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“With a strong voice, Rywka recounts an experience of illness, cold, and hunger—always hunger. Remarkably, she still finds joy in hard work, her faith, and her diary. VERDICT An incredible addition to Holocaust literature. The historical essays are informative and absorbing to a general audience.”

- *Library Journal*

“It is well-known that many diaries were written during the Holocaust. Most, like their authors, were lost. Only a few, like Lipszyc's, survived. Her ultimate fate may be unknown, but her journal of torment is a testament to the survival of the human spirit in the face of evil.”

- *Kirkus Reviews*

Rywka's Diary

The Writings of a Jewish Girl from the Lodz Ghetto

Edited By

Dr. Anita Friedman

In 1945, a Red Army doctor found a diary of a teenage girl in the ruins of Auschwitz, after its liberation, and took it back with her to the Soviet Union. It remained in her private possession for more than seventy years until her granddaughter discovered it after her death. **RYWKA'S DIARY: *The Writings of a Jewish Girl from the Lodz Ghetto*** (Harper/HarperCollins Publishers, \$35.00; Hardcover; ISBN 13: 9780062389688; on-sale: September 15, 2015) is that astonishing historical document and a moving tribute to the many ordinary people whose lives were forever altered by the Holocaust.

Writing in a school notebook between October 1943 and April 1944, Rwyka Lipszyc detailed the brutal conditions that Jews in the Lodz ghetto, the second largest in Poland, endured under the Nazis: poverty, hunger and malnutrition, religious oppression, and, in Rwyka's case, the death of her parents and siblings. The diary is also a moving coming-of-age story, in which a young woman expresses her curiosity about the world and her place in it and reflects on her relationship with God—a remarkable affirmation of her commitment to Judaism and her faith in humanity.

The diary was brought to the Holocaust Center of Jewish Family and Children's Services (JFCS), a non-profit based in San Francisco, where it was carefully translated and published in a limited edition complete with photographs, news clippings, maps, and commentary from Holocaust scholars and the girl's surviving relatives. **Dr. Anita Friedman**, the executive director of JFCS, one of the largest and oldest family service institutions in the United States, was instrumental in bringing this work to our attention. As a child of Holocaust survivors, Dr. Friedman has a special interest in Holocaust education and commemoration and is a frequent lecturer, educator and speaker on the subject. She also lectures extensively on issues of philanthropy, education, mental health and social services, and innovative business models for the provision of nonprofit services.

This illuminating edition of **RYWKA'S DIARY** will be an extraordinary addition to the history of the Holocaust and World War II.

ABOUT ANITA FRIEDMAN:

Dr. Anita Friedman has a long and distinguished record of public service as both a professional and as a volunteer leader. As a child of Holocaust survivors, she has a special interest in Holocaust education and commemoration and is a frequent lecturer, educator, and speaker on the subject. She also lectures extensively on issues of philanthropy, education, mental health, and social services, and innovative business models for the provision of nonprofit services. She is the editor of the book **RYWKA'S DIARY: *The Writings of a Jewish Girl from the Lodz Ghetto*** (Harper, on-sale: September 15, 2015). Professionally, Dr. Friedman leads Jewish Family and Children's Services (JFCS) of San Francisco, one of the largest and oldest family service institutions in the United States. For more on the work she does, visit: <http://www.jfcs.org/>

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The Writings of a Jewish Girl from the Lodz Ghetto

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