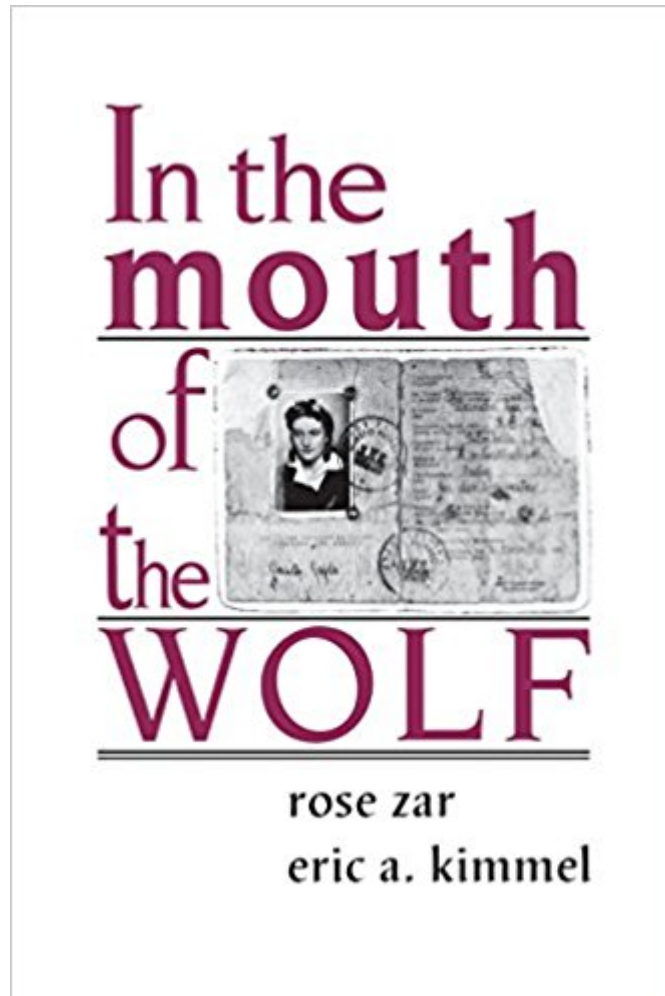




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In The Mouth Of The Wolf



Synopsis

Rose Zar was 19 years old when the Nazis invaded her native Poland. Her father urged her to save herself by hiding "in the mouth of the wolf" or within the enemy itself. She managed to obtain false papers, secretly changing her identity and surviving the Holocaust as maid and nanny for a Nazi SS colonel.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Mrs. Zar was my neighbor growing up. While I knew she and her husband had lived through the holocaust, the adventurous life described is almost beyond imagining. Worth a re-read.

We had a copy of this book, signed by the author, which my kids lost. (Grrrr.) We liked it enough to buy it again, even though we have all already read it.

Inspiring!

I thoroughly enjoyed the book. Rose Zar was a very courageous woman who beat the Nazis at their own game. She was very shrewd and did what she had to do to survive.

Rose Zar's memoir *In the Mouth of the Wolf* offers a very intense, personal account of a young girl's experience as a Jewish person during the Holocaust. Unlike many memoirs, Rose, or Ruzska, details more than just hiding from German authority. She attempts and succeeds at "passing" as a

Polish gentile. Because Ruzska "passes," succeeds, and survives to tell her story, it makes her memoir both unique and enthralling. I read the story of Ruzska in less than two days. Being around the same age as her, I found the memoir touching and obviously disturbing. Ruzska had to abandon her childhood, her family, and her home in an Austrian ghetto in order to survive the brutal persecution of the Jewish population. Zar does an amazing job of recapturing the moment, making the reader feel as though she is Ruzska, facing the constant suspicion of Germans, fighting to free her father and friends from the ghetto, and surviving only on her own sense of willpower and perseverance. Though Ruzska is able to survive by passing as a Pole, she is forced to wear a mask- she must change her name, alter her behavior, and directly endure the hatred of the Jewish. Though she is fortunate to have survived, she also leaves the reader understanding the impact of this heart-wrenching, life-changing experience of living through the period of the Nazi regime.

The author might best be described as spunky -- going from a sheltered, conservative Jewish childhood to the nitty-gritty business of survival on false papers, looking blackmailers and Nazis and potential rapists in the eye, refusing to be intimidated and ready to defend herself with shouting or deceit or even boiling water if necessary. She goes into significant, interesting detail of the day-to-day business of hiding, the difficulties in finding a suitable job and place to live, etc. She was fortunate in having a "good" (that is, non-Jewish) appearance and being able to speak fluent Polish without an accent, but many times she questioned her decision to live among the Aryans and wanted to stay in the ghetto with her family and friends, even if that was significantly more dangerous. I do wish Zar had written more about her emotions during this time, and revealed some details of her prewar life. When the book starts, she's nineteen, the war is in full swing and she's about to leave the ghetto, and that's all we know. There's not much about her post-war life either; just one short chapter of the immediate days after liberation and then a two-page epilogue about her marriage and journey to the US. I would like to know if she stayed in touch with the SS officer's wife who had been so kind to her, and their child, whose nanny she was, whom she had great affection for. "In the Mouth of the Wolf" doesn't especially stand out in the genre of Holocaust memoirs, but I can recommend it -- you could do a lot worse.

In *The Mouth of the Wolf* by Rose Zar is a suspenseful story about the life of a young lady who escapes from the Piotrk Ghetto during the holocaust to live under false papers as a Pole. Courageously, strongly and smartly she outwits anybody and anything that gets suspicious or tries to turn her in. Astonishingly, she lands a great job for a Jew on the run in Krakow as a nursemaid for

the S.S. Kommandant, his wife and their newborn. She very often remembers the things that her father told her about his life. For instance, the safest place is In the Mouth of the Wolf. Working for a Kommandant in the SS Army put her directly in danger but this is why most people would not even consider the fact that she was Jewish. She constantly craves companionship and friendship but she realizes that she cannot trust anyone and although she wants to talk with and be friends with fellow Jews on the run she again remembers what her father said and that a single Jew is less noticeable than two or more Jews. She and her brother were luckier than many Jews because they did not look Jewish and therefore it was much easier for her to pass as Polish. Her boyfriend and good friend were not so fortunate and they had to stay behind in the Ghetto. She goes back to see her father and is surprised by how much he has aged during her short time away from home. Her relationships with the people she meets and runs into along her journey made this book a great read from beginning to end. In the Mouth of the Wolf was a great read and by far my most favorites. Some of the things Rose Zar explains during the course of the book almost make you feel like you are there and make you realize really how much of a JOB it was to get away and live through the Holocaust. This book was a very remarkable read. It was very descriptive and most times always filled with action. I would recommend this book to young adults because it is not the hardest book to read but has its challenges and keeps you interested throughout the whole book.

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