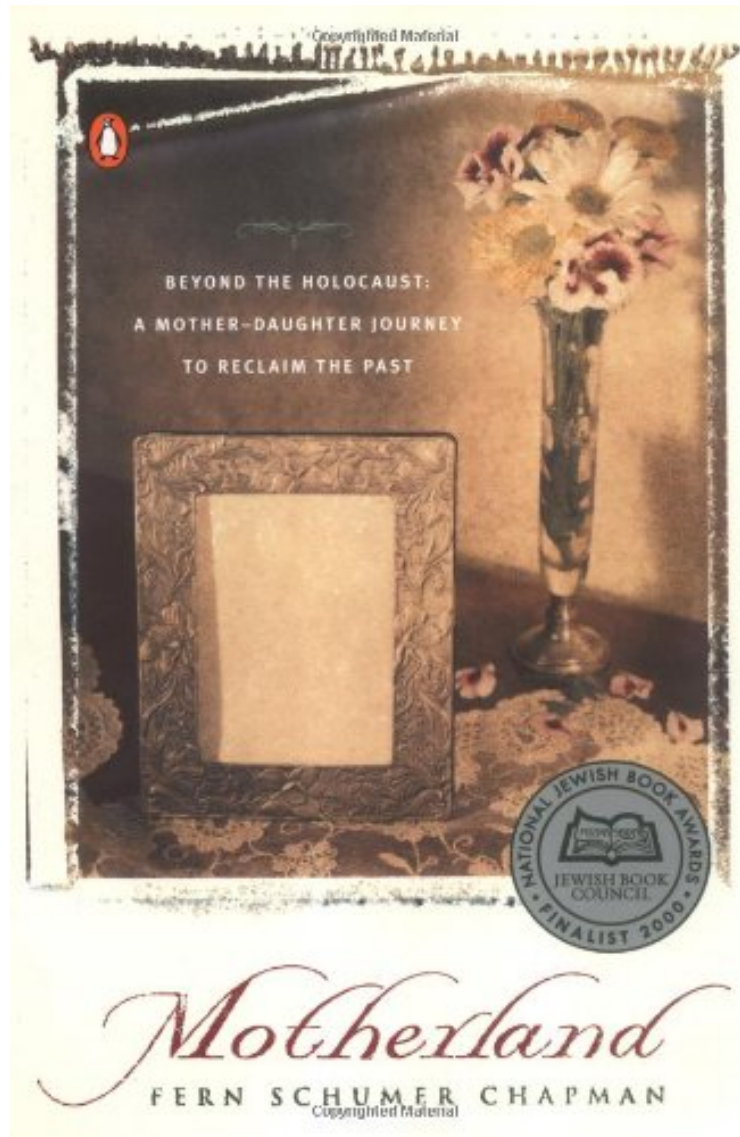


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Motherland: Beyond the Holocaust: A Mother-Daughter Journey to Reclaim the Past

Fern Schumer Chapman

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Fern Schumer Chapman : Motherland: Beyond the Holocaust: A Mother-Daughter Journey to Reclaim the Past before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Motherland: Beyond the Holocaust: A Mother-Daughter Journey to Reclaim the Past:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Motherland: Beyond the Holocaust: A Mother-Daughter Journey to Reclaim the Past: Purchased at .com By dep Motherland is the story of Fern Schumer Chapman and her mother Edith

Westerveld and their trip back to Germany in 1990. Edith Westerveld was 12 years old in 1938 when her parents sent her to the United States to get away from the worsening situation for the Jews of Germany. Her older sister Betty had already been sent to the United States the year before. Edith had never dealt with having to leave her family, but in 1990 she and her daughter made the trip, I think mostly to come to terms with her past and to try and heal from it. I think she also felt the trip would help her relationship with her daughter which had always been difficult. Much of the book is basically an explanation of how the war affected Edith, and as a result, how it continued to affect Fern too. In a way, this was kind of a psychological book, but also a mystery with lots of secrets beneath the surface. I personally love books like this, because reading about the relationship between mother and daughter helps me understand the relationship between myself and my own mother. Sadly, most of Edith's family perished in the Holocaust, but the trip did help the relationship with her daughter and also helped her relationship with her brand new granddaughter. This was definitely a five star book for me, I wish the book was a bit longer. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A much needed story so that we never forget By Swifty I believe that this book is a much needed story so that we never forget those lost in the Holocaust and those who survived. I know some survivors and their story needs to continue to be told in fiction and non-fiction. Motherland Beyond the Holocaust is a book which is totally plausible in the history and the relationship of different generations . Leo Bretholz died this week , his mission was to make sure that people never forget and never repeat the history of the Holocaust. Fern Schumer Chapman should be commended for a book of this quality . I will never forget... 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By bookie Fern Schumer tells a lovely story that will ring true for all who read it.

