



Die Näherin

*Sara Tuvel Bernstein , Louise Loots Thornton (Contributor) , Marlene Bernstein Samuels (Contributor) ,
Annette Hahn (Translator)*

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'Die ungewöhnliche Geschichte einer Überlebenden, die sowohl den Holocaust als auch die Reaktion der Deutschen unmittelbar nach dem Krieg dokumentiert. Sara Tuvel Bernstein wurde 1918 als Jüngste einer großen jüdischen Familie in Rumänien geboren. 1944 kam sie als Zwangsarbeiterin nach Deutschland. Ihr enormer Lebenswill half ihr, die Schrecken verschiedener Konzentrationslager zu überstehen. "Es gibt viele Berichte von Holocaust-Überlebenden, aber dieses Werk ist einmalig. Ein bewegendes Dokument persönlicher Stärke und geistiger Unabhängigkeit." (Library Journal.)'

Die Näherin Details

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From Reader Review Die Näherin for online ebook

Lora says

I couldn't put it down. One of those intensely riveting personal accounts that is both heart-rending and inspiring, powerful and vivid. It can be hard at times, but the way she relates her story and her personal experiences without pity, selfishness, hardness, or despair is amazing in itself. A testament to the human will to live through suffering. After I read a story such as this, I feel like I have learned life-lessons and I am a better person for it. Helps me to remember all the little things that are blessings in this life that I should be thankful for everyday, clean water, a comfortable place to sleep, overabundance of good food, just a warm and clean place for my children to live and most importantly that we as a family live together in peace without threat to our lives.

Petra X says

This book is frustrating me and making me angry. I want to throw it at the ghostwriter for elevating herself to co-author and giving her opinion and thoughts constantly. You aren't interesting, your thoughts aren't relevant. I wanted to read the biography of Sara Bernstein who survived, one of very few, the women's concentration camp in Ravensbruk.

The constant reminders from a woman who should have taken a back seat as the ghostwriter that her input is important, and that she needs to tell us about it can be illustrated by just one sentence"

Sara wants a particular title to the book, but the ghostwriter doesn't like it as the next sentence is, "Hmmm, I answered, stalling for time. Do you think that perhaps it sounds too much like the soap opera, 'All my Children'..." Eventually she gets Sara to compromise on the title.

That is pretty much constant, that and telling us how strong, wonderful and amazing Sara was. I think that was for the reader to judge, not the ghostwriter to tell us.

So I gave it up. I remain interested in Sara Bernstein - not only were there very few survivors of Ravensbruk, but also there are very few accounts of Romanian Jews during the Holocaust and even fewer of 13 year old girls who are bullied out of school by teachers because they are Jewish and decide to make their own way in the world. All of it interesting. Just the wrong writer.

I seem to be in an absolute minority here. Almost everyone loves the book. (view spoiler) So it's a case of celebrating diversity in taste that encourages writing a lot of different books in different styles.

Sharon says

An extraordinary, unsentimental story by an extraordinary woman. This is powerful truth, akin to horror at some points and heartwarming at others, with a strong female hero. Seren is a hero by any account. She's a tough woman who shouldn't have survived but did using intelligence and determination.

Although Seren's young life involved the Holocaust, the book is about her family and her own wisdom and grit in every situation. It's part of Seren's journey to a life she must have cherished every day. Although she surely had post traumatic stress disorder, she was a loving and loved person who gave her best to her family and friends. Out the other side of trauma, Seren made choices. Perhaps there are lessons here for all of us.

The Seamstress is a compelling story with some photos scattered throughout. The story should lift any reader above their own trials. It's also a history lesson with some details I'd never read before. Here Seren recounts her early life with family, how insidiously changes happened, how much people didn't know or understand, and events that happened to her and some of her family and friends.

Highly recommend.

Linda says

Excellent recent memoir from a Romanian Holocaust survivor. She was sent to a camp near Berlin that I'd never heard of before; all women prisoners, where one in twenty survived. As with some other survivors, Sara's catalyst to write her story came a few decades later when she heard a professor claim the Jews contrived the hardships in the death camps to arouse sympathy. She had to tell her story.

I like the excerpt one reviewer included; a powerful moment:

When Sara was in her late twenties and was finally rescued in the closing days of WWII, she weighed forty-four pounds, "I felt myself being lifted up in two arms. I opened my eyes. One of the American soldiers was carrying me. I closed my eyes again. Drops of water began splashing on my cheeks and running down my neck...I realized that the soldier carrying me was crying, his tears falling on my face."

