The Secret Holocaust Diaries: The Untold Story of Nonna Bannister

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Nonna Bannister carried a secret almost to her Tennessee grave: the diaries she had kept as a young girl experiencing the horrors of the Holocaust. This book reveals that story. Nonna's childhood writings, revisited in her late adulthood, tell the remarkable tale of how a Russian girl from a family that had known wealth and privilege, then exposed to German labor camps, learned the value of human life and the importance of forgiveness. This story of loss, of love, and of forgiveness is one you will not forget.

For half a century, a terrible secret lay hidden, locked in a trunk in an attic . . . photos, official documents, and scraps of a diary written by a young girl.

"The time has come when I must share my life story . . . some facts from the past that could make a contribution, however small it may be, to the history of mankind." The Secret Holocaust Diaries is a haunting eyewitness account of Nonna Lisowskaja Bannister, a remarkable Russian-American woman who saw and survived unspeakable evils as a young girl. For half a century she kept her story secret while living a normal American life. She locked all her photos, documents, diaries, and dark memories from World War II in a trunk. Late in life she unlocked the trunk, first for herself, then for her husband, and now for the rest of the world.

Nonna's story is one of suffering, torture, and death-but also of incredible acts of kindness that show the ultimate triumph of faith and love over despair and evil. The Secret Holocaust Diaries is in part a tragedy, yet it's also an unforgettable true story about forgiveness, courage, and hope.

Denise George, author of 22 books, has written more than 1,500 articles for Redbook, Essence, Guideposts, Christianity Today, Decision, Preaching Magazine, and more than 80 other magazine markets. She is a judge for the 2008 Christy awards, has worked with Chuck Colson, and has written many of his BreakPoint commentaries. She speaks internationally at higher-education institutions, pastors' conferences, and other forums. Denise is married to Dr. Timothy George, founding dean of Beeson Divinity School, Samford University. They live in Birmingham, Alabama and have two grown children.

Carolyn Tomlin has combined her educational career with writing and photography and writes monthly for The City News (Jackson, Tennessee), www.earlychildhood.com, Baptist & Reflector, and Children's Ministry (Group Pub. Co.). She is the author of eight books, including More Alike Than Different and First Steps in Missions, and is a frequent speaker for women's ministries, teacher-training workshops, and writing conferences. She is a native of Jackson, Tennessee, where she lives with her husband, Matt. They have two adult children and six grandchildren.

Other Books

Il mio diario segreto dell'olocausto. Una storia vera,