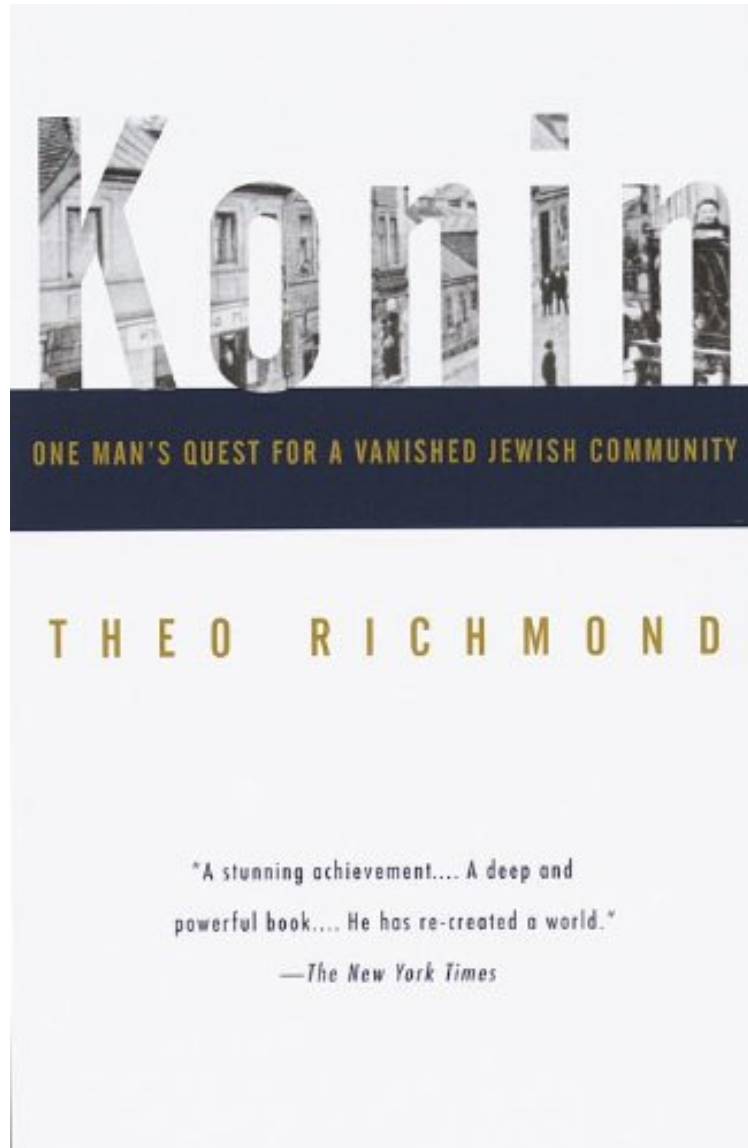


(Read ebook) Konin: One Man's Quest for a Vanished Jewish Community

Konin: One Man's Quest for a Vanished Jewish Community

Theo Richmond

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Theo Richmond : **Konin: One Man's Quest for a Vanished Jewish Community** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Konin: One Man's Quest for a Vanished Jewish Community:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Journalism at its best! By Michael Malak I was born in Konin in 1970. From 1973 to 1988, I lived 5-minutes' walk from the Synagogue and the Tepper Markit. My grandmother lived in the Plac Wolnosci, where the bodies of the first two victims of Nazism fell. I've seen that plaque on the wall, every

time we met at her house for holidays. My friend's house was in the Crum (Kramowa) Street, where I hung around after school. I stood countless times in the Tepper Markit waiting for a bus, staring at the synagogue. I walked those streets every day. And all this time, I knew nothing (or almost nothing) of my city's Jewish past. Theo Richmond thank you for opening my eyes. But this book is more than a history of the Holocaust, history of Jewish life in Konin, This book is a great account of history of the town itself, from the oldest pages of recoded history. The book is written in a fascinating way; the language, the suspense, the depth of information presented, and the author's uncanny ability to read into people's minds/emotions/underlying motives. His honesty of observation of the human nature, the quirks of medieval superstitions, the balance of his inquiries, it can all be summarized in three words; Fair, Honest, Superb. Fantastic read. Thank You. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Must Read By Love shopping I'm half Polish and working on my family tree. This book was recommended to me by a few Polish genealogists, as a "must read." They were right. I needed to read this book. It has forever changed me. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very fine book. By Prudence M. Thorner I love this book. It roused my interest and enthusiasm for collecting my own family history. It is an extremely painstaking story of the lengthy history of the town of Konin in Poland. It is very well written and comprehensive in a scholarly way without being an academic work. I strongly recommend it to anyone interested in learning about the history of eastern European Jews.

