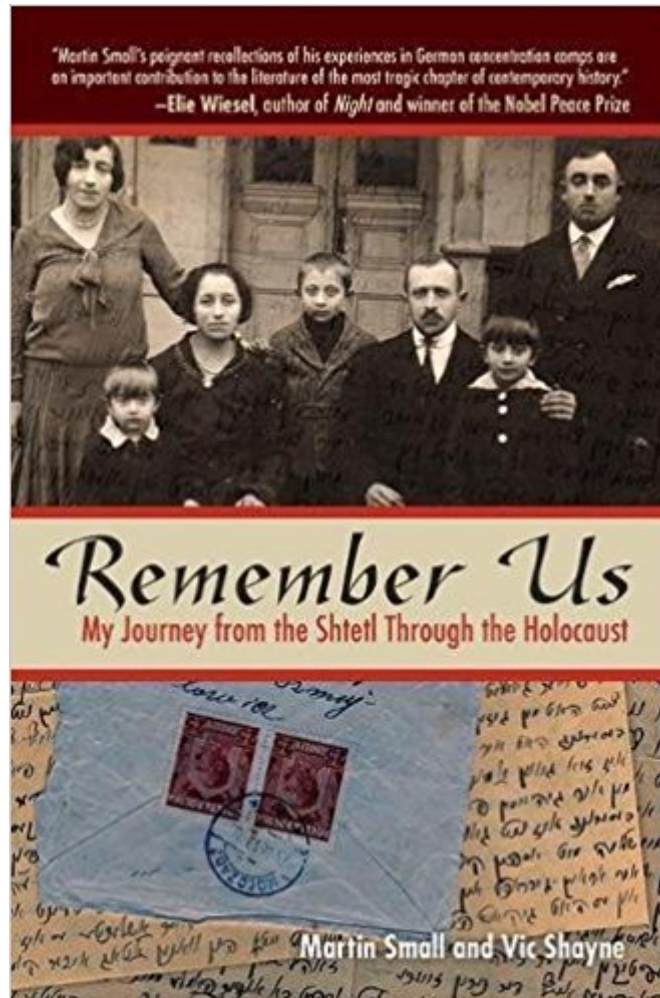




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Remember Us: My Journey From The Shtetl Through The Holocaust



Synopsis

Remember Us is a look back at the lost world of the shtetl: a wise Zayde offering prophetic and profound words to his grandson, the rich experience of Shabbos, and the treasure of a loving family. All this is torn apart with the arrival of the Holocaust, beginning a crucible fraught with twists and turns so unpredictable and surprising that they defy any attempt to find reason within them. From work camps to the partisans of the Nowogrudek forests, from the Mauthausen concentration camp to life as a displaced person in Italy, and from fighting the Egyptian army in a tiny Israeli kibbutz in 1948 to starting a new life in a new world in New York, this book encompasses the mythical hero's journey in very real historical events. Through the eyes of ninety-one-year-old Holocaust survivor Martin Small, we learn that these priceless memories that are too painful to remember are also too painful to forget.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

[T]his terse immediate memoir of a Polish Jew is a gripping read, with the haunting personal detail of what Small witnessed and what he escaped....the narrative as a whole, based on talks to audiences across the country and to coauthor Shayne before Small's recent death at age 91, is unforgettable, particularly the account of meeting with the American who saved Small in Mauthausen, when he weighed less than 70 pounds.--Hazel Rochma

Vic Shayne has been a professional writer for more than thirty years, having published several books, hundreds of articles, and several screenplays. An avid researcher of the Holocaust period,

Vic Shayne has interviewed survivors, family members, and WWII veterans to bring to life *Remember Us*, the true story of survivor Martin Small. Martin Small, born in 1916 as Mordechai Shmulevich Small, under the tutelage of his rabbinical grandfather, became a Yeshiva scholar. But when the Germans invaded Poland, his idyllic life came to an end. His family was buried alive by Polish neighbors, and Martin was taken prisoner along with a friend and thrown into a work camp. Many years after the war, Small befriended a New York policeman who turned out to be the soldier who saved him from death in the Mauthausen concentration camp.

This was a very informative and moving account of one Jewish man's life before, during and after the holocaust. The story begins describing life in Poland, traditions and observances of daily life. I very much enjoyed the description of weekly Sabbath observance and the deep lessons of faith and life the author learned from his father and grandfather - very moving. He describes the horrors of the holocaust without need for graphics which brought tears to my eyes. The book also caused self reflection on life, family, faith, friendship and community. I listened to this book but was very glad that I also had the kindle as there were passages that I went back to and highlighted for future reference. The reader took a chapter or two to get used to, but his voice fit the story perfectly. The only reason I gave this book a 4 star instead of a 5 star rating is because it does move slowly at times, however it is the pace of a life and once I got used to that I was totally engaged and constantly listening to hear what would happen next. I was sorry when the book ended as I felt like someone I knew and wanted to get to know more had moved away. I recommend this book highly. One of the best I have read on the holocaust.

I've read many stories of the horrors of WW11 and the terrors that people endured in the camps but this one is different in that it paints a picture of life before these terrible things began and what happened to a survivor after liberation. I was born in the USA in 1941 so this happened during my lifetime. It is unimaginable what these poor innocent people went through. I can understand how Martin cannot forget but also cannot let himself forget. I want to believe this can never happen again but unfortunately in parts of the world it still happens. Are the children in school now being taught about the history of WW11? They certainly should be.

This is an excellent read. Martin Small's personal journey focuses on his time in a Polish shtetl before the holocaust, and his time after the holocaust in Italy, Israel and the US. It is extremely impactful, and documents how the lives of survivors were prior to the holocaust, and how their lives

after the holocaust were affected by their horrendous experiences.

Excellent book. It presents the whole picture of Martin Small's life from the shetl' to the concentration camps, to his life afterward. It covers the holocaust after the holocaust as tens of thousand of displaced Jews roamed Europe looking for family members or even thief old homes. It covers what happens to Martin as he lives a full ninety years and ends up in America. I have read many books n the holocaust but never one that told the whole picture of life after the holocaust. Highly recommend this book.

This story takes place in three acts of Martin Small's life. The first part is a glimpse into life in a Shtetl on the Polish/Russian border. I could feel the warmth of community and family in the author's words. I had a better sense than I have ever received before of Jewish life in that place and time. I appreciated not getting the minute details of life in a concentration camp. I have seen the pictures and read of the horrors. Re-hashing them again was not necessary. Life after the war was also an eye opener as I had no idea it took so long to get a visa. What a full and interesting life Martin lived. This book is worth every minute you spend on it. Very educational.

Vic shares with us a life story that is hard to imagine. Most of us have read about the horrors of the Holocaust many times but his story goes beyond just a historical view and takes us inside as a person. He also shares his life after he is freed and how his life experiences shaped his views of Israel and the world. Although the book was slow to draw me in, I could not put it down once I became part of his family and life.

This is the best book I've ever read about this era. This is something that people should always remember. However, this man put it in a perspective that will make me never forget!! Very well written. I loved how he remembered every single member of his family. They were very loved, and I'm positive that without a doubt they knew that. I hope he was able to see his family on the other side. God bless you all.

The beginning of the book was not as easy to read as it could have been for a non Jew. Terms were used which applied to Jewish matters and a non Jew would have no understanding. A translation or explanation would have been nice. But it was a deeply moving and though provoking book. It is hard to imagine what went on during WWII but has given me a greater understanding. Anyone with any

interest in WWII should read this book to get a first hand understanding.

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