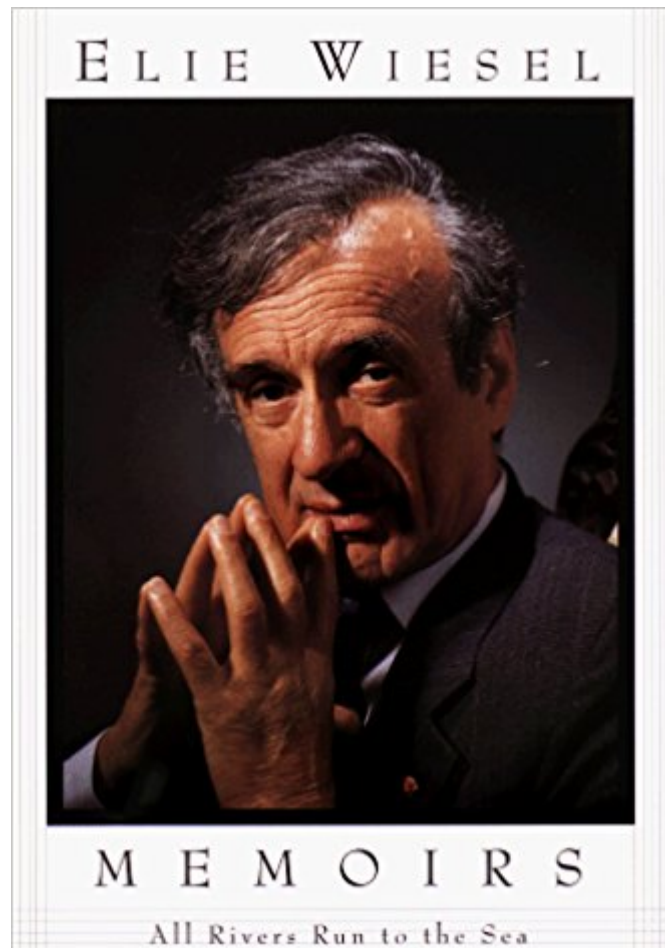




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All Rivers Run To The Sea: Memoirs



Synopsis

With 16 pages of photographs.

Book Information

Hardcover: 448 pages

Publisher: Knopf (November 14, 1995)

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Customer Reviews

The long-awaited memoirs of Wiesel, winner of the 1986 Nobel Peace Prize, tell the story of his happy childhood in the Carpathian Mountains, his subsequent years of hell in Auschwitz and Buchenwald, and his post-war life in France, where he discovered his voice as a writer. Highly recommended.

Wiesel's immensely moving, unforgettable memoir has the searing intensity of his novels and autobiographical tales. Before his family was arrested by Nazis in their Romanian village and transported by cattle car to Auschwitz in 1944, the devout, studious future Nobel Peace laureate had plunged into Jewish mysticism, hoping that his Kabbalistic prayers and formulas might ward off impending tragedy. In the concentration camps, he came to know his formerly aloof and deeply loved father, Shlomo, a rabbi, whose death in Buchenwald in 1945 left Wiesel, then 16, numb. Living in a French orphanage, he learned of the deaths of his mother and younger sister, and was reunited with the two sisters who survived. Wiesel, who gradually recovered his religious fervor, wrestles with the problem of having faith in the post-Holocaust era. As a Paris-based journalist aiding the Jewish resistance movement in Palestine, he discovered his calling—to testify to Nazi genocide, to justify his own survival. Moving to New York in the mid-1950s as correspondent for an Israeli paper, he covered civil rights struggles, the Eichmann trial in Israel and the 1967 Six Day

War, befriended Golda Meir and David Ben-Gurion and supported persecuted Soviet Jews. His ascetic bachelor existence ended when he fell in love with and married Marion in 1969. He writes also of his formative friendships with Yiddish poet/thinker Abraham Yeoshua Heschel, Talmudic scholars Gershom Scholem and Saul Leiberman and itinerant mystic rabbi Mordechai Rosenbaum ("Shushani"). This haunting, impassioned book will make you cry yet, somehow, leave you renewed, with a cautious hope for humanity's future. Photos. First serial to Parade. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Elie Weisel's All Rivers Return to the Sea, the first of his two part memoir, provide the reader with a wider view of Weisel than either his popular image, or many of his books provide. Of course, his experience in the Shoah is paramount. But this book also shows that Weisel led a varied, well-traveled life following the Second World War. He was no one's victim: despite his experiences, or maybe because of them, as a journalist he placed himself at the center of many epochal moments. He led a full life. It is also interesting that he fails to explore the personal element of the trauma of the Shoah in his life. He writes about his experiences in the camps, of course, but the post-war material stands on its own. Again, this is not the story of a victim or victimhood. It is the story of a life lived fully. Weisel presents a picture of himself as a man active and functioning in the world.

He is an amazing author and person.

good read

A must read for lovers of Elie Weisel. The most interesting parts of the book are his childhood and his experiences in Birkenau. Other parts of the book were less interesting and seem like a roll call of famous people whose paths crossed his. Still, it's fascinating to learn how many world leaders knew and respected him.

Reading this book one gets an understanding of one of the most horrible crimes in the history of humanity. The author fully deserved his Nobel Prize. I wish I had met him when he was still alive. Fascinating personality!

Many interesting stories

It makes me feel as if I am in the room talking with Elie Wiesel. Elie Wiesel has such an easy writing style and he handles a subject matter that is so cruel with such ease of style that you can picture yourself there. If you want a good view of what life is like for someone who was hated so much without a cause you should read this book and the other writings by Elie Wiesel.

I can't tell if there's some fiction in it - I just have a feeling that there is.

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