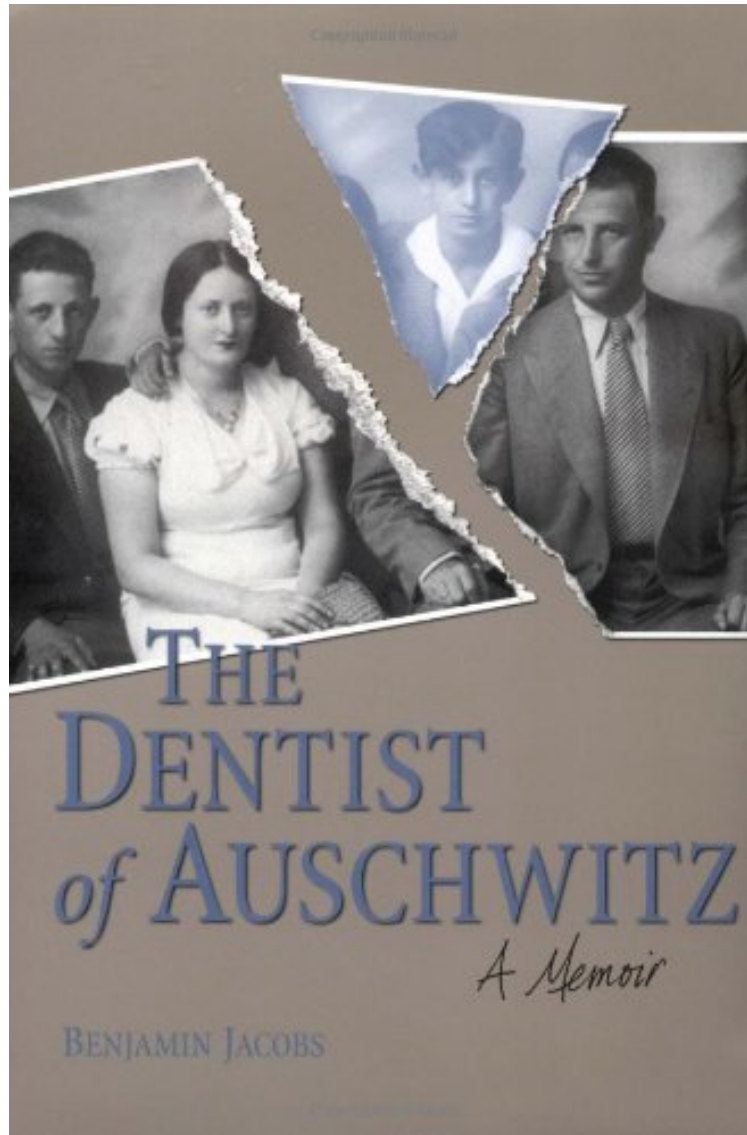


(Free pdf) The Dentist of Auschwitz: A Memoir

## The Dentist of Auschwitz: A Memoir

*Benjamin Jacobs*

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**Benjamin Jacobs : The Dentist of Auschwitz: A Memoir** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Dentist of Auschwitz: A Memoir:

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A story of unrelenting persecution -- and so well-writtenBy Mala BhargavaBy now I have read all but about five of the Holocaust memoirs on . I've read them in a sort of numb frenzy, sort of shocking myself into just short of feeling the experience. Many of the memoirs are expectedly similar because the experiences were similar, though each one s still individual enough to be meaningful. Through these memoirs, I

