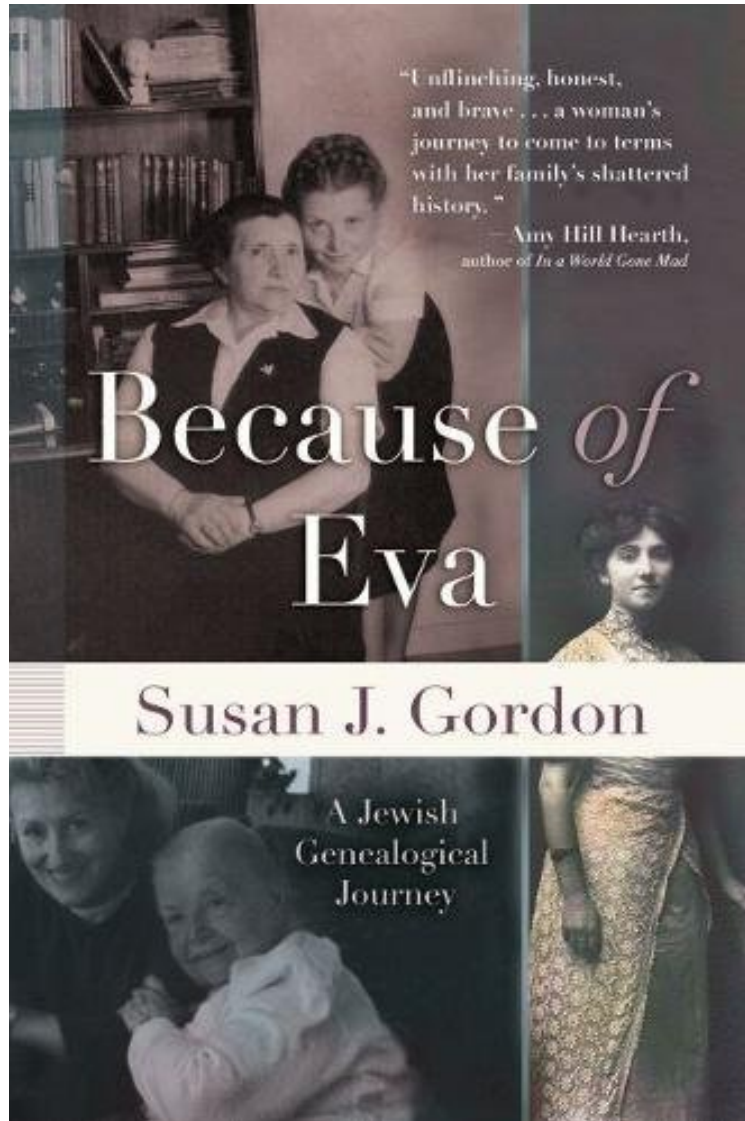


(Download pdf ebook) Because of Eva: A Jewish Genealogical Journey

Because of Eva: A Jewish Genealogical Journey

Susan J. Gordon

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Susan J. Gordon : Because of Eva: A Jewish Genealogical Journey before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Because of Eva: A Jewish Genealogical Journey:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating and moving genealogical memoirBy lisaThis book moves seamlessly among stories of Gordon's family, historical events, and Gordon's emotional reaction to searching for Jewish relics in the Ukraine and Austria. Gordon has a fabulous eye for detail and her descriptions make you think that you are there with her. No recounting of Holocaust events is more moving, universal, and personal. Every chapter brings a pleasant surprise, whether it is set in New York, Tel Aviv, Budapest or Stockholm, It is unusual to find a

