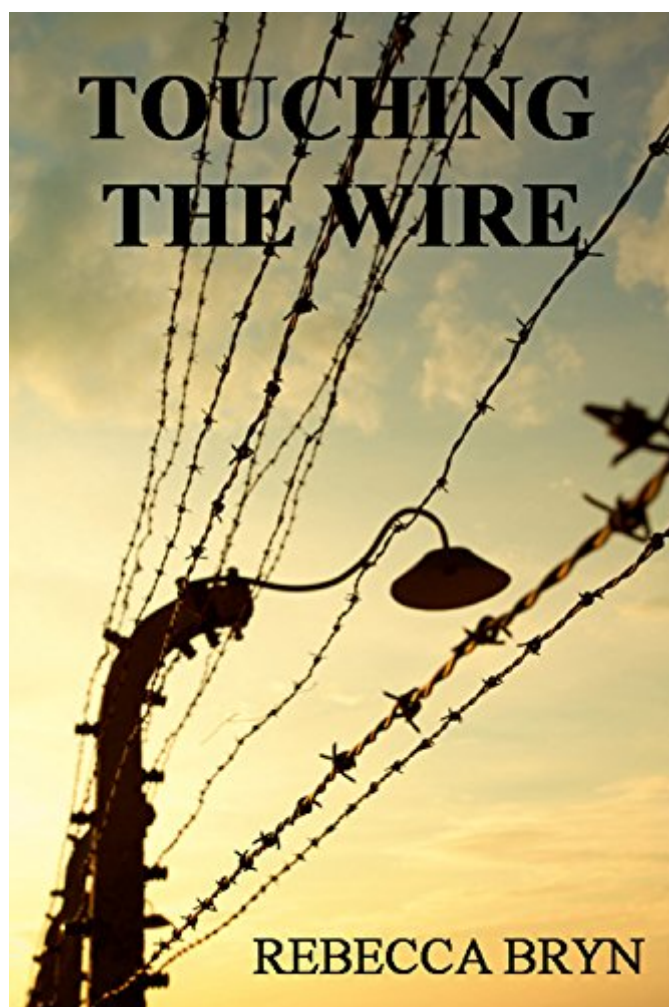


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**TOUCHING THE WIRE:
Auschwitz:1944 A Jewish Nurse
Steps From A Cattle Wagon Into The
Heart Of A Young Doctor, But Can He
Save Her? 70yrs Later, His
Granddaughter Tries To Keep The
Promise He Made.**





Synopsis

"He had no way to tell her he had given her life: no right to tell her to abandon hope." A story of every man and woman interred in Nazi death camps throughout the Second World War, this novel is based on real events. Part One - In the Shadow of the Wolf In a death camp in 1940s Poland, a young doctor and one of his nurses struggle to save lives and relieve the suffering of hundreds of women. As their relationship blossoms, amid the death and deprivation, they join the camp resistance and, despite the danger of betrayal, he steals damning evidence of war-crimes. Afraid of repercussions, and for the sake of his post-war family, he hides the evidence but hard truths and terrible choices haunt him, as does an unkept promise to his lost love. Part Two - " Though the Heavens should Fall In present-day England, his granddaughter seeks to answer the questions posed by her grandfather's enigmatic carving. Her own relationship in tatters, she meets a modern historian who, intrigued by the carving, agrees to help her discover its purpose. As her grandfather's past seeps into the present, she betrays the man she loves and is forced to confront her own guilt in order to be able to forgive the unforgivable and keep her grandfather's promise. Excerpt: "A young woman bent to retrieve her possessions. An SS officer strode past. 'Leave. Luggage afterwards.' She stood wide-eyed like a startled deer, one arm cradling a baby. Beside her an elderly woman clutched a battered suitcase. The girl's eyes darted from soldier to painted signboard and back. 'What are we doing here, grandmother? Why have they brought us here?' The wind teased at her cheerful red shawl, revealing and lifting long black hair. She straightened and attempted a smile. 'It'll be all right, Grandmother. God has protected us on our journey.' Voices rasped, whips cracked, dogs barked... An SS officer pushed towards a woman of about fifty. 'How old?' She didn't respond so the officer shouted. He edged closer. As a doctor he held a privileged position, but he'd also discovered he had a gift for languages. He translated the German to stilted Hungarian, adding quietly. 'Say you're under forty-five. Say you are well. Stand here with the younger women.' He moved from woman to woman, intercepting those he could. 'Say you are well. Say your daughter is sixteen. Say you can work or have a skill. Say you aren't pregnant.' Miriam's eyes glistened. 'May He rescue us from every foe.' She touched her grandmother's cheek, a gentle lingering movement, and placed a tender kiss on her baby's forehead. She moved to stand where he pointed. Miriam's eyes met his. He had no way to tell her he had given her life: no right to tell her to abandon hope. 'Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.' " Words readers have used to describe this story - 'astonishing - compelling - relentlessly engaging - important - complex and brilliant.' Readers' feedback, via reviews, is hugely appreciated.