One woman's moving story of her journey with her mother to find their past and the tragedy that haunts it In 1937, Edith Westerfeld's parents--before being killed by the Nazis--sent her from Germany to live with relatives in America. Fifty-four years later, Edith decided that it was time to, with her grown daughter Fern, revisit the town she had left so many years before. For Edith the trip was a chance to reconnect and reconcile with her past; for Fern it was a chance to learn what lay behind her mother's silent grief. On their journey, Fern and her mother shared many extraordinary encounters with the townspeople and--more importantly--with one another, closing the divide that had long stood between them.

From Publishers Weekly When asked to accompany her mother on a return visit to her native Germany, Chapman jumped at the opportunity. At stake was a chance to reclaim both her ancestors and her own mother, Edith, whose past as a Holocaust escapee had created an emotional barrier between the two of them. "She lost her childhood to the war," Chapman writes tenderly, "and, in a way, I lost my childhood to her." In 1938, at the age of 12, Edith's parents sent her from Stockstadt am Rhein to live in Chicago with relatives who treated her badly. Chapman, a former Chicago Tribune reporter, lovingly describes her scarred mother's decision to return to her hometown; the emotional catharsis and peace her return brings; and the various reactions her return engenders in the townspeople. (Some old classmates throw Edith a party, but others will not look at her.) Chapman's narrative is strongest when she writes as journalist rather than memoirist, letting the Germans speak for themselves. She introduces two gripping individuals: the town historian, Hans, who lives in remorse and humiliation because he failed to help Edith's mother; and Mina, Edith's family's maid and soul-sister, whose defiance and hatred of the Nazis raged in her until her death. Although at times Chapman's prose seems too sentimental, her report of a German town's reactions to a Holocaust survivor's return is moving and engrossing. (Apr.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Although people of the Jewish faith honor their ancestors by remembering their history, Edith Westerfeld chose to bury her past in order to survive the present. Westerfeld did not experience the Nazi concentration camps firsthand, but she still suffered because of them. In 1938, her parents sent her from Germany to Chicago so that she could escape those atrocities. While this guaranteed Edith's survival, her parents and grandparents perished. Fifty-two years later, Westerfeld decided that she was finally able to reconcile the past by visiting her homeland. Her daughter, former Chicago Tribune reporter Chapman, accompanied her, and for Chapman the journey was also a chance to learn about the ancestors she never knew. This well-written and moving book detailing their trip shows how the Holocaust affected not only the survivors of the war but the next generation as well. Recommended for all public libraries and for academic libraries with large Holocaust collections.-Jill Jaracz, MLIS, Chicago Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Chapman knew little about her mother's childhood in a small German village, where hers was one of only two Jewish families, or how she felt when her parents sent her to the U.S. when she was 12, in 1938. Haunted as she was by the loss of her family, she never spoke of it, and so Chapman was surprised by her invitation to accompany her on a trip back to Germany. Measured and mesmerizing, Chapman's account of their unpredictable experiences, and the insights they gained into the anguish and guilt of the Germans who remembered her mother constitutes a new and profound perspective on the legacy of the Holocaust. Turning journalistic pragmatism into an art form, Chapman allows each wrenching fact and observation to land in the mind like a stone in a pond, sending out ripple after ripple. No one survived the Holocaust unscathed, she realizes, neither Jew nor Gentile, and the sorrow is handed down from

one generation to the next as inexorably as a gift for music, or beautiful deep, dark eyes. Donna Seaman