



All Rivers Run to the Sea

Elie Wiesel

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In this first volume of his two-volume autobiography, Wiesel takes us from his childhood memories of a traditional and loving Jewish family in the Romanian village of Sighet through the horrors of Auschwitz and Buchenwald and the years of spiritual struggle, to his emergence as a witness for the Holocaust's martyrs and survivors and for the State of Israel, and as a spokesman for humanity. With 16 pages of black-and-white photographs.

"From the abyss of the death camps Wiesel has come as a messenger to mankind--not with a message of hate and revenge, but with one of brotherhood and atonement."

--From the citation for the 1986 Nobel Peace Prize

All Rivers Run to the Sea Details

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Author : Elie Wiesel

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From Reader Review All Rivers Run to the Sea for online ebook

Trudy says

After reading this book, I want to read his other books. I've read "Night" which was very good. This book is amazing. What an interesting life full of trials and opportunities. Truly a great person who took what God gave him (the good and the bad) and lived his life.

Cleo says

4.5 stars. An excellent biography!

Michelle Hopkins says

I disliked this book. There was too much self-absorbed, stream of consciousness, diary-quality prose...detailing apparently everything he ever read, everyone he ever spoke to, every trip he ever took, thought he thought and word he spoke. His telling shifts back and forth in time making it impossible to track events chronologically (or even his age at the time of events).

To me, this book lacked literary quality, although my opinion may be colored somewhat by the fact I read this after I read "My Promised Land," by Ari Shavit, which I thought was beautifully written.

If you are fascinated by Elie Wiesel already, you may like this book. Otherwise, it's doubtful.

Ian says

Elie Wiesel tells his life story from the time he was a little boy fascinated by the mysteries of Jewish religion in his small village of Sighet in Ruthenia to becoming a young journalist rebuilding his life in postwar Europe and bearing witness to the horrors and losses of Auschwitz.

The first half of the book is beautifully written, with prose that is as haunting as the author's dreams of the dead. Wiesel was surprised by his survival, and struggled a little to find a vocation, but did he ever find it in exploring the travesty of the Holocaust through writing.

I found the second half of the book was sometimes more of a continuous list of names of friends and acquaintances I couldn't keep up with. Nevertheless, reading it is so worthwhile just because Wiesel is one of the prime survivors of the Holocaust who unceasingly makes us examine what happened, and dare I say why it happened, to the Jewish people in humanity's darkest days.

Connor Day says

The book All Rivers Run to the Sea is Elie Wiesel's memoir of his life before and after the Holocaust as well

as his rise as a self-sufficient and independent character who had to look after himself. The book begins with a quick look into his childhood in Sighet and ends with his marriage to his wife Marion in Jerusalem. In regards to the book, Elie Wiesel only focusses lightly on his experiences during childhood and in Auschwitz-Birkenau. Though the book does focus on his life after his experience in Nazi concentration Camps, he still provides his thoughts of his parents, friends, and family in Sighet. Elie also provides grasping stories of his life which whisk you away while reading his memoir. However, it is a long and lengthy book and by no means is a light read. Also, it can take a while to get into the story which may be a bit of a struggle for some people, especially because not all events in the book are explained chronologically. However, the reward for reading this memoir focused on Elie Wiesel's life after liberation is truly spectacular. You will see his devotion to studying Judaism as well as his career as a journalist, his love of writing, and his travels to exotic places such as India and Brazil. The decision is up to you. If you are looking for a bit of a challenge to read or are interested in this topic then this is the book for you!

Bonnie Atkinson says

A quick perusal of reviews found either those who generally liked it and said nothing of substance to substantiate why or those who criticized it for its nonlinear narrative and depressive tone. I've found it (at the halfway point) delightful, fair-minded, informative, and while perhaps more philosophical than most readers might prefer, he was a philosopher, a Jewish mystic, and the telling reflects the mind so beautifully. I found the prose often lyrical, unwrapping the tender youth with clarity but a certain compassion for self that the wisest of us gain for our youthful selves. The tone was conversational, often confiding in such friendly manner, that we were drawn into his circle as much by our interest as his yearning. I found the structure entirely appropriate to the linear development of his mind, even if individual events were teased and broken into sections. As a historical primary source, it's absolutely priceless.

Well Wiesel says of the writing he considers in his youth: "Of course, I could write my memories of the camp, which I bore within me like a poison. Though I never spoke to anyone about this, it weighed upon me. I thought about it with apprehension day and night: the duty to testify, to offer depositions for history, to serve memory. What would man be without his capacity to remember? Memory is a passion no less powerful or persuasive than love. What does it mean to remember? It is to live in more than one world, to prevent the past from fading and to call upon the future to illuminate it. It is to revive fragments of existence, to rescue lost beings, to cast harsh light on faces and events, to drive back the sands that cover the surface of things, to combat oblivion and to reject death. All this I knew. And because I knew it, I told myself I should write."

What writer could remain unmoved by that?

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At completion I find myself truly sad that I'll not be picking it up again to hear the most utterly human voice I think I've ever conversed with. The book is in so many ways a conversation between one of the greatest thinkers of our time, someone who stood at the signposts of history and testified with humility and candor and courage, and the simple reader. I found it completely charming, reverentially committed to preserving people for history, equally poetic and incisive. How perfect that it began with his connection to his parents and siblings and ended with his connection to his wife and children - friends, experiences, careers, work, but always the aleph and beth - family.

