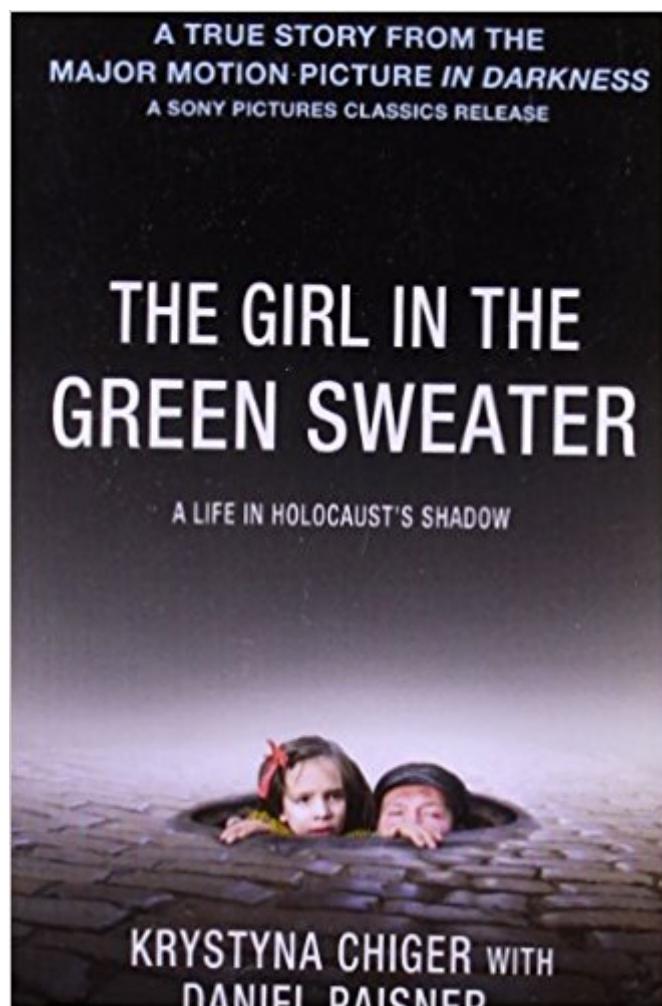


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The Girl In The Green Sweater: A Life In Holocaust's Shadow



Synopsis

True story from the major motion picture "In Darkness," official 2012 Academy Award nominee for Best Foreign Language Film. In 1943, with Lvov's 150,000 Jews having been exiled, killed, or forced into ghettos and facing extermination, a group of Polish Jews daringly sought refuge in the city's sewer system. The last surviving member this group, Krystyna Chiger, shares one of the most intimate, harrowing and ultimately triumphant tales of survival to emerge from the Holocaust. Originally published as The Girl in the Green Sweater, In Darkness is Chiger's harrowing first-person account of the fourteen months she spent with her family in the fetid, underground sewers of Lvov. In Darkness is also the story of Leopold Socha, the group's unlikely savior. A Polish Catholic and former thief, Socha risked his life to help Chiger's underground family survive, bringing them food, medicine, and supplies. A moving memoir of a desperate escape and life under unimaginable circumstances, In Darkness is ultimately a tale of intimate survival, friendship, and redemption.

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Customer Reviews

In this puissant memoir, Holocaust survivor Chiger and co-author Paisner detail Chiger's early years, largely spent hiding from Nazi and Ukrainian persecution. Told from a precocious child's point of view, Chiger chronicles long, dark hours spent in silence with her younger brother, Pawel, in makeshift bunkers and behind false walls while their parents worked menial jobs for meager rations. Chiger's seven-year-old cypher possesses a self-awareness that springs from her inner and outer turmoil, capturing well the despair and terror of a life in hiding. After the Chigers are forced into the

underground sewer system, with a collection of strangers, by the Lvov ghetto liquidation in May 1943, the family spends fourteen months in the most unsanitary conditions imaginable, sharing quarters with rats and human waste. Amid the sick and starving, young Chiger clings to hope through make believe games, trust in her parents, and the Catholic sewer worker who provides their only access to the outside world. With a powerful story and a keen voice, Chiger's Holocaust survivor's tale is a worthy and memorable addition to the canon. Photos. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Adult/High School •Four-year-old Chiger thought of herself as a princess in her family's grand home in Lvov, Poland, in 1939. But things quickly changed as the Germans took all their belongings, their business, and their house, and moved them into one room in the ghetto. Finally, survival meant hiding for 14 months in the dark, slimy, airless sewers under the city. Leopold Socha, a sewer inspector, brought the family and 17 other people food, supplies, and news of the outside world, saving them and, he hoped, his soul as well. Although the survivors paid him, he continued to help them long after their money had run out. To keep warm, Chiger wore a green sweater knitted lovingly for her by her grandmother. The garment is now on display in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, along with her appalling story. The author writes with a compelling style that imparts the horrors of the sewer, the cruelty of the Gestapo, and the Russian "liberation." From her grand home to the sewers of Lvov, Chiger's exceptional story of a small Jewish girl stands out among the many Holocaust survival narratives as one that will touch the hearts of teens and adults alike and bring home the horrors of this very dark period in history. Use it to personalize the study of the Holocaust in world history, social justice, or psychology class. •Ellen Bell, Amador Valley High School, Pleasanton, CA Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