Sara's account adds even more depth for the reader as she takes us through her upbringing in Romania before the Nazi's invasion. We learn of her life after her liberation and her immigration to and life in America.

I always learn something new when I read these accounts. And having lived the past three years in Eastern Europe where so many of these atrocities took place, my interest and sympathy is keener.

Claire Grasse says

A Holocaust survivor's story, sometimes graphic, sometimes horrifying, and in a word: depressing. The problem is, the first book I ever read about the Holocaust was Corrie ten Boom's "The Hiding Place," which deals with the horrors of Hitler's regime in the light of God's love. That book, itself, is a masterpiece of grace. This becomes a problem for me because I unconsciously want every book on the subject matter to measure up to that. I realize the Holocaust will never be something that we read about for entertainment, or to feel good. But to view it from any other paradigm than God's is to come away feeling tainted.

I realize not everyone will agree with me, so spiritual considerations aside, the author simply does not make an emotional connection with the reader. None of the characters seemed real to me. None of their experiences drew me in. The author mentions details like the fact that she weighed 44 lbs when rescued by the Allies, or that her best friend died in her arms as though she were discussing a grocery list. It was like

listening to someone read a love sonnet in a flat, bored monotone: it just left me cold.

I gave it an extra star for the historical account, but I'm not really recommending it to anyone. Stick with Corrie ten Boom, or even Anne Frank.

Cathy says

I thought this was a great Holocaust memoir and definitely worth reading. I think it is very important to never forget the Holocaust, though it is hard to "enjoy" these types of book. They are always disturbing, but I think that it is good for us to feel disturbed and remember. The Holocaust should never be swept under the rug because it is too unpleasant to think about. We need to feel uncomfortable about what happened. It was true, it was real, it was unbelievably horrific. Seren was a real survivor and she helped others survive along the way. I can't even imagine what I would have done in her situation, but I admire her greatly. I think this was a great book for adults and teenagers to better understand what happened during the Holocaust. I have visited Dachau - a different place, but I will never forget the cold sad feeling I felt there. I've read many Holocaust books - The Hiding Place, Night, The Boy in Striped Pajamas come to mind. Even though each account was very different, I feel like these perspectives on such a terrible event in human history have taught me important lessons that I hope I never forget or don't want to learn.

Jess says

Since beginning this book I have pondered much on the wickedness of mankind. There is so much hatred. I have never experienced pure hatred due to who I am, based on religion, color, creed, whatever. I am thankful to have been raised by parents who taught me to love all, to follow the example of my Saviour, and to strive to be like Him--perfectly loving in all things. Although I am far from His perfection, I am thankful that love, not hate, is natural for me.

I cannot recommend this book highly enough. It is an incredibly inspiring story. It has taught me to love more fully and more fully appreciate all the many blessings I have.

My heart breaks for those who suffer due to the hatred of others. I find peace knowing God, in His infinite wisdom, will judge all. Those who cause others to suffer will ultimately receive their reward.

Karen says

One of the best holocaust memoirs I have read, a story of true triumph! When Sara was finally rescued in the closing days of WWII, she weighed forty-four pounds, "I felt myself being lifted up in two arms. I opened my eyes. One of the American soldiers was carrying me. I closed my eyes again. Drops of water began splashing on my cheeks and running down my neck...I realized that the soldier carrying me was crying, his tears falling on my face." She, and two of her companions, survived in camps where 99 out of 100 women died, through sheer will, "mental strength, emotional stamina," an incredible sense of humor and great hope. She survived "with her spirit intact."

Charlene says

When someone recounts something so horrific, I often find myself wanting to understand what it felt like to be in a situation I could not possibly comprehend. Even though this was an emotional topic, this book was not about the author's emotion. It was a narrative that focused on the facts. Rather than taking away from the story, it allowed the facts to stand by themselves. IMO, most readers would be hard-pressed to listen to the matter-of-fact experiences and not feel complete shock. The juxtaposition between the lack of the emotion and extreme circumstances was unbelievably powerful. I have read many books and watched so many movies about Holocaust survivors. They have all been shocking. They have all left me with a feeling of confusion and awe at the depth to which some people will go to attain utter control and domination.

