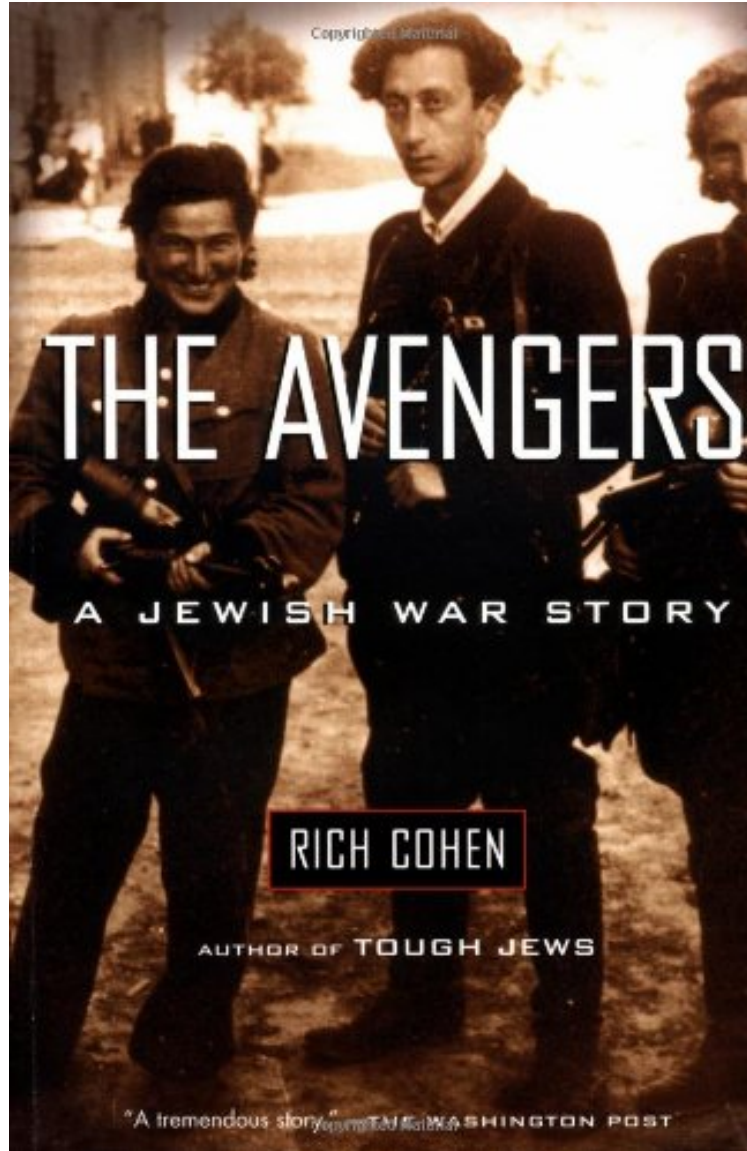


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The Avengers

Rich Cohen

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#127300 in Books Rich Cohen 2001-10 2001-10-09Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 7.99 x .72 x 5.22l, .56 #File Name: 0375705295272 pagesThe Avengers A Jewish War Story | File size: 57.Mb

Rich Cohen : The Avengers before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Avengers:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. The BEST book on the Holocaust EVER !By Howard D. WhiteBeing an amature military historian for the past fifty years,I was amazed that I had never heard of this work. When I began reading I could not put it down, as it presents an entirely different perspective on the European genocide of the Jews. The three main characters in this true story were incredibly young when the Nazis over ran the Baltics and

made the Jewish populations "non-humans" in the eyes of the native populations. Rather than allowing themselves to be shipped by train to a death camp, these two young women and one young man, wise beyond their years, fled to the forests to fight and survive. The second half of their story is like nothing else you may have read concerning the Holocaust! Their lives in post war Europe was not one of rebuilding, but seeking justice for their murdered families and comrades. Read this book and pass it on to some young adult to read!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Amazing Story
By Charlottekrn Bookfair
The non-fiction book details the lives of Jewish three fighters who survived the Vilna Ghetto uprising in Lithuania, and joined partisan fighters living in the forests during WW II. The trio carried out maneuvers with the resistance fighters and called themselves the Avengers. The three friends, Abba Kovner, his wife, Vitka and Ruska, Cohens grandmothers niece, survived the Holocaust and immigrated to Israel. The book is detailed, factual, interesting and well written.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Avengers:
Purchased at .com
By depI was surprised in reading The Avengers, the book wasn't exactly what I thought it would be. The main characters are Abba Kovner, Vitka Kempner and Ruzka Korczak. They were trying to organize resistance against the Nazis in the Vilna Ghetto and not succeeding very well. When the Ghetto was destroyed they fled to the forests and fought alongside Polish and Russian partisan groups. After the war they fled to Palestine to hopefully build a new country for the Jews, but also planning revenge against the former Nazis in Europe. Abba Kovner stood out so much more than anybody else in this book. He was a poet and very much a leader to the Jews, but to me he came across something like an Indian mystic who was not really of this world. In a way The Avengers seemed almost spiritual to me. It was unlike anything I have ever read. I'm so glad I included this in my reading.