Book Information

File Size: 1540 KB

Print Length: 324 pages

Publisher: Rebecca Bryn (November 1, 2014)

Publication Date: November 1, 2014

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00MX5TRPY

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #2,352 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #8 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Historical > Jewish #27 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense #288 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Suspense

Customer Reviews

This is a book with so many different layers it seems impossible to include them all in a review and do them all justice. It is a deeply touching, deeply moving story that is difficult to read at times, but gripping, mercilessly engaging, and you simply cannot put it down. The setting and the historical background could be a double-edged sword in this case, since there have been so many works set in the time of World War II, but Bryn managed to create a masterpiece based on the eternal struggles of the human soul, the decisions, the burdens, and the memories that are forever in charge. I liked the structure of the book, and the fact that the intertwining of the past and the present felt natural, which is one of the things that prove Bryn is an outstanding author. But the technical elements of a book are never what convinces me that what I'm reading is a great work - it is the stories in the story that I want to feel, and when an author manages to combine so many intricately described and deeply disturbing events that are stories themselves into the main story, I am convinced I have chosen well. *Touching the Wire* challenges you to look deeper and think about questions that cannot be answered simply (if at all), which makes it a difficult book to read at times, but then again, the wire is all around us and only those who dared to touch it can claim to have lived.

This is without doubt one of the best fictional tales of this type I've read. One of the main characters is brought to the reader in the modern day, complete with the nightmares of his past experiences in war-torn Germany. His demons are not confined to the night, so the narrative opens his mental sores to expose a myriad of deep secrets. His conscious mind is torn by day and night by vivid memories. I've read several factual accounts of the history which the author has used for the core of her story. Rebecca has included activities of not only Nazi soldiers, but also the prisoners themselves and the vile activities of one of the most hated mass-murderers of modern times; Dr Josef Mengele. I served in the modern Germany for many years and know the deep shame and regret that the more recent generations of German people feel for the actions of some of their forefathers. When you've walked around the mass graves of Bergen-Belsen and visited the Jewish History Museum of Berlin, or Amsterdam, you begin to sense the true horror of what happened to so many innocent people. They suffered and died needlessly. This story unwinds in two parts. The first half of the story takes us back and forward from present day to the horror. The constant rebounding enables us to see the atrocities through the eyes of a prisoner, who is also a doctor. It is he who must deal with his demons. The second part of the story is played out as a mystery/suspense which unfolds like the petals of a rose, one layer after another to a blossoming end. The dialogue is worked with an occasional translation, but this doesn't affect the entertainment for the reader. Many scenes are of a graphic nature, so be prepared to be shocked. The imagery, like the dialogue is done extremely well. I congratulate Rebecca on not only her writing and storytelling prowess, but also her outstanding research.

Where to begin? This was an amazing story. Immediately, I fell into the rhythm of the tale, and lost track of all time. Before long, I found myself toward the final pages, wishing it wouldn't end. That's the ONLY disappointing thing about this book. The author would have held my attention for a thousand more pages. Thank you, Rebecca Bryn for a spectacular story. It touched, moved, and delighted me, and in today's day and age, that's not an easy task. Now, please write more! You have a fan for life.

I can't remember the last time a book touched me like this one. I've always been fascinated by the holocaust and read a lot of books with the goal of trying to see what makes a human being do the kinds of things the SS did. What makes someone so evil? Fear. That's basically what this book boils down to. It was my first time reading one about someone from the other side of the war, an SS

doctor. He is not evil. In fact, he does everything he thinks he can to save those under his watch. But his fear kept him from doing more. Walt went through a lot during his time working at aushwitz. He was tasked with doctoring many who were destined to die anyway. I think the book called it one of Germany's great contradictions. Years, later his granddaughter is on a quest to learn the truth of his past using clues he has left and memories of those he once loved. What she discovers will change her entire world and make her question everything she knows about the man she so revered. The story features many flashback that create a heartbreaking look into life in the camp. It's hard to read but you can't tear your eyes away. The characters have such an astounding resilience. Even the SS doctor is endearing and you finding yourself rooting for him despite your desire to hate him. In these pages you fall in love and then find yourself broken again and again. I won't soon forget this book. The story is sure to haunt me.

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