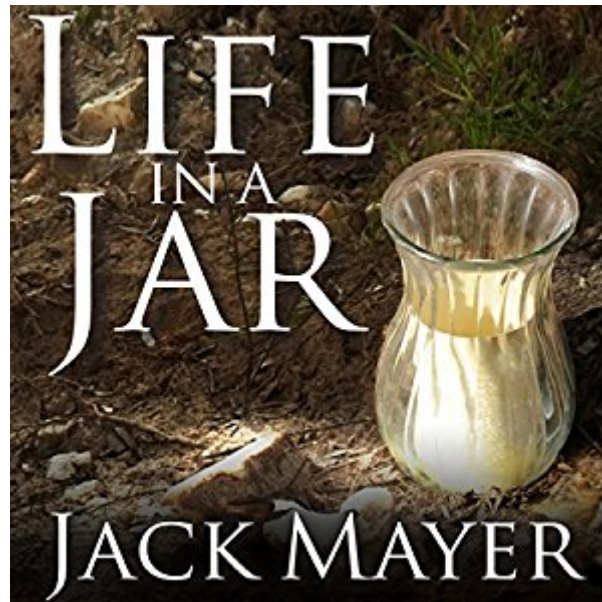




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Life In A Jar



Synopsis

During World War II, Irena Sendler, a Polish Catholic social worker, organized a rescue network of fellow social workers to save 2,500 Jewish children from certain death in the Warsaw ghetto. Incredibly, after the war her heroism, like that of many others, was suppressed by communist Poland and remained virtually unknown for 60 years. Unknown, that is, until three high school girls from an economically depressed, rural school district in southeast Kansas stumbled upon a tantalizing reference to Sendler's rescues, which they fashioned into a history project, a play they called Life in a Jar. Their innocent drama was first seen in Kansas, then the Midwest, then New York, Los Angeles, Montreal and finally Poland, where they elevated Irena Sendler to a national hero, championing her legacy of tolerance and respect for all people. Life in a Jar: The Irena Sendler Project is a Holocaust history and more. It is the inspirational story of Protestant students from Kansas, each called in her own complex way to the history of a Catholic woman who knocked on Jewish doors in the Warsaw ghetto and, in Sendler's own words, "tried to talk the mothers out of their children".

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This was an extraordinary moving story of the Holocaust in Poland, it's tragedies, it's heroes, and a group of teenagers who got the story out about one very special person, who lived to tell them about it. These stories should continue to be told so that this generation and the future generations never forget history...in hopes of never repeating it.

This story needs to be told to all junior high and senior High school students. The Author tells the story with much emotion and feeling, describing the characters. I can't believe it is not available in print either at my library, (only on Kindle) or Barnes and Noble. A new edition needs to be released. Definitely a 5-star start rating. My Book Club also loved it., so much discussion.

Loved the story. Irena was persistent and tenacious rescuing and keeping track of the children. The harrowing conditions of the retrieval of the kids made this a real page turner. Credit also needs to go to the teacher who suggested and assisted the students in the US in trying to find out info on Irene and then using that information to make a lasting difference. This was an excellent book. Worthy of re-reading.

I found this book very compelling. At first, I thought: "Oh no, another Holocaust story, I have read so many, do I really need to read another ?" Apparently the answer is "Yes". Each one that I read I learn things that I did not know before about how the Holocaust effected persons lives individually and society as a whole. This time, I learned more about how when people work together for good, they really can make a difference. This book demonsrates that concept both in the time frame of the Holocaust itself and in current times as these 3 high school age girls work together to bring Irene's real life story to light so that her secretive and dangerous work to save the lives of young Jewish children from the Warsaw ghetto will not be forgotten in modern times. At the same time, each of them finds healing for the trials they are facing in their own personal lives through this History project. I found myself drawn to these characters and needing to be reminded that this is a true story of compassion and courage during a time great of darkness in the History of our world.

This is a must read! It's a very powerful read based upon a true story. It highlights what a difference people can make in difficult times. It also highlights the power of students and educators to impact lives through a school project. It's not a comfortable read but worth every minute.

Amazing what simple human compassion can inspire and accomplish; Irena Sendler and her vast network of kindred souls managed to rescue 2500 children from certain death in the Warsaw ghetto. Her remarkable story is discovered by three high school girls from Kansas working on a project for National History Day. Jack Mayer gives the reader a most touching account of true selflessness despite horrific conditions and risk of death. " Life in a Jar" should be included on every high school

mandatory reading list. Don't miss this extraordinary story !

I'll make this short and sweet. First I would absolutely recommend this book. Irena's story is absolutely gripping. I couldn't put it down when I got to her actual story. The only reason I give this book 4 stars is that I felt the narrative about the 3 girls who rediscovered Irena was both too long and uninteresting. Give me more Irena! While I did enjoy knowing how this story was discovered, I often felt that what was said about the students could have been much shorter. Irena's story though should be known by all.

A significant amount of this book focuses on a high school history project. Each of the girls have personal challenges and an incredible teacher had an incredible vision to engage young students in relevant research and presentation of historical figures. I found myself wanting to know more and more about Ms. Sendler and less about the mechanics of the plays and travels of the presentations. Every aspect of Ms. Sendler's work was compelling, so it was disappointing to return to the project effort. I greatly respect and appreciate Ms. Sendler's selfless gift to so many people and our world, Mr. C's leadership and support of this effort, and the girls' who worked tirelessly despite adversity to share the story and commit to a great cause. Thank you!

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