This book stood out- mainly for its lack of emotion. Viktor Frankl's *Man's Search For Meaning* stood out because it was a portrait of remarkable human resilience in the face of circumstances so horrific, those who have not experienced them can barely imagine being able to remain alive, let alone resilient. Frankl showed his reader a curious phenomenon; trauma can compel a person to actually reach beyond what they would have likely achieved in their lifetime otherwise. Instead of breaking, they not only recovered, but thrived.

In a similar way, this narrative stood out. It made me ask the question, "What does it take to survive something like a Holocaust?" This would be a good time to mention that I had a bit of an issue with the forward. Sara's cowriter said something along the lines of, Sara survived because she was stronger than other women who allowed themselves (in some way) to die. I certainly agree that it is one kind of strength to be able to shut off parts of yourself, feel distance, and endure. There is no question Sara was so very strong. But, I don't think it is weak to be aware of how horrific a situation is and die from a combination of torture and despair. I don't think it is weak to maybe have already been starving prior to capture and then die sooner because your body had less nutrition from the start (recall Sara ate very well right before capture because she was working for a woman who fed her workers well). It is not weak to be in the wrong place at the wrong time and get shot or hit by a bomb. It is not weak to drink the water and get sick from the water. It's not weak to take the bottom bunk because the top was full and get crushed to death at night. So much of it was luck. So, it seems unfair to characterize any woman or man who died in the camps as weak in some way. That said, it is interesting to try to figure out what factors contribute to extremely resilient individuals.

This book takes the reader from Sara's childhood, in which she begins to understand people's view of Jewish persons, through her capture and time in the camps, and beyond. A must read for anyone interested in the Holocaust.

April says

Another holocaust memoir, but this one takes place in Romania and Hungary. Seren Tuvel entered a forced labor camp in the middle of 1944 and was then sent to Ravensbruck, a camp for women only. Ravensbruck was one of the worst camps during WWII. Seren was sent there to die, but survived. Even though she was sent there towards the end of the war, when the war was over, she weighed only 44 pounds. I enjoyed this memoir because it took place in Romania, and not Germany. Not knowing much about Romania and Hungary's situation during the war, this book was informative on how the war touched and ruined Jewish people's lives in an area that was thought to be safe.

Linda Lou McCall says

"NOT BUYING INTO THIS PARTICULARLY STORY!"

Narrated by Wanda McCaddon (Audible.com)

Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not?

Not as a true story. This story is too contrived. Overall it's a good emotionally charged read. I just don't believe it as an actual account. I can't find anything about Sara Tuvel Bernstein except as it refers to this book.

What could the authors have done to make this a more enjoyable book for you?

Just call it what it is - FICTION! I don't doubt that Ms. Bernstein suffered some oppression at the hands of the Nazi's. I just don't believe that she was the only survivor among millions to have the kind of resolve - and luck - that she claims in this book.

What does Wanda McCaddon bring to the story that you wouldn't experience if you just read the book?

Wanda McCaddon is masterful as always. Her narration brings layers into the story not otherwise experienced in print. Artists like her can *make* a book.

Was The Seamstress worth the listening time?

Only if you think of it as either fiction or a historical account in which the author has taken considerable literary license. The story IS moving and inspiring - it's just not believable.

Any additional comments?

I've read all of the reviews here on Goodreads, Audible, Amazon.com. Only one other reviewer feels like I do. I know I'm going to take a lot of flack for this, but I wish someone had given me a less emotional review of this book. I'm black and I'm used to Jewish friends claiming to "understand the pain of slavery". Well, no! "Your blues ain't like my blues"! But I always read books about Holocaust survivors out of respect for THEIR plight. However, there was something just not right about this account. Sara seemed to always have the answer or solution to some really horrific situations while her reaction to the deaths of her family members, one by one, was like "Ho hum!" I just didn't believe that one person in millions had the survivor instincts that this writer claimed to possess. It's easy to say you've done this and that when there's no one to refute your assertions.

The story is well-written and well narrated. But when you "pull the seams apart", it just doesn't fit. There's no way to fact-check the claims of the author. Plus, she was only in that concentration camp for a few months right before the war ended. I found her account of her early life and the years leading up to her so-called "arrest" much more interesting. Living like a hunted animal with no country to call "home" had to be awful. It's when she gets to the camp and on the trains that the story falls apart. Who can go WEEKS without water while doing back-breaking work? Or eight days without food or water packed into a boxcar like sardines? One minute everyone is freezing to death inside the boxcar, then in the same week, the train is sweltering from the weather outside. While the first 75% of the book tells an interesting account, the last becomes

overly dramatic and predictable. And, again, I found Sara's total apathy towards the death of her family and camp friends bordering on sociopathic. Why? Because nobody died like she claims.

