



## Torn Thread

*Anne Isaacs*

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A searing Holocaust novel based on a true story.

Twelve-year-old Eva and her sister have been forced to leave their home in Poland and are imprisoned in a Nazi labor camp. There they must spin thread on treacherous machinery to make clothing and blankets for the German Army. As Eva struggles amid ever worsening dangers to save her life and that of her sick sister, readers witness how two teenagers strive to create home and family amidst inhumanity and chaos. Written in exquisite prose, this story of heartbreak and hope that is rich in detail and symbolism will deeply move readers of all ages.

## **Torn Thread Details**

Date : Published October 1st 2002 by Scholastic, Inc. (first published April 1st 2000)

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Author : Anne Isaacs

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## From Reader Review Torn Thread for online ebook

### Patricia says

The tenacity for survival is incredible. As if running the spinning machines wasn't dangerous enough, doing so while sleep and food deprived made it worse. Great book about a terrible time in our history, the Holocaust.

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### Katrina says

*Torn Thread* by Anna Isaacs, is a book that takes place in a work camp located in Czechoslovakia. The two main characters, Eva and her little sister Rachel, must find a way to stay alive for "one more hour" as her father told Eva to do. All the characters in the book are believable because they are based off of real people that really existed. The setting and plot may not be authentic, but the author makes the reader believe that it is. This first person narration has a wonderful design and style. The reader gets to see what it was like for Jews in a work camp during WWII. *Torn Thread* has themes of love, friendship, and survival that hooks the reader till the very end. I would recommend this book to an older audience, but overall is a fantastic book.

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### Kathy says

I think I got this book months ago because it was mentioned in another holocaust book I read. It is shelved as juvenile fiction at my library, but no way would I want a juvenile grandchild of mine to read it. The vocabulary level may be middle school but the subject matter is adult. It is about the terrible treatment of women and young Jewish girls sent to a German labor camp in Czechoslovakia to spin thread on dangerous machinery to make blankets and uniforms for the German army. The description of a death march that passed the Parschnitz barracks during the night as the Russian army was closing in on Germany in the spring of 1945 was particularly harrowing.

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### Juliana says

Eva and Rachel two sisters who loved each other dearly. But unfortunately Rachel got taken away. Will the two survive? A very great book I recommend it to anyone who likes to read about the holocaust.

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### Jacob Santacruz says

I think this book is interesting because it tells that what happened in the past. It also tells who is courageous. The book also tells what happened to the jews, who did this to them, what did the jews do in that time. this is why the Torn Thread is interesting.

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## **Chelsea says**

This book is based on what happened to two Polish sisters during the Holocaust. Eva, 12, is the youngest of the sisters and joins her sickly sister Rachel at a camp after her father's request to. Rachel was captured during a raid by the Nazis while in a Jewish ghetto and taken to the Nazi labor camp. Eva's father has some influence with the Nazis and finds out Rachel is safe and decides Eva will be safer there than in the ghetto. The sisters work in a textile mill with dangerous machines, mostly unsympathetic guards, and horrible working conditions. They go through unspeakable hardships that will move readers to tears. It moved me to tears anyways! The story is full of heart ache, bravery, and simply survival in an unlikely place. This would be a great book for any teen or adult to read while studying World War II or just to have a book to read. The writer connects Eva, the main character, to the reader as well as the other characters. An obvious way to promote this would be to include it in a World War II display or just a display of war stories. Tremendous courage and growth occurs in both of the sisters' lives as they are always trying to "stay alive for just one more hour," their father's advice.

Voya codes

5Q, 4P, M,J,S

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## **Jocelyn L. says**

"Torn Thread" By Anne Isaacs tells the story of Eva, a young Jewish girl from Bedzin, Poland. In the beginning, 12-year-old Eva is living in a Jewish ghetto with her father and her older sister Rachel. When Rachel is taken by Nazi soldiers, her father uses the connections from his job to find out that she has been sent to a labor camp in Parschnitz, Czechoslovakia. He asks for Eva to be sent there as well, because then he'll know that she's safe with her sister, and she'll be less likely to be killed if the Nazis need her to work. She soon finds that she's certainly no safer in the camp than in the ghetto. Here, she has to combat hunger, long work days, sickness, and lack of basic care. She also has her sister Rachel's health to worry about. Rachel had always been sickly, and the poor conditions were making it even worse for her. Somehow, Eva finds the strength to keep her faith and struggle through her life in the camp.