genealogical memoir that is so captivating. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Because of Eva is a riveting exploration of one woman's search for her roots. Susan Gordon writes of family tragedy and her quest to find Eva, the only name listed on her estranged Grandfather's death certificate, in a compassionate and compelling way and seamlessly weaves her personal quest for answers with Eva's experience of the Holocaust as a young woman. While Because of Eva is framed as a memoir, it also reads as a thriller as Eva navigates occupied Budapest where every decision could end in her death and every act has ripple effects. Both Eva and Susan display incredible courage in their respective stories and keeps the reader utterly enthralled. Because of Eva is not to be missed. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Must-Read for those interested in genealogy, memoir, and the Holocaust. By Irma Profesora This book is about the "journey" Susan Gordon takes while trying to answer questions about a long lost grandfather. Her search widens when she discovers an elderly second cousin Eva, a Holocaust survivor in Tel Aviv. Eva fills in many missing gaps in the family tree, and shares details of harrowing events in her own survival in Nazi occupied Budapest. Gordon travels to Budapest and Ukraine. Her descriptions are riveting and deeply moving, and broaden the readers understanding of events beyond what happened to members of one family. With the skills of the academic researcher, she makes connections between family history and the broader picture of the events of those years. Gordons discovery of her extended family's past goes further as she courageously confronts feelings about the divorce of her parents and grandparents, questions of family secrets, and the meaning of forgiveness. The sadness from some of those broken relationships is countered by the love and commitment she received from the maternal grandmother who raised her.

In Because of Eva, an American Jewish woman travels to Eastern Europe and Israel to solve mysteries in her familys past by delving into World War II and Holocaust history. What began as a seemingly simple search for Eva, the elderly relative who had signed Gordon's grandfather's death certificate in New York long ago, became a journey of discovery when Gordon found her in Tel Aviv. There, she heard Evas stories of survival during the Holocaust, especially in Nazi-occupied Budapest. Eventually, Gordon would retrace Evas steps in Budapest and visit ancestral towns in Ukraine to bear witness to the slaughter of entire populations of Jews. Amid remnants of loss and destruction in the small town where her grandfather was born, Gordon also uncovered details of her familys world before relatives immigrated to America. Gordons journey into her past provided the deep sense of connection and belonging she needed as an adult child of divorce and abuse. Gaining insight about her familys history, Gordon reconciles issues of betrayal and loyalty, and finally finds her place in Judaism. Part memoir, part detective story, Because of Eva is an intimate tale of one womans history within the epic sweep of world events in the twentieth century.

Because of Eva is a book of inspiration . . . a Jewish celebration, and a universally human book. It is a profoundly moving story, and also a story within a story. . . . With the talents of a gifted storyteller, Gordon uses language to approach the indescribable, and the window she offers readers is very real, often painful, and amazingly generous. (Arthur Kurzweil, author of From Generation to Generation: How to Trace Your Jewish Genealogy and Family History) Because of Eva is an unflinching, honest, and brave memoir, a womans journey to come to terms with her familys shattered history. At times bewildered, but never bitter, Gordon explores this difficult topic with tremendous insight and sensitivity. (Amy Hill Hearsh, author of In a World Gone Mad: A Heroic Story of Love, Faith, and Survival) I was immediately gripped by Gordons unfolding story and vivid portrayal of the personalities and relationships of her relatives. Her research on the historical context of their lives, and her exploration of family secrets and myths will be models for the genealogical community. (Renee Stern Steinig, genealogist and former president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Long Island) As Gordon searches for and retells the heretofore hidden stories of her family, she reconnects them to her own life. This is a moving, well-written, entertaining, yet haunting book of events and stories based on the Jewish experience. (Zsuzsanna Ozsvath, The Leah and Paul Lewis Professor of Holocaust Studies, professor of literature and the history of ideas at the University of Texas at Dallas) The book is a model of how to make a family history book come alive. (Beth Galletto Zichron) Because of Eva is a personal, heartfelt journey toward clarity in Susan J. Gordons own broken family, but it is so much more. Gordons perseverance, perceptiveness and courage should inspire others to delve into their own families past, and find their place in the chain of Jewish history. Those with an interest in genealogy or the Holocaust, or anyone with estranged relatives in a branch of their tree, will be informed, touched and, most importantly, inspired by Gordons work. (Marilyn Lipton Okonow, Advocate columnist The Jewish Advocate) About the Author Susan J. Gordon has received the Best Memoir Award for Because of Eva by the American Society of Journalists and Authors. Her personal essays, articles and short stories have been published in many nationally known magazines and newspapers. She is also the author of Wedding Days: When and How Great Marriages Began.