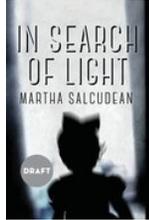

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History
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In Search of Light

Martha Salcudean

Martha Salcudean grows up in the small village of Chiochi? Romania, blissfully unaware of the fascist and antisemitic Iron Guard regime, and she quickly adapts to the abrupt change in her life when the town she lives in comes under the control of Hungary in 1940. But her childhood is soon marred by more political upheavals, and her parents cannot shelter her from the danger that looms for all Jews when Germany occupies Hungary in the spring of 1944. Forced into ghettos, Martha experiences such cruelty and hatred that at ten years old, she no longer feels like a child. Then Martha's fate changes in an instant with one split-second decision her father makes to board a different train ? instead of going to Auschwitz she becomes one of those destined to be saved by Rudolf Kasztner, a man riskily negotiating with the Nazis. Although Martha and her parents are soon incarcerated in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, their status is somewhat protected, and their suffering and trauma ends when they are eventually sent to refuge in Switzerland. After the war, Martha and her parents return to Romania, but when the communist dictatorship takes hold, Martha again finds herself living in fear and unable to control her own life, and she is determined to escape with her new family to freedom.

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A Tapestry of Survival

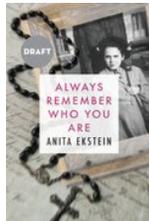
Leslie Mezei, Annie Wasserman Mezei, Miriam Schwarz, Magda Schwarz (Miriam)

A happy-go-lucky boy, Leslie Mezei attends the local high school and plays in the parks and forests surrounding his town of Gödöll?, Hungary, until the spring of 1944, when Nazi tanks roll through its dusty streets and change his life forever. Leslie and his family flee to Budapest to avoid deportation, but Leslie's father is immediately taken by the Nazis. With one of his brothers already in a forced labour battalion and a sister deported to a concentration camp, Leslie and his remaining family move from place to place, seeking refuge and only just escaping capture a number of times. Finally, they find safety posing as non-Jewish refugees until the Soviets liberate Budapest in January 1945. Leslie and all of his siblings joyfully reunite and eventually make their way to pre-state Israel and Canada, where they rebuild their lives. In Montreal, Leslie meets his wife, Annie, who has a survival story of her own. In Tapestry of Survival the voices of Leslie, his sisters and Annie are woven together into a larger tale of courage, resilience and the search for healing.

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Always Remember Who You Are

Anita Ekstein

When the Nazis invade eastern Poland in 1941, young Anita Ekstein discovers that being Jewish is dangerous, and her days are suddenly filled with fear. Her parents no longer have time to dote on her and instead are occupied with trying to save her life. In 1942, when Anita is only eight years old, her mother is taken from the Skole ghetto by the Nazis. Devastated, her father immediately enlists the help of a Catholic man, Josef Matusiewicz, who courageously smuggles Anita out of the ghetto and gives her shelter. Anita must do whatever it takes to survive ? be quiet, stay in the house ? and become a Catholic. When her hiding place is discovered, Anita narrowly escapes and is concealed in a cramped, dusty wardrobe for weeks on end. Next taken in by a priest and his abusive and antisemitic housekeeper, Anita has only her prayers and her faith to give her hope. As an orphan after the war, Anita struggles with her identity. She is afraid of being Jewish and clings to her new faith, but ultimately, she embraces her father's last words to Always Remember Who You Are.