I found this book very interesting. People usually learn about the Holocaust on a large scale, since so many people were killed. When they do hear personal accounts, it's usually about the worst camps, like Auschwitz. This book gives a lot of insight about the lives of young Jewish girls in a labor camp, where they were kept alive, but just barely. It tells the true story of people living on the brink of life and death, and how some people persevered, while others gave in, willingly or otherwise.

I rated this book a 4 out of 5. It seems like it would be a depressing read, but it really makes you appreciate all the basic things in life, like food, medicine, and kindness, that these girls were being deprived of. I was sort of wondering throughout the book whether this was a true story or not. My favorite part of the book was the epilogue, where it explains that Eva got married and moved to Canada, and that "Eva's son, Smuel is married to the author of this book" (184). The fact that it's a true story about the author's mother-in-law just made the book seem a lot more real to me. I always picture the Holocaust as a long-gone part of history, but the story of its survivors is still not over yet for some.

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### **Anthony says**

The book was about a girl named Eva and her older sister named Rachel. At the begining of the book, Eva and her sister live with their father in a Jewish ghetto in Poland during World War II where they struggle to survive , living in a small attic with small rations. Rachel has weak lungs and a weak immune system which affects her for the worst through the entire book. One day, as Rachel is walking to their Aunt and Uncle's house, she is taken by the Nazi's in a raid and sent to a labor camp. A few days later, Eva's father arranges for her to go to the same camp that her sister is being held at and she is soon re-united with her sister. As the weeks and months pass at the camp Rachel goes through sickness after sickness, and Eva somehow makes good relations with the camp leader Frau Hawlik. Eventually the Russians close in on the town. The Nazis evacuate, shut the water and all food to the camp and things at the camp become desperate. Eventually the Russains restore things back to normal, but Eva and her sister find out that her father died.

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### **Columba703 says**

This book is so amazing and sad. I really liked it. It's horrible what hittler sent out to do :( I hope that this would never happen, ever!

People say that when your young life your life to the fullist,play have fun and enjoy your self because when your older you can't because you have to work and have many responsibilities to take on. But in this book it wasn't like that. 12 year old Eva and her sister Rachel had to work in a nazi labor camp. It's horrible what they had to do there. They weren't even feed well. I really like this book. :]

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### **Zoe James says**

If I were to save my family from a fire, the next thing I would grab is this book and someone named Eva, (another book). I fell in love with this book, and was tempted to steal it from the library along with someone named Eva. Love. Love love this book. It is just so sad and heartbreak, the last couple of chapters were nail biting, when we didn't know if Rachel was going to live.....I can't. Just read this book.

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### **Anthony Mangiaracina says**

This book was way better than I thought it was going to be. It was full of suspense and I wanted to keep on reading everyday. This story was about a family and one girl, Rachel, was taken by nazi's and forced to a camp. Then Eva her sister went to the camp to help her stay alive, and after many rough challenges they managed to be liberated. I liked this book and would recommend you read it.

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### **Nick says**

I liked it because it was interesting I would read it again. It was action.

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### **Milla says**

It is really sad, but I think it is a fantastic story. I think that girl is so lucky, since it's based on a real story.

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### **Barbara says**

Very sad, but based on author's mother-in-law's real life holocaust experience. Hard to determine how much was fact and how much was fiction, but certainly a troubling time! It seemed to end just a bit abruptly. I would have been interested in more details on what happened to the characters in the months after the war ended.

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### **Jacklyn Descano says**

Torn Thread was an excellent book. Because of its detail and description, readers were able to comprehend what was occurring during the second World War and the scars it left on many peoples' lives. Torn Thread is about a young girl, Eva, and her fight at a concentration camp in Czechoslovakia to save not only herself, but her sick and slowly dying sister, Rachel. On top of that, she must walk until she collapses due to orders from the Nazis and produce uniforms for the German army. Furthermore, the food rations are low and Eva needs to find a way for both her and her sister to maintain their health and live to see their Papa after their liberation. Personally, I would recommend this book to people who can handle emotion evoking scenes and those who may be interested in learning about the Holocaust. Overall, Torn Thread was an exceptional book and I would totally recommend you read it.

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