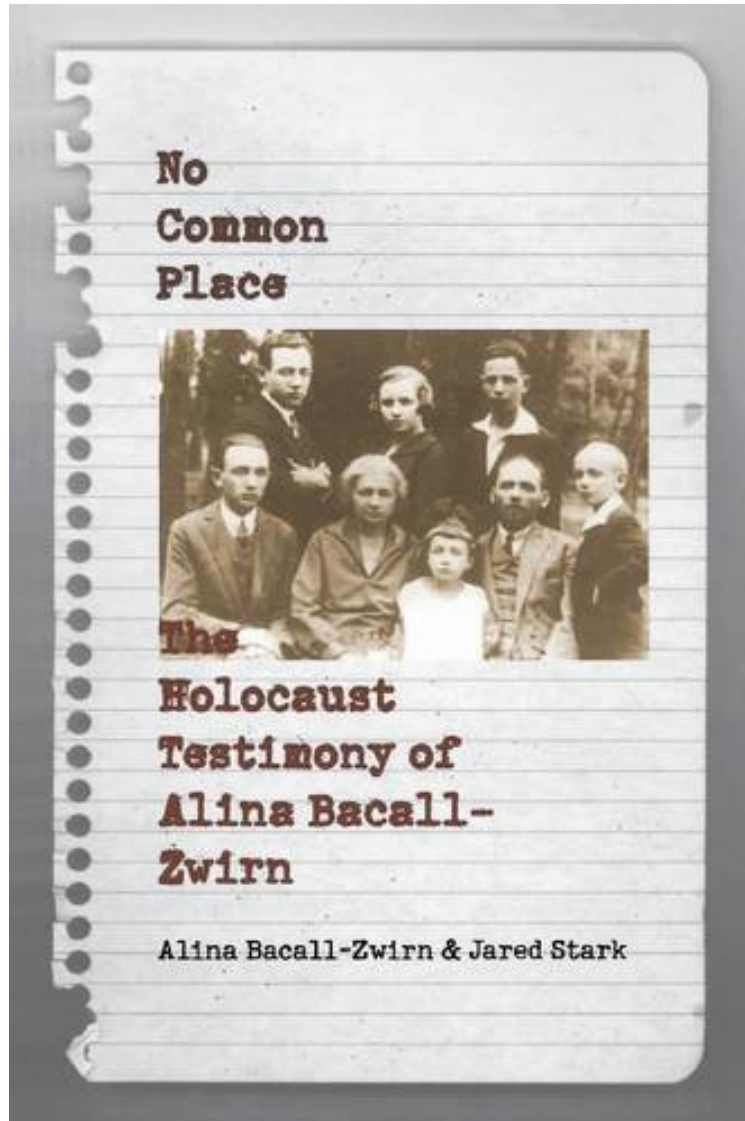


(Free) No Common Place: The Holocaust Testimony of Alina Bacall-Zwirn

## No Common Place: The Holocaust Testimony of Alina Bacall-Zwirn

*Alina Bacall-Zwirn, Jared Stark*  
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**Alina Bacall-Zwirn, Jared Stark : No Common Place: The Holocaust Testimony of Alina Bacall-Zwirn** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised No Common Place: The Holocaust Testimony of Alina Bacall-Zwirn:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. InterestingBy Alyssa A. LappenI've known several Holocaust survivors, and interviewed a few. This book provides an interesting perspective of a woman who escaped from a train en route to Treblinka --- jumped with her husband through a steel bar that a few prisoners managed to cut --- and escaped to Warsaw.For some time she and her husband hid successfully, pretending to be Christians. They were

eventually caught, however, and like so many victims traversed many concentration camps. The interviews are quite emotional, but also lacking in many details. The story is difficult to piece together, as the interviews are dated according to when they were taken, not according to the events described. The book is important for the personal experiences and emotions. Overall, however, those seeking a total immersion in the experiences of Jewish men and women who survived the war, would be far better served by reading other works --- such as *Mothers, Sisters, Resisters: Oral Histories, All But My Life, Alicia, Thanks to My Mother*, a purported novel actually taken from the life of Vilna survivor Anya Brodman and *The Boys: 732 Young Concentration Camp Survivors*, among others. --- Alyssa A. Lappen<sup>5</sup> of 5 people found the following review helpful. *Escaping from a Treblinka-Bound Train* By Jan Peczkis The author recounts her experiences in a form of interviews given in the 1990's, some fifty years after the events. She also expresses anger over those who deny that the Holocaust ever happened, and lists some of her loved ones who perished in this tragedy that supposedly never happened. Alina Bacall-Zwirn understands the fact that much of the so-called Polish police, in the service of the Germans, actually consisted of ethnic Germans. She comments: "That was the Volksdeutsche, working for Gestapo. That was the Polish police." (p. 40). She lived in the Warsaw ghetto, and was shipped to Treblinka. She managed to jump from the train, and was aided by a Pole who brought her food (p. 35). She then made it back to Warsaw. Later, she met with Poles who were being shipped to Germany for forced labor, and Poles who were incarcerated in concentration camps as a result of the failed Warsaw Uprising. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. *My Grandma-Alina Bacall-Zwirn* By AB To all of you who have kept my grandmothers memory alive, I thank you. I think of her everyday and hope she looks down on me. I read about her struggle in this book and also heard a bit of it when she would talk about it when I was younger. I am glad I got to meet her because I never got to meet my biological grandpa, Leo Bacall. I hope you all remember not only my grandmother and those who survived but 6 million who were lost.

"You know, a lot of people like to talk about it, and I'm always pushing, pushing away, you know, I'm always pushing. I hate to remember, I hate to talk about it." But in the wake of her husband's death, and afraid that the story would never be told, Alina Bacall-Zwirn, a survivor of the Warsaw ghetto and four Nazi concentration camps, decided to remember and to bear witness to the history she and her husband suffered together. In a unique format that combines personal testimony, photographs, letters, legal documents and contributions from Alina's family; *No Common Place* interweaves a survivor's story with her reflections on the impact of her traumatic past on herself and her family.

"A wrenching human tale of terrible tragedy and the power of love. . . . Lacking any trace of sentimentality or drama, and told in a series of interviews by a woman who never quite mastered English, this powerful story illustrates the impossibility of weaving a coherent narrative from the shattered memories of those years. At the same time, the reader gradually discovers the extraordinary strength of the love which sustains both Leo and Alina. *Times Literary Supplement*