Notice that Sara is the only person who repeatedly manages to "save the day" by stealing, smuggling, or hiding enough food for her companions. Under those severe and harrowing circumstances, I know I wouldn't take up with a bunch of losers who never bring anything to the table to help in the survival of the group. When Sara is given a lice-ridden coat in the camp-wide clothing swap, she somehow gets one full of paper money hidden in the lining! And she just happened to have squirreled away a needle and thread in the tightly secured camp so she can rip up the lining to get the money, then sew it back up expertly. Really? As if all of those SS guards were too stupid to notice that the already thin garment just might be a little heavy or bulky! Then she and her friends used the money for TOILET PAPER for several weeks but, again, no one in the camp, prisoners included, noticed them "Benjamins" in the crapper! You haven't wiped your butt in months and that's all you could think to do with a large amount of money? C'mon!

What I DO believe is that some opportunistic writers saw a KERNEL of a good book after meeting a Holocaust survivor, likely in her dotage. I thought this book would be a first-hand account by an actual survivor who had gone through one horrific act after another during World War II as a Jew in occupied Europe. It turned out to be a compilation of everything that could happen to several people in a "perfect storm" of terror and persecution. Kind of like "Forrest Gump Meets The Führer"! There's something that just didn't pass the "smell test" for me. I almost didn't write a review because I knew others would be upset with my reaction to this book or they would say, being black, I just don't understand the plight of Jewish people. That's absolutely not true. I sympathize and empathize with the hatred endured by Jews THROUGHOUT the history of the world. How could I not when my own ancestors were oppressed, murdered, beaten, lynched, and raped for centuries as recently as the 21st century? Here, I'll just have to take the hit because I'm calling "a spade a spade" - Sara is "shoveling" it a bit deep!

Rae says

Bernstein does an immaculate job in describing her pain and suffering as she slowly watched her family and loved ones around her disappear into that is the Holocaust. Acting as her companions' "rock", and sometimes acting as her own, she is that extra lifeline they needed to survive. 5 solid stars.

Betty says

I have greatly enjoyed reading this suspenseful, first person autobiography, of Sara Bernstein's life! Her story is incredible! I don't know why it has not been made into a movie! I was hooked before the first chapter was over! I highly recommend it to any history lover, such as myself! :)

Alyssa Allen says

What an absolutely incredible book!

I wasn't sure what to expect. I read the back summary, and it didn't particularly grab my attention, but I got

the book as a Christmas present, so I knew I was going to have to read it eventually.

Boy, was I wrong to even doubt that this could have been good in any way. It's definitely a heartbreakingly good story, but the way that it's written is so incredibly intriguing, it's hard to put down! I am a typically slow reader, but I finished this book in a little over a week. It usually takes me 2-3 weeks for a 300-pg novel with my work schedule, etc.

It's really good! I am a WWII history buff, but I had never heard of Ravensbruck concentration camp before I read this. I can't believe I've never heard of it! With only 1% (yes, 1%, you read that right) surviving out of the Jewish prisoners... I can understand why hardly anyone has heard about it. Only 100 people left to tell the story.

I smiled while reading, I cried while reading, I seriously pondered and looked inward on myself and my life. It is hard to imagine anyone surviving what they went through, but they did. It is one of the first times I have felt actually honored to have shared in this person's life via book.

I recommend it for anyone who is able to handle reading about difficult experiences and situations. There is a lot of death and sad circumstances in this book. But I am seriously grateful I have been able to read it.

George Lichman says

The Seamstress is the memoir of author Seren (Sara) Tuvel Bernstein, a Romanian Jew who came of age during the rise of the Third Reich, was expelled from Romania, arrested and beaten by Hungarian Guard, forced into a temporary labor camp where her sister was shot and killed before her eyes, and eventually ended up on a concentration camp before escaping/liberated by American forces while being transported, likely for execution.

What was somewhat unique about The Seamstress is that the book was about Ms. Bernstein's entire life, not just her experience with the Holocaust. To me, it made her experiences much more personal, because they were happening to a person I felt I knew. She talked of her premature birth, childhood, family, schooling, and how she learned her trade. Knowing that make Ms. Bernstein much more real.

