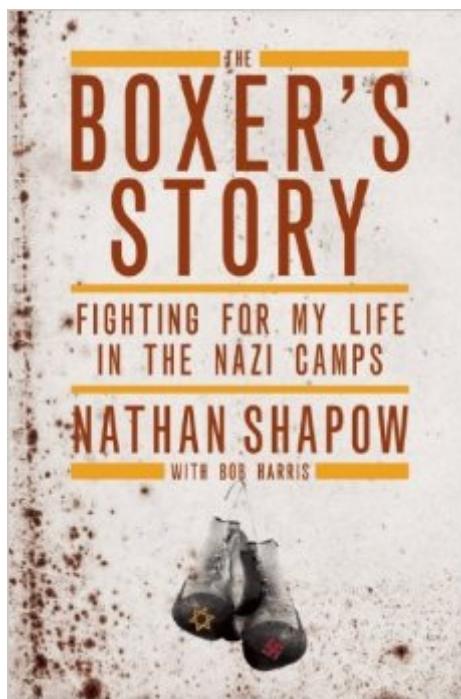


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The Boxer's Story: Fighting For My Life In The Nazi Camps



Synopsis

Once in a while there comes along a story so powerful and so emotive that it makes you rethink your own values. This is the story of Nathan Shapow, a young Latvian, born in Riga, with nothing more on his mind than becoming a world-renowned boxer. However, the sound of jackboots marching across Europe and the systematic extermination of the Jews put an end to his boxing dreams. He was to fight a different sort of fight: one for survival. The prize? His life. Seeing his youth disappear in the squalor of the ghettos and the horror of the concentration camps, Nathan fell back on his previous existence to sustain him. The years of training, the running, the speed of work, the three-round amateur fights in the gym, the street fights in Riga, and the sheer competitive nature he developed saved him on more than one occasion, especially when he was forced to box for his life against a top German fighter in a concentration camp. The Boxer's Story is an extraordinary and powerful true story that reads like a thriller. It will deeply affect everyone who reads it. Nathan Shapow was born in Riga, Latvia, and survived various camps including Birkenau and Stutthoff. After the war he went to Palestine, where he fought for the creation of Israel. He lives in Los Angeles, California, with his wife and family.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

this is by far one of the best and most inspiring books ever written by a Holocaust survivor .The author did an amazing job to engage the reader in the daily life-experience of the survivors against the barbarism of the "Civilized" European nationals and evil of the Germans.Unlike many books that

provide chronological day-to-day events of morning, day and night, and leaving the reader without tools to understand the magnitude of the holocaust, and the role that many European countries and nationals played in it. The most amazing part of the story was Nathan, who throughout his struggle for survival, never lost his fighting spirit! His story is not of despair, but rather of defiance and inspiration. It is hard to believe that after all the physical abuse, the beating, the humiliation and starvation, he never lost his fighting spirit nor did he ever cry about his misfortune. As I am writing this review, Nathan is still a living testimony to this spirit in Los Angeles. He has beaten the odds and his enemies with his determination and spirit for survival!

I read this book twice. The first time I didn't really care for it too much. I thought the author seemed a bit obsessed with being a boxer, more so than any other part of the story. However, the second time I read it I absolutely loved it. It was a very easy read and the story flowed quite well. I especially liked the first chapter of the book, it really starts off the book with a bang. In looking at the pictures of Nathan he looks just like what I thought a boxer would look like. He also looks very kind. Nathan is a living piece of history along with his book. Thank goodness all of his story is now written down for future generations.

Nathan's dreams of becoming a boxer were ended with the Nazi occupation of Latvian. Placed into a ghetto and then sent to several concentration camps, Nathan's story is one of survival. I hate to give harsh criticism of a holocaust survival story but overall, I thought this book was only OK. The author skipped from one place to another without giving many day-to-day details. He told us that life was bad, but didn't really show us. He also continually talked about his physical prowess. I'm sure that was something to be proud of, and kept him alive, but after a while it became a bit redundant. Overall, not a book I see myself rereading.

Very interesting and informative

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