As I have been researching the Holocaust, I saw "The Girl In the Green Sweater" had just been released. I believe that was in 2008. Since I had other survivor stories to read, I put off the purchase of this book until recently. Finally, I could wait no longer. The cover of the book has been calling out to me ever since I first saw the title and cover of the book. What an incredible read of history about the Holocaust years. With each Holocaust survivor story I have read, I gain invaluable wisdom, lessons, and more insight for the will to live. I learn that no matter insurmountable odds against the

Jewish people, there were those who conquered and overcame those odds. I also continue to learn about the heroes in the Jewish people's lives who risked everything to save and preserve them. This story is really a story within a story. One component of this story reveals the character one of the heroes, Leopold Socha. His continued street smarts and ingenuity was instrumental to keeping his Jewish family alive in underground world called the sewer. Socha's quick thinking along with his survival skills locked him into a protective mode over those that were under his care and psychologically began a redemptive lifestyle from his past that was jaded and full of unlawful actions. The second component is about the people he selected to rescue and begin a long journey to save, protect, and risk his own life. Ultimately, there will be 11 survivors. In those survivors, is one nuclear family. A family of four, the Chiger family, that made it through the Holocaust in tact and alive. This family of four would go on to become one of three nuclear families in their town to survive. Incredible odds against them. Yet, because of the actions of Socha and his team of sewer workers, this family survived. As a teacher, this story and other Holocaust stories have provided me with such rich teaching material about the human complexities. Those who choose to speak out. Those who choose to remain silent. Those who have compassion. Those who ridicule. Those who hate. Those who love. Those that feel a sense of entitlement. And those who continue to love through it all. In this story and others, I have witnessed through the words of the survivors the importance of creating a sense of normal despite such incredible chaos. Ignacy Chiger, a very educated and wise man, continued to teach his children while living in the sewers. Absolutely amazing. His desire to educate outweighed any obstacles he was living through, faced with, and having to overcome while simultaneously dealing with those obstacles. The book first gives the history of their area of Lvov, Poland. A place that is first Russian occupied before the German occupation. The reader will be given history of this land and how it affects the people living in it. Great information to understanding the history of this time period. Once the German occupation occur, there has to be quick thinking and planning in order to even have a chance at survivor. In planning, life in the sewer begins. Such a historical piece of writing and never a boring spot in the storyline. I highly encourage all to read. A life lesson in this story; "Where there's a will there's a way." A timely piece for today's culture that no matter what wrong has been done to you in your life, you can choice to take your life back without revenge.

Krystyna Chiger has written a moving memoir of her family's struggle to stay alive during the Holocaust. The Chigers enjoyed a relatively prosperous life in pre-war Lwow in Poland. Their fortunes turned when first the Soviets occupied the city and then the Nazis. The Chigers, like all of

Lwow's Jews, were forced into the ghetto where they awaited certain death. Krystyna's father joined other Jews in burrowing down into the city's sewers where they were met by Leopold Socha, a Polish sewer worker who promised to help them for a price. When the Nazis liquidated the ghetto in 1943, the Chigers and other Jews escaped into the sewer. They spent the following fourteen months underground in the filthy, wet, rat-infested sewer. Krystyna's father served as the ad hoc leader of the Jewish group and played a major role in their survival. Socha faithfully provided them food and supplies, even purchasing them with his own money after the Jews' funds ran out. The group gained their (relative) freedom when the Soviets "liberated" the city in 1944. I enjoyed reading this book immensely. It presents the same events as Agnieszka Holland's film, "In Darkness" (2011) (see my review), but Krystyna Chiger provides many, many details of the group's underground struggle which could not possibly have been included in the movie. If you must choose between the book or film, choose the book.

This is a story of a family and several others who survived under the most adverse conditions one can imagine. I am sure, none of us can imagine living in a sewer for all those months. Even if you think you can, you can't. Not only the courage, but the mental stability to keep going and caring for one another. A true testament to the spirit of surviving and the decency of the men who risked all to keep them alive. I cannot imagine the psyche of the two children who had little to pull them through these dark hours in the way adults can live in their heads from memories for a period of time. Well written and spellbinding.

I especially appreciate non-fiction stories of survivors of the holocaust. This would be an appropriate read for anyone from middle school age on up. It invokes both disgust for how the German and Polish people could treat people and hope in that one or two people were willing to do so much to help ensure the survival of others.

How to review this book without telling the true story of it??? As with other Holocaust books, so much of it is hard to read and understand.....(1) How anyone could do this to other human beings. (2) How a person could live through something like this, living in the sewers. (3) One wonders what we would do in the same situation. Most of all we want to be sure nothing like this ever happens again and we want to never forget the girl in the green sweater. This is not fiction. They both lived and this is their story. I have read many holocaust books but none like this and I feel it is a must read. I feel it is also good for middle and/or high school students to read.

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