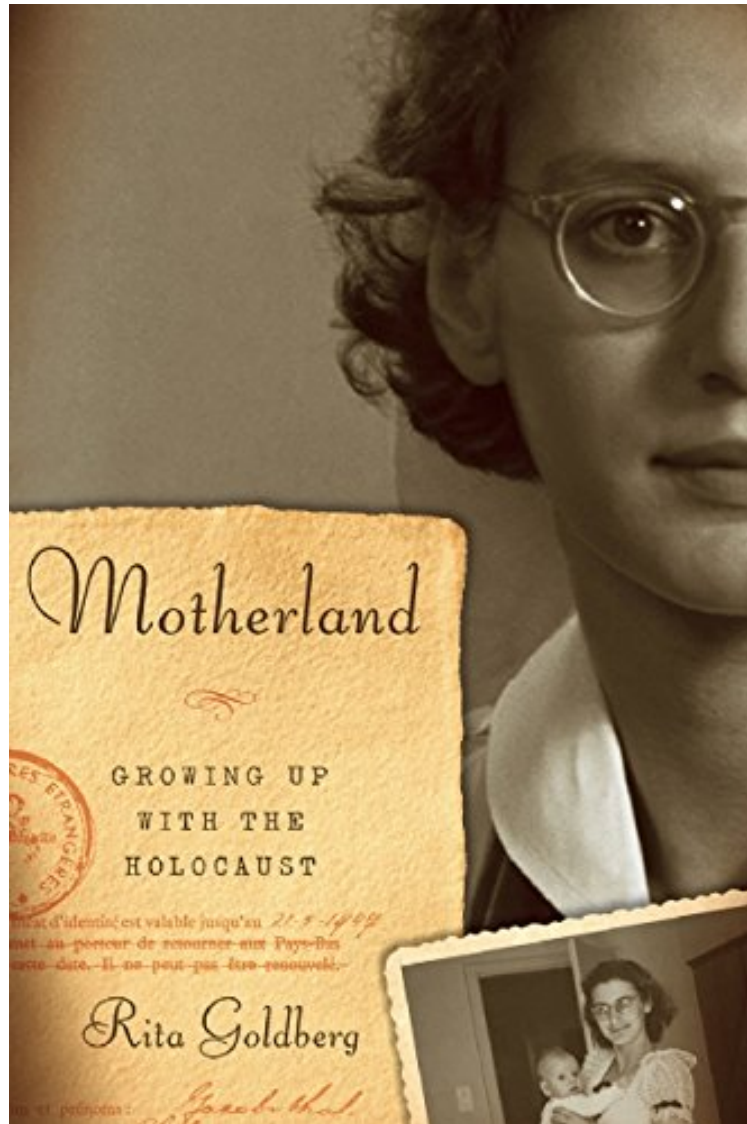


(Read free ebook) Motherland: Growing Up With the Holocaust

Motherland: Growing Up With the Holocaust

Rita Goldberg

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Rita Goldberg : Motherland: Growing Up With the Holocaust before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Motherland: Growing Up With the Holocaust:

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. An important bookBy Fil Y.We all grow up with monsters in the closet. If were lucky, sometime in our childhood we discover the monsters arent real. If were wise, sometime in our adulthood we learn that theyre sometimes real after all. Rita Goldbergs book is about the monsters that came within a hair of erasing her existence before it began. Its also an incredible adventure story of escape and survival. And a lesson in what history means for people (in this case, her parents Hilde and Max) experiencing it on the ground, with their

souls and their flesh. If this book was a Spielberg movie, it would be a blockbuster. That it could be a Spielberg movie speaks volumes about the drama of the true story Rita Goldberg tells with passion, understanding, skill, and love. I read the first half with Wikipedia open to articles on the Battle of the Netherlands, Holland in WWII, The Holocaust in the Netherlands, and, of course, the Diary of Anne Frank - whose life and family, incredibly, were intertwined with the authors parents and with herself. My impression was that this first half of the book, covering the five years from the Nazi invasion of Holland in 1940 to the end of the war in May 1945, could easily have been a book of its own. Rita tells the story of Hilde's survival, and eventual triumph, against incredible odds, during this maelstrom of history. The second half of the book is both a horror story and a love story. The former is the tale of Hilde's work in the human salvage operation at Bergen-Belsen beginning a few days after the camp was liberated by the British. In one scene, she's turning over bodies, draped in piles, looking for her parents - and terrified she'll find them. The love story sneaks up on you, in the middle of the horror, like a flower pushing through a crack in asphalt. It starts with Hilde meeting her future husband in, of all places, Bergen-Belsen where he'd made his way from Switzerland to help. Like all good love stories, there's a boy-gets-girl, boy-loses-girl, boy-gets-girl back-again episode. There's even a girl-loses-boy, girl-gets-boy-back-again episode that takes place in the middle of a famous battle in the Israeli war of independence. That alone could be a separate book. The penultimate chapter in Rita's book begins with the arrival of her parents in New York in May 1950, where she writes they lived happily ever after. And they did, in the wonderful American immigrant fashion, prospering and producing children and grandchildren. But the story is hardly done. The author, after all, is part of that happily ever after. That's not nearly as easy as it sounds, as most survivors' children attest. The book (but not the story) finishes with her brief description of coming of age and coming to terms with her luck, and her burden. As it happens, I had the good fortune to have one of my children marry into a branch of the Goldberg family a few years ago. So, along with the honor of being connected by marriage to this clan, I got an early copy of the book - which otherwise might have taken me longer to discover. All my children will read it as I trust will their children some day and, as I hope, will many many people around the world. That we all may be a bit wiser. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Holocaust described as I remembered growing up in the same circumstances. By Marthe A. Lablan. This book gave me a lot of answers to the growing up after the war in the Netherlands, with a mother that survived like Hilde and I found a lot of answers in this well documented book. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. An Epic. By Nathaniel L. Silver. Rita Goldberg tells a story of second chances and happy endings, and in the process confronts her own ghosts. Her analyses of people and events ring true. This is a monumental work, bravely rendered.

I am the child of a woman who survived the Holocaust not by the skin of her teeth but heroically, writes Rita Goldberg. In a deeply moving second-generation Holocaust memoir, Goldberg introduces the extraordinary story of Hilde Jacobsthal, a close friend of Anne Frank's family who was fifteen when the Nazis invaded Holland. After the arrest of her parents in 1943, Hilde fled to Belgium, living out the war years in an extraordinary set of circumstances among the Resistance and at Bergen-Belsen after its liberation that the Guardian newspaper judged worthy of a film script. As astonishing as Hilde's story is, Rita herself emerges as the central, fascinating character in this utterly unique account. Proud of her mother and yet struggling to forge an identity in the shadow of such heroic accomplishments (in a family setting that included close relationships with the iconic Frank family), Rita Goldberg reveals a little-explored aspect of Holocaust survival: the often-wrenching family and interpersonal struggles of the children and grandchildren whose own lives are haunted by historic tragedy. *Motherland* is the culmination of a lifetime of reflection and a decade of research. It is an epic story of survival, adventure, and new life.

"A double memoir that braids her parents' story with her own, and succeeds in articulating a difficult truth." *The Economist* "At the heart of this engrossing memoir is her mother... The extraordinary tale is heroic. It strikes the reader as thoroughly romantic, even cinematic." *The New York Times* "Goldberg writes eloquently of the 'volcanic pressures' that shaped her family's story and continue to haunt her own." *Kirkus* s