



Upon the Head of the Goat: A Childhood in Hungary 1939-1944

Aranka Siegal

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This story is told against the background of the impending Holocaust, this is Aranka Siegal's recollection of her childhood in the years from the time she first heard Hitler's name to the day she and her family were moved from the ghetto in their home town of Beregszasz to board the cattle trucks for Auschwitz. Upon the Head of the Goat is a story of three generations of women in the towns of the eastern Carpathians and villages of the Ukraine as the events of World War II engulfed them. From the courageous example of her mother, Aranka Siegal (as 'Piri Davidowitz') acquired those values which enabled her to survive. The young Piri was forbidden to attend local school; a curfew was imposed on all Jews and food was only available with ration coupons. Her sister and small nieve were deported; her own Hungarian-Christian friends turned against her. Forced to endure so much she matured fast, surreptitiously acting as a guide to refugees from neighbouring villages. But when the Germans occupied Beregszasz, she and the remaining members of her family were forced into the open barracks of the brick factory. In these grim circumstances, as she waited to be transported, Piri found herself attracted to a boy involved in the ghetto underground. Upon the Head of a Goat is intensely moving but never sentimental -- an unforgettable experience for all who read it.



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