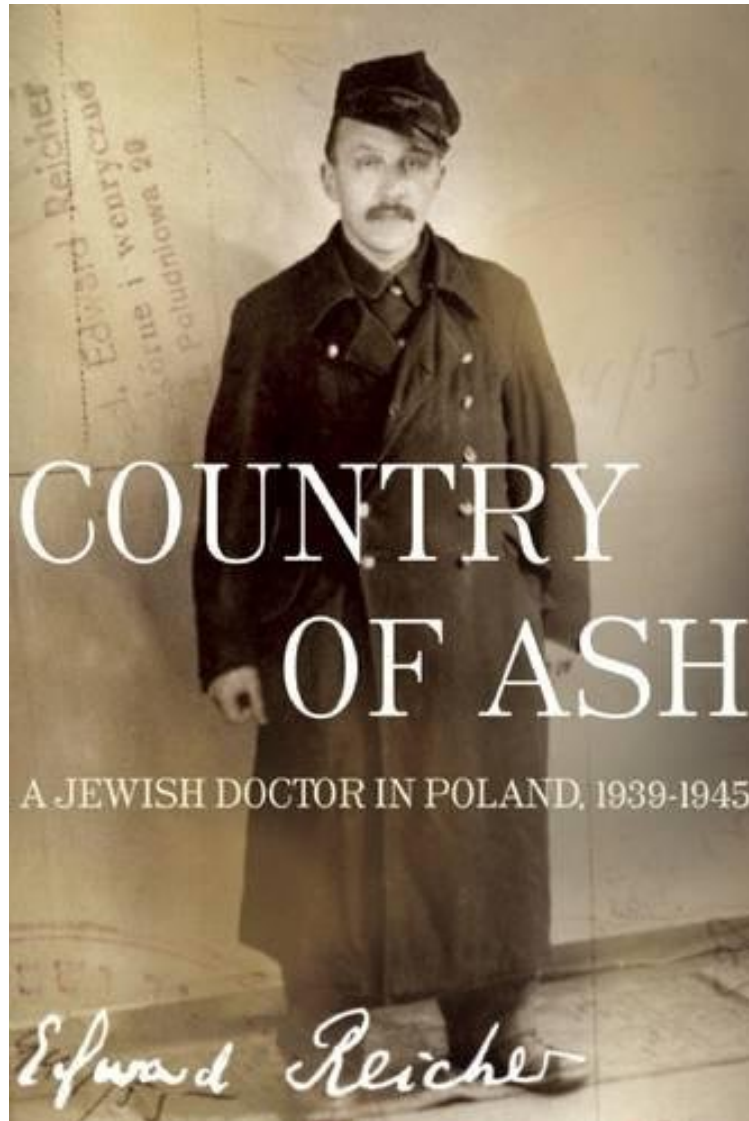


(Mobile book) Country of Ash: A Jewish Doctor in Poland, 1939-1945

## Country of Ash: A Jewish Doctor in Poland, 1939-1945

*Edward Reicher*

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**Edward Reicher : Country of Ash: A Jewish Doctor in Poland, 1939-1945** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Country of Ash: A Jewish Doctor in Poland, 1939-1945:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. A Must Read By lindy lou It is truly unbelievable how a mother, father and daughter survived the holocaust in hiding and lived to tell the world about it. The close encounters from the blackmailers, the SS and Gestapo were gut wrenching. How this family lost everything and still were able to survive is incredible. This book is a real page turner and one you won't soon forget. 0 of 0 people found the following

review helpful. AMAZING BOOK. I HOPE IT IS PUBLISHED IN POLISH. By Mordechai Pelta Some things defy explaining and this book is one of them. The sheer openness of the physician and Holocaust survivor is incredible. The work is a tremendous contribution to the legacy of the Jewish People and literature about first-person accounts of the Holocaust in Poland and the anti-Semitism that plagues Poland in the years following World War II. If anyone should read it, it should be Poles. The book should be in Polish, if it is not already, so that future generations in that country learn from the past instead of persecuting scholars like Jan Gross who have dealt with it in various works. 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Better Than Reading A History Book on the Jews During the War By D. Luzar I am amazed that Dr. Reicher was able to go back and remember so many incidents to write this book. He lost the original diary at the end of the occupation and some 20 years later started recalling everything he and his family had been through. This is a true story but reads like a novel. A very different book from other Holocaust remembrances I have read. It continually kept my interest. (

