele in Auschwitz and fought to stay alive. The material is different than the typical camp survivor because the author lived a much different life than the majority of those crammed into barracks. I found the book worthwhile and I'd read it again. This isn't an all encompassing piece of work about the holocaust, rather a view through the eyes of a survivor who had to watch those around him suffer and perish. I'd recommend it to anyone who already has read a fair bit on the holocaust and wants to see it through a different set of eyes.

This book is a very frank account of Nazi atrocities written by a medical doctor who worked as a pathologist for the notorious Nazi war criminal, Dr. Joseph Mengele. By fortunate circumstances the doctor had previous experience dissecting cadavers and this knowledge saved his life. He was chosen by Mengele to help prove the Nazi hypothesis of superior-inferior races and much research was done on the cadavers of twins, midgets, the deformed, etc. to help prove this hypothesis. This book is different from a typical survivor story as the pathologist lived a much more comfortable

existence at Auschwitz than the typical prisoner. He was not housed in a barracks, living a subsistence life. Instead, he lived near the medical laboratory and crematoriums and received adequate food and warm clothing. However, crematorium personnel only lived 4 months then were executed because the Nazi's feared information being leaked to the outside world. This weighed heavily on him and the rest of the staff. Fortunately, Mengele needed his skills and he was spared. He lived as he had to watch those around him perish. This book was originally written shortly after the war so the doctor's memories were fresh. There are some grammatical or syntax errors but I attribute them to someone new to the English language. I recommend this book to anyone wanting to read about the holocaust who wants a different perspective on the atrocities of the camps.

Auschwitz, A Doctor's Eyewitness Account, is the horrific story of what life, if one could call it that, was like inside of the crematoriums at Auschwitz as told by an inmate doctor who performed gruesome operations "under the supervision of the Angel of Death, Dr. Josef Mengele." Even though this doctor was working under the constant threat of death, and even though we cannot come close to imaging what it was like to have been thrust into this world against one's choice, one cannot help but wonder how he managed to do the things that he did. In my opinion, he certainly did not make himself a sympathetic figure in the same manner as the main subjects of other holocaust books have. However, the strength of this book is the in depth detail it goes into when describing one's horrific existence in the crematoriums and that is why this is a book that must be read.

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