

Passages

Reading Level 6



Title: After the War

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Sample From The Book

Father moved us to Uncle Moishe's house after the entire Jewish section of Kurov was destroyed by Nazi bombs in September 1939. But we were there for only a short time. Soon we were forced into a ghetto, a small run-down section of Ostroviec with all the other Jews of the area. That's when the roundups began.

When we lived in the ghetto Hannah often begged me to tell them stories at night. But I couldn't think of anything scarier than real life anymore.

Especially after the day most of the Jews were herded into the town square and shot. Father hid us under the floorboards of the house we were staying in. Others had escaped somehow, too. Those of us who lived were put to work in factories. Until we too were taken away.

Smoke endlessly seared the sky overhead. Mother and Hannah were marched off. Perhaps it was their ashes that fell on me later in the day, as the oven and crematoria of Auschwitz blazed and burned.

I hate these memories, they jump at me just as a ghost in a graveyard would leap out at you from behind a gravestone, when you least expect it.



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