[Dr. Reicher] lived through the Second World War in Poland, dodging bullets, uprisings and deportations not to mention betrayal, starvation and airless hideouts in a manner more reminiscent of a talented outlaw than a mild-mannered dermatologist . . . It is the impressive simplicity of the good doctors writing that makes [t]his book resemble [Victor] Klemperers, and the detailed observations of its report that makes it emotionally memorable. . . . William Carlos Williams once said that people who prize information are perishing daily for want of the information that can be found only in poetry. By the same token, there will never be a time when we will not need the information that an important, evocative book like *Country of Ash* provides. VIVIAN GORNICK, *Moment* magazine *Country of Ash* is the starkly compelling, original chronicle of a Jewish doctor who miraculously survived near-certain death, first inside the Lodz and Warsaw ghettos, where he was forced to treat the Gestapo, then on the Aryan side of Warsaw, where he hid under numerous disguises. He clandestinely recorded the terrible events he witnessed, but his manuscript disappeared during the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. After the war, reunited with his wife and young daughter, he rewrote his story. Peopled with historical figures like the controversial Chaim Rumkowski, who fancied himself a king of the Jews, to infamous Nazi commanders and dozens of Jews and non-Jews who played cat and mouse with death throughout the war, Reichers memoir is about a community faced with extinction and the chance decisions and strokes of luck that kept a few stunned souls alive. Edward Reicher (1900-1975) was born in Lodz, Poland. He graduated with a degree in medicine from the University of Warsaw, later studied dermatology in Paris and Vienna, and practiced in Lodz as a dermatologist and venereal disease specialist both before and after World War II. A Jewish survivor of Nazi-occupied Poland, Reicher appeared at a tribunal in Salzburg to identify Hermann Hfle and give an eyewitness account of Hfles role in Operation Reinhard, which sent hundreds of thousands to their deaths in the Nazi concentration camps of Poland. *Country of Ash*, first published posthumously in France, was translated from the French by Magda Bogin and includes a foreword by Edward Reichers daughter Elisabeth Bizouard-Reicher.

*Stirring Jewish Daily Forward* A riveting account of the will to survive. *Midwest Book* A moving memoir, a finely crafted and beautifully written story. *World Literature Today* Its the rough texture of Reichers tale like grainy celluloid from a bygone era that gives such a powerful, deeply disturbing immediacy to the ghetto inhabitants he remembers. Reicher tells us theyre no more, but he is wrong. Their ghosts still walk in books like this one haunting the reader, forever. *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* Edward Reicher recorded his Holocaust nightmares from the ghettos of Lodz and Warsaw to the chilling attempts for his family to live as Aryans in a world of blackmail, informants and circumcision checks. . . . This book has no literary pretensions, he writes. It is the description of the life of a Jewish doctor who survived the worst years. Yet its far more than that . . . *Country of Ash* is worth reading because the riveting survival drama is framed by larger questions. *Minneapolis Star Tribune* What makes this diary so powerful is that Reicher dwells on very little for it is all so crazy and tells the facts and his story with dispatch, so that we are so caught up in events that we begin to feel as if we are living them with him, that we have somehow been dropped into a Beckett or Ionesco play where absurdity at its most extreme is reality. . . . We can give thanks to all who worked to bring *Country of Ash* into our lives, then read it with care, and heed its warnings. *Arts Fuse* [Dr. Reicher] lived through the Second World War in Poland, dodging bullets, uprisings and deportations not to mention betrayal, starvation and airless hideouts in a manner more reminiscent of a talented outlaw than a mild-mannered dermatologist . . . It is the impressive simplicity of the good doctors writing that makes [t]his book resemble [Victor] Klemperers, and the detailed observations of its report that makes it emotionally memorable. . . . William Carlos Williams once said that people who prize information are perishing daily for want of the information that can be found only in poetry. By the same token, there will never be a time when we will not need the information that an important, evocative book like *Country of Ash* provides. VIVIAN GORNICK, *Moment* magazine A riveting first-hand account of the destruction of the Warsaw Ghetto. Edward Reicher presents events from the perspective of a Jew, a physician, a survivor, a chronicler, a husband but mainly a humanitarian caught in the flux of horrific events that, but for memoirs such as this, would fade with the absolution of time. Reichers astonishing book insures that will not happen. ARTHUR L. CAPLAN, Ph.D., Drs. William F. and Virginia Connolly Mitty Chair Director, Division of Medical Ethics, NYU Langone Medical

Center and author of *When Medicine Went Mad: Bioethics and the Holocaust* Dr. Reichers memoir tells a gripping, tragic, unforgettable tale that, like Wladyslaw Szpilman's *The Pianist*, recounts the horrors of being a Jew in Poland during World War II. This important historical document distinguishes itself from other Holocaust narratives in many ways, but perhaps in none more so than this: its perseverant hero not only saved his wife and daughter but helped bring one of the most notorious Nazis of all to justice. AUSTIN RATNER, Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature-winning author of *The Jump Artist* and *In the Land of the Living*