My only complaint about the book was that although Ms. Bernstein was very descriptive about the atrocities of others during her experience, she seemed to minimize her own ordeal. Don't get me wrong: she starved, was abused, she was nearly killed and witnessed awful things. But in the forward her daughter-in-law, who helped write the book, spoke of her being beaten so badly her leg was broken and there were other permanent deformities, but none of that appeared in the book. I don't think it is out of character for survivors of that time to minimize their experience, and perhaps that's what happened here.

The Seamstress is a well told story of a woman who lived, and survived, as a Jew in Eastern Europe during the build-up and Second World War. It and similar memoirs should be required reading for young people around the world.

Heather says

Not a typical memoir of the Holocaust. Serin is born into a large family in rural Romania and grows up feisty and willing to fight back physically against anti-Semitism from other schoolchildren. She defies her lumber-mill-manager-father's orders to turn down a scholarship that takes her to Bucharest. She furthers her

education until she can stand the priests vicious diatribe against the Jews no longer and hurls a bottle of ink at him. She finds herself in need of an apprenticeship and place to stay and joins a solon as a seamstress where she learns quickly and enjoys making her own money. As the anti-Semitism grows, she returns home, where she is shortly arrested and thus begins a series of oppressions, imprisonments and forced labor detachments until she ends up in Ravensbruck, a women's concentration camp. She keeps her family and friends together as much as she can, using her intelligence and skills as she can, perseveres and manages to survive. The story, basically an autobiography edited by relatives, is powerful, often overwhelming in realistic description, beautifully written and rich with determination and power.

Chrissie says

Finished. A very good holocaust book, different from others maybe because you follow the main character from her youth. You follow Seren through many years. She is feisty! It is also very interesting to know that Sara did not tell the author everything. The missing bits are revealing. The reader knows of them because Seren's daughter has added more information and interesting comments about what it is like to be the daughter of two parents who have survived the holocaust.

Through page 273 - these pages have been almost impossible to read. Horrific.

Now I am on page 190. There is so much to think about. For example, what leads to survival? Mental health. Strength of your mind leads to physical strength. It is amazing what the human being is capable of surmounting. Whiners really should remember this. Art and beauty - seeing a beautiful landscape, hearing a song, and the art of laughter. Note, it is not the big pieces of art in museums, or an opera in a music hall that are required to uplift us from misery. Actually it is the ability to keep one's eyes open to everything around us and to appreciate the small stuff. Philosophical jabber, I know, but important to remember! Seren is strong and always has been strong, stubborn one might even say. We know who she is because we know of the years before the worst times. Even as a child she was a fighter, even a troublemaker. She was born that way. Her next younger sister, Zipporah, was also a troublemaker, but in a completely different way. Their mother understands the importance of accepting her children and others for what they are, with all their faults. She doesn't show anger toward Zipporah. "That IS Zipporah!". An acceptance of the reality that people are just born different. Sure, we can try to change, but one can only go so far to change how we are born. Seren wanted this book to be published because people continue to deny that the holocaust ever happened. In Sweden right now the papers are filled with people's anger that a man high up in the church says that the Jews are just exaggerating what happened, to make us feel sorry for them! Seren died before her book was published, and that is sad. Even as a child she wanted to "be somebody". Well, I think she WAS somebody. She helped others, friends and family. Without her strength they would have gone under. Many went under anyway, but she shared small experiences and laughter with them. That is not to be forgotten.

I'm on page 84 of The Seamstress. Well written. Extremely moving. You are there with Sara(Seren). Somehow this is different from other holocaust books

Misti says

This book is by far my favorite WW2 book that I have read. I felt that I had become very close to the

characters in the book. I grew to love and appreciate the simple things of life. I just don't get how people could treat another human being so inhuman, I just really don't get it. It was all over Europe, like a plague, I don't get how Teenagers and husbands could turn in there mothers in for being Jewish and then call them filthy names.

I would recommend this book over and over again to anyone who was interested in reading it.

April says

The Holocaust is one of the darkest moments of human history, if not the darkest moment. *The Seamstress* by Sarah Tuvel Bernstein is poignant coming-of-age memoir showcasing the indomitable human spirit. Sarah Tuvel Bernstein, herein referred to as Seren Tuvel, was a Romanian Jew. Much of Seren's story is shaped around her large family; she was one of nine. Her father was a lumber mill manager and was what we could consider lower middle class today. Her formal education ended at elementary school, yet she continued to learn as she became an apprenticed seamstress. Tuvel's memoir opens with the story of her birth and closes with an epilogue by her daughter, Marlene Bernstein about Tuvel's life in America and her subsequent death.

