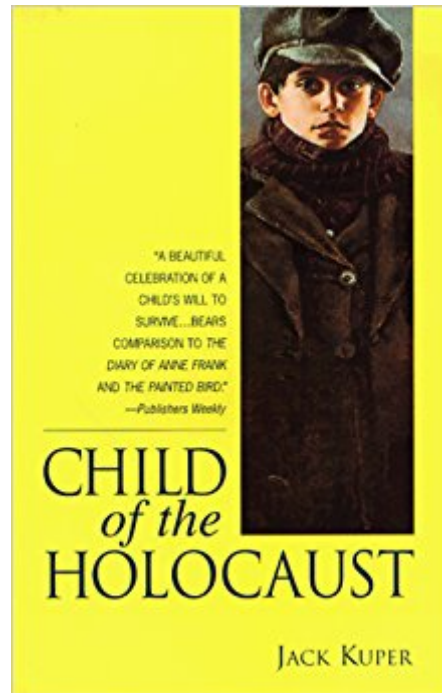




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Child Of The Holocaust



Synopsis

This unique childhood memoir of the Holocaust has been praised as "powerful" (Cincinnati Enquirer), "touching" (Jewish Digest), and "heartbreaking" (Library Journal). A true story of rare beauty and remarkable power, it has become an enduring classic. One day, when Jacob Kuperblum was eight, he came home to his town in Poland. His family and friends were gone, rounded up by the Germans only hours earlier. He would never see them again. Thus begins a journey of survival as a young boy travels from town to town in a desperate search for safety and shelter, growing up in fear, deprived of his home and his people--and even his identity. All that survived was his spirit--and his indomitable will to live. *Child of the Holocaust* is the acclaimed account of Jacob Kuperblum--an unforgettable and moving tale of adversity and triumph.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

wonderful story. book sent in timely manner, book in fair condition. price excellent.

After reading this book how my heart went out to young Jack Kuper, (Jankele Kuperblum). In his memoir he is at the age of my two grandsons. How unthinkable it is for me to consider them trying to survive as he did. At first he is protected by a widow (Mrs. Pejak) and her daughter who were Ukrainian from the town of Kulik not far from Warsaw. She had assured his mother she would care for him, which she did and did seem to have compassion. Yet at times her ways with him seemed crude. Then it came to where she and her family were in danger and sent him away. After that he went from village to village looking for someone to take him in, offering creative way to work for food

and shelter. The places and order of these wanderings, to me, at times were a bit confusing. However I thought, this poor child he too was in constant upheaval journeying from place to place, changing his identity to protect his life. Some he lived with appeared kind but then sent him out to protect their own when threatened, as Mrs. Pejzak did. Some were cruel just using him for their own gain. Also, what was so precious was how Jankele wanted to be brave and wondered why he couldn't be cruel. If only he realized how very brave he was. I can picture him alone on the Polish countryside looking for shelter and laboring like a man for his very survival. I was also moved at how as a young lad he expresses in thought, the internal battle he had with feelings of betrayal of his Jewish faith and identity, and his guilt as he claimed Christianity for survival. One of the saddest realities to me was that those who claimed to be "Christian" used this as a reason for prejudice and persecution to Jankele. Just as in many of the other holocaust memoirs I have read by those who never really knew the Jewishness of the Bible and that Jesus Himself was a Jew. So, young Jankele's understanding of Christianity as hate to the Jewish people was sadly misunderstood. As a side note there were some true Christians during the holocaust that were willing to sacrifice their own safety and lives in order to protect Jewish people. As in the case of the Ten Boom family from Haarlem, Holland. When chastised for their illegal involvement, risk and danger of hiding Jews, Casper Ten Boom, the patriarch of the family, while holding a Jewish baby said, "You say we could lose our lives for this child. I would consider that the greatest honor that could come to my family." Incidentally, he died in prison along with one daughter. Also other family members died as the result of protecting Jewish lives. How I wish young Jack Kuper (Jankele) could have been protected by one such as this. Even when he was reunited with some relatives they too did not keep him, thinking it was best for him. He appeared to be forsaken. At times he would call out to God and there was always someone, something or an idea that was placed in his life that showed me his prayer was answered. I thought of Isaiah 49:14&15. For I see the Lord had not forsaken him. After reading different holocaust memoirs, from those in prison to those in hiding, this story is unique for he was just a child alone trying to survive.

Flight, Denial of Self, and Childhood. I've read extensive books on the Holocaust, attempting to experience and embed the utter horror of the events and instill a vehemence that this, of course, should never happen again. I'm a passenger as a reader--having never been through anything of this sort. Through Jack's eyes, I meet a child in boyhood and yet a survivor--pitted against war, killers, thieves, cowards, villagers, drunks. I also meet some of the most frightened brave people who out of love for Jack or love of children, assist him in his daily survival. I'm frequently shivering

and dirty as I gaze at Jack in cold winter fields and dirty stables. Jack's story should be as much a required piece of reading as the Diary of Anne Frank. Both are stories of confinement. Jack brought me face to face with the ironies of "helping haters" those that engage in antisemitism yet somehow mobilize humanity in other spheres of their lives. Thanks Mr. Kuper or Jankele. TC, Ph.D., LMHC

I purchased and have been wanting to read this book for several years since I heard Jack Kuper interviewed on CBC radio. Having finally found a space for reading something out of interest alone and not necessity, I treated myself to reading *Child of the Holocaust*. This is a profound, beautiful, amazing, frightening, and educational book written by a remarkable human being. It is also extremely well-written and very gripping. I was always reluctant to put it down and eager to pick it up again. I am so thankful to Jack Kuper for sharing his very personal life experience with us and so very grateful for his survival and generosity of spirit. I do not doubt that the deeply beautiful, intelligent, wise, courageous and kind child, Jankele Kuperblum, became a beautiful adult, Jack Kuper. I hope he realizes what an inspiration he is and will always be to those who encounter his story. I was delighted to discover, upon finishing the book, that Mr. Kuper also wrote a sequel called, *After the Smoke Cleared*, and it is currently on its way to me! I can hardly wait to read it. Thank you again, Mr. Kuper.

I read *Child of the Holocaust* and thought it was an interesting portrayal of a young Jewish boy running from the Gestapo in Poland. I found myself immersed in a book filled with fear, hardship, and luck. The boy, originally named Jenkele, was a clever boy who I thought was more courageous than anyone I had ever seen. Plus the author described the story so well, that I thought I was part of the action. The book incorporates suspense, sadness, and the harsh reality of Hitler's Holocaust. Although the book was great, there were its moments I didn't like. One of the moments I didn't like was when Jenkele and his friends were told to beat some sick kittens to death with sticks. There were also parts that were unrealistic. An example of an unrealistic part in the book is when a militia who turns over Jews to the Gestapo let Jenkele go not once but twice. Overall the book was great, and I recommend it to all people interested in the Holocaust.

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