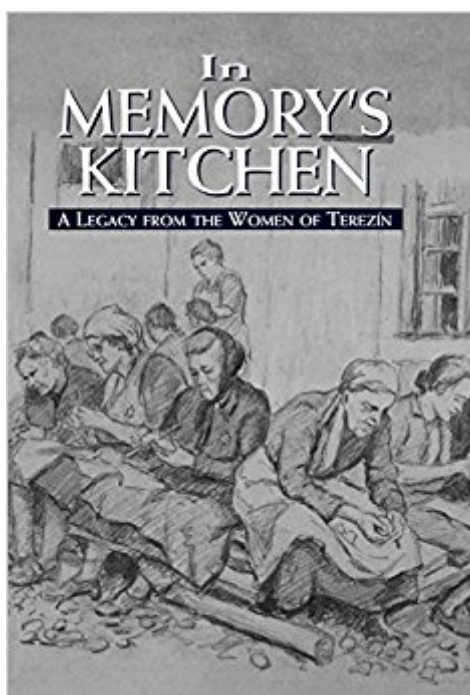


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In Memory's Kitchen : A Legacy From The Women Of Terezin



Synopsis

A beautiful memorial to the brave women who defied Hitler by preserving a part of their heritage and a part of themselves in this handwritten collection of recipes, proving that the Nazis could not break the spirit of the Jewish people.

Book Information

Hardcover: 110 pages

Publisher: Jason Aronson, Inc.; 1st edition (September 1, 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1568219024

ISBN-13: 978-1568219028

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 0.8 x 8.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 48 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #563,897 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #92 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > Women & Judaism](#) #127 in [Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Special Diet > Kosher](#) #680 in [Books > History > World > Religious > Judaism](#)

Customer Reviews

Of all the documents of the Holocaust, this cookbook compiled from memory by the female prisoners at Terezin, a way station to Auschwitz, may be the most remarkable. The Terezin prisoners recalled and wrote down their recipes for chocolate torte, breast of goose, plum strudel, and other traditional dishes not because they thought they might ever need them--they were surviving on scraps and potato peels at the time--but as a testament to the future, so that their grandchildren might receive a fragment of their inheritance. The manuscript found its way in 1969 to Anny Stern, the daughter of Mina Pachter, whose poems on barracks life are also included.

Full of bilingual recipes translated from broken German into English, the manuscript of this book traveled from the Terezin concentration camp, which served as a way station to Auschwitz, to one of the writers' daughters in Manhattan. Cooking is this book's subject matter, but survival is its theme; it is both moving and paradoxical that this material was collected by starving internees. Those interested strictly in a cookbook may be frustrated by the European measurements ("Practical Notes" provide conversion guidelines), but for readers concerned with Holocaust history, this is an important document. Its dishes might be used daily or at special religious celebrations, but as noted

in the foreword, "[this work] is not to be savored for its culinary offerings but for the insight it gives us in understanding the extraordinary capacity of the human spirit to transcend its surroundings, to defy dehumanization, and to dream of the past and of the future." For Judaica and Holocaust studies collections. Wendy Miller, Lexington, P.L., Ky. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

What we eat and cook for our families is of such elemental importance to our survival and our history. Recipes say so much about a cook's culture and life. To me, there seems to be something in cooking (and in textiles) that relates deeply to women, particularly to women who have cooked for their families. There is love of food, love of the people you feed. In this book, starving women in the Terezin Nazi Concentration Camp remembered the foods they'd cooked for their families and wrote down the recipes on scraps of paper, on onion skins, anything they could find. The book was smuggled out but only decades later did the person who had them find the daughter of the woman who'd gathered them together. The book is in Czech and English. I'm not sure I'll ever make anything from this book, but it's a treasure to have. It's a treasure to share something so important to these women.

I gave this book as a gift to friend and immediately asked to borrow it so I could read it. The strength and fortitude of the women of Terezin is nothing short of immutable and awe-inspiring. To find the strength to recount such memories of tradition, love and family in the face of incomprehensible and dire circumstances is a true testament to the human spirit. Of all of the stories to survive the Holocaust, this is certainly one of the most inspiring. That any of this survived is a miracle, and a sincere honor to the women who wrote these recipes, poems and stories. You may never cook a single recipe from this book, but you'll definitely hand it down with your other family recipes.

This is a beautiful book which remembers those that suffered in Theresienstadt concentration camp. While starving under the Nazi regime, a group of women tried to add normalcy in their lives by discussing recipes and cooking with their mouths in absence of real food and kitchens. These women wrote a cookbook for one of the ladies' daughters but the lady died before she could give it to her. A lot of people did not want this book published but it is beautiful. Nothing can change what happened but this little book might serve as a substitute for millions of little books like this that were denied to young women. The culture should pass on to future generations. Some of the recipes are usable. You can find a recreation from the book if you google: "kisses from a concentration camp" .

Beautifully edited documentary/memoir/facsimile. I am glad it continues to be in print. I sent this copy to Hungary.

Awesome book to have to know what the suffering was like at the Nazi camps. What a shame that our society let happen!!

This is a wonderful and insightful book which contains wisdom, showcases perseverance amid adversity, and is sprinkled throughout with humor along with a compilation of creative, delicious, timeless recipes. What is written in this little book is just as nourishing to the soul as it is to the body. I'm very glad that I purchased this book!

Gift. Recipient enjoyed it.

A beautiful but sad memorial of the inner strength of humanity. As I read the recipes, I can't help but think of the women and the horrors they went through. This was surely a means of being heard and remembered, a source of strength, as such. Each recipe is a personal part of the woman that wrote it.

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