feel I almost know the people who experienced Nazi persecution in World War II. You can actually contact some survivors who are happy to answer questions or just touch base with someone who's interested. Berek Jakubowicz's (now Benjamin Jacobs) story is one of unrelenting misery. But he held out through the typical journey of being thrown from one camp to another. His intelligence, likeability, and skills as a dentist helped tremendously to keep him alive. Reading about his experiences, I often find myself thinking enough already, leave them alone! But it doesn't look like the Germans let go of their obsessive persecution and killing until the very last second possible. It's so sad that so many of them just got away with what they did and even went on to live "normally" to a ripe old age of 90+. I once again saw, from reading this book, how the post Liberation struggle must have been the last straw for people who were exhausted and drained of mental and physical energy. This book spans an entire gamut of experiences and is interesting to read even after I've read so many memoirs. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Honest Portrayal Of Life In The Most Brutal Of Circumstances By Deepa Reddy Every so often I have to immerse myself in the tragedy of this era. Reading personal memoirs of survivors and their struggles reminds me to never, ever forget the pain of the past. I just finished this book and could not stop thinking about Benjamin and his daily life. I was so in awe of this man, a man who used his education and his ever-present dental tools to help those that needed it and provide much needed extra rations for his family and fellow prisoners. Dr. Jacobs paints simple yet visually realistic paintings of his time under such extreme and degrading conditions. This is a must read for all and especially for those who choose, everyday, to remember the simple words - Never Again. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Poignant Holocaust memoir By Z Hayes Benjamin Jacobs has written a vivid and poignant account of his experiences as a young Jewish boy caught up in the horrors of the Holocaust. This Holocaust tale is not overly grim though it has its disturbing moments. Benjamin was a dental student who did not get a chance to complete his studies at the time the Nazis invaded Poland. He and his father were sent to work in a labor camp run by Poles and Nazis. Some of the Poles are shown to have a human side to them and not as monstrous as depicted in some other accounts. In Jacobs' account, some of the Poles are depicted as sharing a common hatred of the Nazis, such as the Polish supervisor who is bitter about his sister being sent off to work as a slave for Nazi Germany. Jacobs' account of the horrors he witnesses and experiences are balanced by some light-hearted accounts, such as his romance with a Polish Gentile which unfolds despite the horrors. In one funny account, Jacobs describes the lovers' futile attempts to kill the lice that have invaded Jacobs' body. This story is told with a comic element, yet it is also poignant as it conveys the impossibility of their circumstances and the horrors the Jewish prisoners had to endure. The dentistry tools Jacobs' possesses sees him through some difficult times, though these same tools also cause him to witness some truly horrible things. In spite of everything, Jacobs' story is one of hope and perseverance, of a young man's dreams and memories, and of the losses he suffered.

In 1941 Berek Jakubowicz (now Benjamin Jacobs) was deported from his Polish village and remained a prisoner of the Reich until the final days of the war. His possession of a few dental tools and rudimentary skills saved his life. Jacobs helped assemble V1 and V2 rockets in Buchenwald and Dora-Mittelbau; spent a year and a half in Auschwitz, where he was forced to remove gold teeth from corpses; and survived the RAF attack on three ocean liners turned prison camps in the Bay of Lubeck. This is his story.

From Publishers Weekly Jacobs, a Polish Jew, was a first-year dental student before he spent five years in Nazi extermination camps, including Auschwitz. Here, he vividly recalls that time, during which his elementary professional skills enabled him to practice primitive dentistry on inmates and SS officers alike, as well as to obey orders to extract gold teeth from corpses after gassing. Jacobs's understated tone conveys all the more forcefully the daily horror of camp life: bitter cold, near starvation, the smell of burning human flesh. Worst of all, notes the author, born Berek Jakubowicz, Auschwitz became a perverted "way of life" as he tried to survive it. Jacobs, who now practices dentistry in Boston, is a compelling witness. Illustrations not seen by PW. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Benjamin Jacobs was a Jewish dental student who in 1941 was deported from the Polish village of Dobra--along with 166 other Jewish men, including his father--to a Nazi labor camp. Jacobs was 22, and what followed was four years of horror in two labor camps and in Auschwitz, where his father died and his brother survived. (His mother and sister were murdered in Chelmno.) The author survived because of his elementary dental skills; he worked on the teeth of inmates and later on those of 55 officers. In simple, straightforward prose, Jacobs reveals the relentless and senseless brutality of concentration camp existence and--finally--the miracle of survival. Jacobs' book is another solid addition to the ever-growing body of Holocaust literature. George Cohen "In simple, straightforward prose, Jacobs reveals the relentless and senseless brutality of concentration camp existence and finally the miracle of survival." Booklist "A book about the raw existential experience of a Holocaust survivor. . . . His ability to express the most painful of moments is the book's greatest achievement." Bridges "Based exclusively on retrospective memory, the account is authentic." Choice "A moving testament to Jacob's willpower and courage. His story reveals the senseless brutality of the Holocaust and the miracle of survival." McCormick (SC) Messenger "Jacobs

is a compelling witness."Publishers Weekly