I have a high tolerance for philosophy and mysticism so take my review for what it is. Having read the portrait of his soul by his own hand, however, I look forward to reading his fiction and rereading Night with much deeper understanding of his milieu at its writing. Truly, one of the greatest human beings I could imagine meeting and definitely one of the 5 people with whom I'd love to share an afternoon sitting outside at a cafe in Paris.

Wanda says

He has had a fascinating life...but how he goes on and on and on! It is sometimes difficult to follow him, because he is so wordy. His stories don't necessarily go in chronological order, either, so it is difficult to get a good idea of where in his life certain events fall.

However, this is the first time I have read an author who has written in such detail about his view of the Holocaust, particularly his questions about the rest of the world's silence for so long. I can relate to his anger towards God, as well. I was moved by his willingness to continue to celebrate the traditions of his faith, even while feeling very angry at God for allowing the extermination of his people. I was also impressed with his insistence that survivors tell their stories, so the world will not forget and cannot pretend with embarrassment that it never happened.

SheriC (PM) says

I found this memoir less compelling than *Night*, but still a chilling picture of the buildup to transport and the difficulties facing the survivors beyond the immediate aftermath of liberation.

Audiobook, performed by the author, who reads with such emotion that I was at times moved to tears.

“Wherever my life took me, a part of me would remain in that street in front of my empty house, awaiting the order to depart. I see my little sister. I see her with her rucksack, so cumbersome, so heavy. I see her and an immense tenderness sweeps over me. Never will her innocent smile fade from my soul, never will her glance cease to sear me. I tried to help her. She protested. Never will the sound of her voice leave my heart. She was thirsty, My little sister was thirsty. Her lips were parched, pearls of sweat formed on her clear forehead. “I can wait,” she said, smiling. My little sister wanted to be brave, and I wanted to die in her place. I seldom speak of her in my writing, for I dare not. My little sister with her sunbathed golden head is my secret.”

For the Twelve Tasks of the Festive Season book challenge, Task the Sixth: The Hanukkah (Let the dreidel choose a book for you: create a list of four books, and assign a dreidel symbol to each one (Nun = miracle; Gimel = great; He = happened; Shin = there, i.e. Israel). Google "spin the dreidel," and a dreidel comes up for you to spin. Give it a spin and read the book that the dreidel chooses!)

Leka says

La storia e le storie

Quando un ebreo non ha una risposta da dare, ha sempre almeno una storia da raccontare.

Steph says

He is the most inspirational, wise, compassionate man alive today. I can't count the number of times over the years that I've been down, depressed, or lost faith, and his voice resonates in my head. He didn't lose faith after having experienced the worst life has to offer. His words and ideas are pure and he conveys with a directness that transcends what isn't spoken. The book and his genius cannot be conveyed in modern day bumper sticker soundbites. They are words that web themselves into the fabric of my consciousness. Read both volumes to understand the scope of his influence.

Matt says

Nobel laureate. Thinker. Writer. Survivor. Teacher. Student.

This book is part memoir, part plea. He writes about his life and what he was feeling, in memoir fashion. He also pleads to humanity to be better to each other. It's also about his constant study and search to understand his faith. He doesn't search for answers, but rather for the questions themselves.

Early in the book, he talks about his experiences in Auschwitz and Buchenwald. One thing sticks in my mind. His emphasis that prisoners continued to practice their faith in the camp. They continued to study, pray, and maintain their faith no matter what adversity they faced.

Mr. Wiesel does not focus on his accomplishments or attainment of goals. If anything he focuses on his perceived moments of weakness, his perceived failures. I actually found this to be laborious at times. I admired him for his humility but I did want to know a little more about the positive impacts of his writings and his advocacy.

Interesting how his life flattened out as he got older, kind of like the rest of us. Like most people, he remembers with clarity the passions of his youth; his childhood, the love for his family and people and his pain at their loss. As he aged, his "work" became more complex, with more steps, and the time line starts to blur and blend. I don't mean to trivialize his work or his experiences. Nobody is immune from the passage of time. I'd think that Mr. Wiesel would agree.

Osborneinri says

I was fortunate enough to study under Professor Wiesel at Boston University. This memoir includes many of the great stories he told of his childhood and early adulthood as he was starting to become the man who one day won the Nobel Peace Prize. A great teacher and a better man.

Judy says

Elie Wiesel is one of my heroes. This book and the sequel tell his story during the Holocaust. There is a famous picture of the liberation of Bergen-Belson that shows him at age 16 on one of the camp bunks. His

memories of his little sister being taken to the gas chamber will tear your heart out. I treasure my autographed copy of Night. Truly deserved his Nobel Peace Prize.

Angie says

Wow. Incredible autobiography from his childhood through the 1960s of famous Holocaust survivor and author Elie Wiesel. It was a bit confusing here and there due to his inclusions of Jewish words, phrasing, and traditions- I found myself googling all sorts of experiences familiar with the Jewish tradition. I appreciate his candor regarding his love life, survivor experiences, journalist experiences, and authorship. I would recommend for folks to read 'Night' first, then read this.

Great Book Study says

My review:

Memoirs: All Rivers Run to the Sea.