In 1939 the Polish town of Konin vanished in the wake of Nazi occupation. Twenty-five years later, Theo Richmond set out to find what he could about that vanished world. He traveled across the United States, Europe, and Israel, tracing survivors and sifting through archives and the stories of those he interviewed. A project he thought would take six months took seven years. Finally he confronted the Konin of today. Interweaving past and present, Konin tells the story of one community--how it began, how it flourished, and how it ended--and in the process re-creates the precariousness, anguish and necessity of human memory. "A fascinating memorial to a lost community and the people who lived there."--The New York Times Book Review "One reads [it] sometimes with a smile...always on the edge of tears--as if it were the most gripping adventure story."--Elie Wiesel, New York Newsday

From Publishers Weekly Through the oral testimonies of survivors and archival research, English documentary filmmaker Richmond evokes the history, daily life and final ordeal of the Polish town of Konin's 3000-member Jewish community, liquidated by the Germans between 1939 and 1941 through massacres and deportations to death camps. The author, whose parents grew up in Konin and emigrated to England before World War I, spent eight years tracking down Konin's Jewish survivors in America, Canada, Britain and Israel. In Manhattan he meets tailor Louis Lefkowitz, chairman of a Konin society, a survivor of 21 Nazi camps. In Florida he interviews Sarah Trybuch, who, carrying her baby daughter, fled into a forest and joined a Jewish partisan group fighting the Germans. Other survivors tell of Jewish prisoners' doomed, courageous revolt in a Gestapo-run Konin slave labor camp. The testimonies combine the moral force of Primo Levi with the searing intensity of Jerzy Kosinski. Richmond also records his 1989 visit to Communist-ruled Konin accompanied by Holocaust survivor Izzy Hahn. This deeply moving book will achieve a permanent place in the literature. Photos. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Richmond, a filmmaker living in England, offers a vivid portrait of Konin, the small town in Poland from which his parents came. The book's 72 chapters are divided into five parts. Each part views the lost Konin shtetl from a different perspective, depicting it as it appeared to Konin Jews who emigrated to Britain, the United States, and Israel and as the author envisioned it from a visit to the now modern industrial town. Each part also presents different sets of chronologically arranged reflections of Konin from its beginnings in the 13th century as one of the earliest Jewish settlements in Poland up until its destruction by the Nazis in 1939. Most absorbing are the reflections of this vanishing world that the author remembers hearing from family members as he grew up. The final section of the book describes the author's moving visit to Konin; the bright images of communal life are mixed with dark images of the Holocaust. Highly recommended. Mark Weber, Kent State Univ., Lib., Ohio Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist The author's parents grew up in Konin, a Polish shtetl on what was then the western edge of the Russian empire, and emigrated to England just before World War I. In 1939 the town had a population of 12,100, of whom 2,700 were Jews. In September of that year--at the start of World War II--German troops entered the town. Subsequently, the Jews were deported to ghettos, their synagogue and cemetery were destroyed, and thousands of Jews from the Konin region were killed in massacres in the nearby Kazimierz forest. (In 1943 there was a revolt of Jewish prisoners in the Konin labor camp, and most of them were killed.) Konin tells the story of Richmond's search for that lost community and its people, what he calls the "texture and color of their every-day lives." Drawing on oral testimony from people in such diverse places as Omaha, Brooklyn, an Israeli kibbutz, and a London suburb, as well as on archival material, Richmond gives us an impressive addition to the growing library of Holocaust literature. George Cohen