Rich Cohen, author of the acclaimed *Tough Jews*, again narrates a little-known episode of Jewish history, this time altering what we thought we knew about the Holocaust. Abba Kovner, Vitka Kempner, Ruzka Korczak--comrades, lovers, friends. In the Lithuanian ghetto of Vilna, they were the heart of a breathtakingly courageous underground movement, and when the ghetto was liquidated, they fled to the forests and joined other partisans in continued sabotage and resistance. Riveting, poignant and uplifting, *The Avengers* is a powerful exploration of resistance and revenge, of courage and dedication, and an inside look at some of the intrepid individuals who fought against the Holocaust and the Nazi occupation of Europe.

.com Rich Cohen, author of *Tough Jews*, has written what he calls "a Holocaust story without a concentration camp" about Jewish resistance fighters during World War II. *The Avengers: A Jewish War Story* describes how three young Jews--Cohen's cousin Ruzka Korczak, her friend Abba Kovner, and Kovner's future wife Vitka Klemperer--created an armed, underground movement behind the German lines in Poland with the goal of sabotaging the Nazis and helping the Russians advance. Cohen reports that Kovner described the group's dilemma this way: "If we act cowardly, we die; if we act courageously, we die. So we might as well act courageously." The group's fighting outlasted the war to exact revenge on the Nazis held in Nuremberg and finally to fight for Israel in the 1948 War for Independence. Researching *The Avengers*, Cohen spent time with the surviving resistance fighters in Israel and in Eastern Europe. The result is a deeply personal and impassioned defense of a movement that some readers will view with pride and others will condemn as vigilantism. This book, like *Tough Jews*, is a lively, intelligent, and heartfelt work of Jewish history.

-- Michael Joseph Gross
From Publishers Weekly
As a child visiting an Israeli kibbutz on a family vacation, Cohen met a relative who had survived the Holocaust and emigrated to Israel. Slight and gray-haired, Ruzka looked a lot like Cohen's grandmother, but her stories introduced him to a little-known, remarkable group of Jews: the Avengers, who fought Nazis in the gloomy forests of Eastern Europe and later battled for Israel's independence. As Cohen notes, these "were the kind of people who inspired Joseph Goebbels to write in his diary, 'One sees what the Jews can do when they are armed.'" An ardent Zionist, Ruzka left her home in Poland in 1939, as German troops were occupying the country, and made her way to Vilna, Lithuania, where she hoped to find passage to Palestine. Arrested as an "illegal immigrant" upon her arrival, she was released through the efforts of a Zionist youth group who gave her shelter in their headquarters. There, Ruzka met Vitka Kempner, another young girl on her own, and Abba Kovner, a charismatic young man whose steadfast belief in resistance and canny strategies inspired the Avengers. In period-perfect detail, Cohen portrays scenes of ghetto life in Vilna, the efforts of a Jewish leader who thought he could help his people by collaborating with the Germans and, above all, the riveting story of the Avengers' escape from the ghetto, their acceptance of a renegade German officer who hated his army and their eventual emigration to Palestine. Cohen (*Tough Jews: Father, Sons and Gangster Dreams*) delivers a compelling story that not only amplifies the accepted version of Jewish experience in the Second World War, but also provides a terrific narrative of courage and tenacity.

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From Library Journal
Having previously told the story of Jewish gangsters in America (*Tough Jews*) Cohen traces the plight of Vilna, Lithuania ghetto survivors who became guerrilla fighters in the Jewish Brigade. Led by a poet and saboteur named Abba Kovner, who shared a bed with his 17-year-old female lieutenants, these Zionist partisans took revenge on Nazis and other enemies of Jews throughout Europe at the close of World War II. The original Avengers were 50 strong, and at night they hit bridges, peasant farms, trains, and convoys on missions of revenge by kids who'd escaped the ghetto but whose relatives often

had not. One of their grandest (but finally unsuccessful) schemes involved smuggling in arsenic to poison the bread of thousands of captured Nazis under American guard in Nuremberg. Many of the Avengers ultimately fled to Palestine, joined the Haganah, and fought to see the formation of Israel. This needed telling of their exploits is a great tribute to human spirit and a will to survive.-DMarty Soven, Woodside, NY Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.