As with many Holocaust survivors, Seren Tuvel did not emerge from the Holocaust without emotional scars to bear. As Romania is an Eastern European country, and Seren's family is Jewish, the Tuvel family has had to endure a long history of persecution, from pogroms to accusations of being "Christ-killers." Seren, with blonde hair and blue eyes is able to achieve much success through her sewing because many perceived her to be Gentile. Without her Gentile features, she would have been barred entry from the homes of those who were among the upper echelon of society.

In 1941 Seren and her father, Abram Tuvel were arrested by the Hungarian Government for being spies, their only true crime was being Jewish and living very near the Romanian-Hungarian border. In the early World War II years, the Romanian-Hungarian border was elastic, which presented a problem for the Tuvels. Seren was eventually released; her father never procured freedom and was ruthlessly shot for losing his mind during an air raid. Upon return, Seren and her remaining family are forced into ghettos. Seren sneaks out and continues to sew for Gentile households. She is then conscripted into a women's labor army with friends and family. The army brings Seren to a labor camp Ravensbrück. In Ravensbrück, Seren, her best friends and niece survive by sheer cunning. When liberation forces come too close to Ravensbrück, Seren and her group are brought to Auschwitz. Eventually they were liberated from Auschwitz, Seren stayed in a hospital for a few months because of her poor health. She went to a refugee center, taught a sewing class, and met her husband.

The Seamstress, gracefully showcases Seren Tuvel's wide spectrum of emotions within its pages. Empathy for Tuvel naturally occurs while reading her story. Perhaps most surprising of all of Seren's emotions was her bitterness towards the Polish-Jews within Auschwitz. She describes them as a ruthless, motley group with compassion only for their own. I had a hard time understanding why Seren felt such disdain for the Polish-Jews because with all the persecution and hate she suffered, why continue the cycle of hate. Perhaps the most recurrent emotion throughout *The Seamstress* was optimism. By retaining hope through the horrors heaped upon her, Seren emerged from the Holocaust physically and mentally intact. Many were not as lucky as Seren, as evidenced by the grief she describes from losing a vast amount of loved ones.

By learning about the Holocaust one may feel pity for the victims, but perhaps not empathy. "A single death is a tragedy; a million is a statistic." Reading a Holocaust memoir puts a human face on the catastrophe, allowing for someone with no personal connection to the event to feel compassion for those who survived as well as those who did not. As someone who has never experienced anything even close to what Seren endured, it is hard for me to understand the Holocaust. Through Tuvel's words I learned of the plight of the

Romanian Jew before and even directly after the Holocaust.

My eyes were opened to the existence of camps beyond Auschwitz, Bergen-Belson, and Chelmno, and that each of these camps destroyed the lives of millions real people with real lives and real families. It was and still is hard to comprehend the amount of destruction Hitler and the Nazis wrought upon the Jews and the other “undesirables”. Even more shocking to me was how the Jews were treated directly afterwards. I had always believed that following the Holocaust, the Germans treated the Jews with kindness because they felt guilty about what had happened, such was not the case. Tuvel writes about post-war Germans feeling that because the Fuhrer was so adamant in destroying the European Jewry, there must have been some sort of logical reasoning behind it. However, it seems that so many years of ingrained antisemitism, it was probably a hard thing for the Europeans to let go of.

Seren wrote this memoir as a testament to the existence of her family as well as to tell her story in its entirety. The Seamstress is intended for young adults. There are graphic descriptions of the violence inflicted upon the Jews, including one section where Tuvel describes observing prominent Jewish men hung on meat hooks. Sexual violence is alluded to as well. The book is not suitable for a younger reader. The Seamstress isn't Pulitzer Prize quality, but it is not a book to be easily dismissed. This is an eloquently written memoir, a fluid read. The grace, dignity, and perseverance shown by Seren Tuvel during the Holocaust moved me. The Seamstress is perhaps best suited for a rainy or snowy day free of distraction where one may be transported to Seren Tuvel's world.

Martha Newman says

This is one of the most moving stories I have ever read. It is the autobiography of a Jewish Romanian girl who survived the Holocaust in Ravensbruck and later, Dachau, with her spirit, if not her body, intact. It is a story that has been told and retold, but the juxtaposition of man's inhumanity to man in the face of an iron will to survive can never be told too many times.
