



The Tin Ring: How I Cheated Death

Zdenka Fantlova, Deryck Viney (Translator)

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A moving tale of courage, love, tenacity, and hope, this remarkable memoir documents one woman's experience during the Holocaust. Enamored with a man named Arno, Zdenka Fantlová, a young Czech-Jewish woman, is separated from her soul-mate due to the German invasion. During a brief reunion, Arno proposes to 19-year-old Zdenka with a ring made from tin. Following Zdenka from Terezin through Auschwitz and Kurzbach to Bergen-Belsen, this heartbreakingly account dwells less on the horrors of extermination camps and more on the compassion of the friends and family who shared in her ordeal.

The Tin Ring: How I Cheated Death Details

Date : Published September 1st 2010 by Northumbria University Press

ISBN : 9781904794509

Author : Zdenka Fantlova , Deryck Viney (Translator)

Format : Hardcover 240 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, War, Autobiography, Memoir, Biography, World War II, Holocaust



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From Reader Review The Tin Ring: How I Cheated Death for online ebook

Janice Chambers says

how Zdenka survived the concentration camps of Germany during WWII. Excellent

Glenn Town says

Superb survival story
We must never allow this to happen again

Kiana says

3.75 stars

I enjoyed this book a lot as I've never read anything about what happened to Czech Jews during the war and the fact this was based on real events made it even more poignant. However, I felt that this book lacked detail and skimmed over a lot of things. I wanted to know more about everything as the author wrote it so well so it's a shame she didn't as I felt there was more to tell, hence why it didn't quite get 4 stars in my eyes.

Adele Holt says

A moving book which personalises the holocaust - it's too easy to reduce the holocaust to an impersonal event affecting nameless victims. This book emphasises the vitality of one young woman, in no way deserving or asking to be made a victim, and is quite shocking in reminding you that not only were the Jews and others actual individual people but that the horrors were perpetrated by actual individuals as well.

Sophie Errington says

I couldn't put the book down! I read the entire thing in three hours and it was amazing!
It is a captivating read that keeps you interested throughout, every chapter was relevant and you truly connected to Zdenka.

I first became aware of the book when my school organised the one woman play of it to visit and perform for my English literature class, ever since I saw the play I desperately wanted the book and I'm glad I read it, it's so much better than seeing the play and it's far more detailed.

Becky Bye says

A story unlike no other survival story from the inconceivable horrors of life in Nazi concentration camps. A story which needs to be heard and shared. Utterly incredible, utterly inspiring, completely life-changing.

Serf says

A really good insight into life in some of the other camps during the holocaust leading up to the horrors of auschwitz. One woman's survival story without any tales of heroism or escape.

Rdonn says

I had seen Zdenka Fantlova on DVDs and on U-Tube, several in connection with her friend, Alice Herz-Sommer, and several about her experiences as a concentration camp survivor and also this book, which was subsequently made into a one-woman play. Zdenka is still alive aged 91, an attractive, vibrant personality.

I thought she did a terrific job describing life as it was before the war in a town in Czechoslovakia, and her experiences in Terezin, and later the subsequent three other concentration camps which she amazingly survived, none of her family or friends did. She credits a young British officer with saving her life in Bergen Belsen, where all were dying of starvation and typhoid.

It was in Terezin she started her acting career in very funny circumstances, part of a cabaret performance with clowns. When she emigrated to Australia in 1949 she pursued her acting career and late in life emigrated to England with her husband, where she met up with Alice and thus began a friendship - Alice calls her her Sunday visitor!

As much as I've read about Terezin, etc. Zdenka added so much to my knowledge. She describes all with both objectivity and passion, and I thought it a memorable book and she certainly is a memorable person.

Sam says

So moving! I found myself hanging off Fantlova's every sentence- a captivating and amazing journey. Such a satisfying end too. Fabulous.

Joanne Lewis says

This book had me gripped from start to finish. The author, Zdenka Fantlova has written this book so that people never forget the atrocities that were inflicted on Jews at the hands of the Germans during World War II.

While many of us have heard about the Nazi concentration camps, to hear first-hand from the words of

someone who not only endured those torturous times but survived, brings the horror to life and, as a reader, you find yourself hoping against all the odds for a happy outcome.

The writing style is succinct and easy to read, which is not always the case in this type of book. The author conveys the story simply, yet in enough detail to truly convey her life exactly as she experienced it, detailing the highs and the lows and the many ways in which those around her tried to live as normal an existence as possible.

What struck me most throughout was the incredible toughness of the human body and spirit. It is impossible to believe that anyone would have the inner strength to endure such hardship, never knowing when it would end or where the next food or drink would come from, all the while being forced to carry out hard labour in near unimaginable conditions. Just when you think things couldn't have got any worse, it seemed the ante was always upped a notch and yet Zdenka never faltered. Her father was clearly hugely influential on her positive outlook and despite being separated, their strong bond is evident throughout.

The significance of the title stems from a tin ring which is given to Zdenka by the love of her life Arno, shortly before they are separated and taken to different camps. They vow to wait until the war is over and find each other again to continue their lives together and somehow Zdenka manages to keep the ring hidden, tied on a piece of ribbon underneath what little clothes she has left. She views the ring as her lucky charm as well as a symbol of the love her and Arno share and as the story unfolds, there are several instances whereby through a stroke of luck or fate, she seems to cheat almost certain death.

A truly incredible read.

Esther says

The Tin Ring is a book of courage, inner strength and the will to survive.

Patrick Carroll says

A very interesting memoir, contrasted the before, during and even after. I wasn't aware that ghetto life could be "stable" despite the privations, and really a surreal period and place in the story. At one point I was mildly irritated by what appeared to be name dropping however the "penny dropped" that this was Zdenka's way of memorialising the many people she lived with who didn't survive. In some parts the story felt it skimmed through the horror but then how do you describe the experience of evil?

Stan Stillladdie says

Incredible and poignant

Nicole says

What a moving story of this woman's survival and the strength she drew from this tin ring and the hope it represented. I just watched a YouTube video of Zdenka Fantlova speaking which was very touching too.

Heather says

Wow!

I've always been interested in the history of WWII but I have never read anything so personal and brutally honest. Whilst reading you could be forgiven to believe this is a piece of fiction, as the trials and horrors Zdenka survived through really are unbelievable. We all hear of the horrors that happened at Concentration camps across, Germany and Poland, and even having visited some of these as I have grown up, couldn't truly understand the conditions the prisoners had to survive in. I thoroughly enjoyed this if that is the right word to use. I couldn't put the book down.
