



# Rena's Promise: A Story of Sisters in Auschwitz

By Rena Kornreich Gelissen, Heather Dune Macadam

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**A new, expanded edition of *Rena's Promise* went on sale March 17, 2015. Find it listed in the other editions of this title, or search by ISBN: 978-080709313-9.**

Sent to Auschwitz on the first Jewish transport, Rena Kornreich survived the Nazi death camps for over three years. While there she was reunited with her sister Danka. Each day became a struggle to fulfill the promise Rena made to her mother when the family was forced to split apart--a promise to take care of her sister.

One of the few Holocaust memoirs about the lives of women in the camps, *Rena's Promise* is a compelling story of the fleeting human connections that fostered determination and made survival a possibility. From the bonds between mothers, daughters, and sisters, to the links between prisoners, and even prisoners and guards, *Rena's Promise* reminds us of the humanity and hope that survives inordinate inhumanity.

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### Editorial Review

#### From Publishers Weekly

Imagining that, by volunteering for a work camp, she would somehow be protecting her family from the Nazis, Rena, at age 17, put on her best clothes, left her fiance and the Polish village of Tylicz in the Carpathian Mountains and was sent off to Auschwitz. Presently, her sister Danka arrived, as did cousins, schoolmates and neighbors. As a child, she had promised her mother to look after her baby sister, and that promise obsessed her throughout her incarceration in the camp. It gave her reason to survive, so that one day she could bring Danka safely home. How they escaped starvation, beatings, the crematorium, the medical experiments of the notorious Josef Mengele and survived the end of the war is all recounted here in this spirited survivor's testament, written with freelancer Macadam. After the war, Rena married a Red Cross worker and emigrated to the U.S., following her sister.

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#### From Library Journal

Gelissen, who was on the first Jewish transport to Auschwitz, describes in this account the constant struggle for survival in the camp. She soon learns there were no guarantees. Rena's motivation came strongly from a promise to her parents to keep her younger sister, Danka, safe. Her account describes the relentless specter of death while at the same time showing how prisoners would risk their lives to smuggle medicine, clothes, and food to other prisoners. Because Rena was an early prisoner in Auschwitz, she describes some of the confusion at the beginning and the realization of what was really happening to the Jewish people. Helpful features of the book include historical notes and a section describing the fate of the people the sisters knew. This memoir captures the horror of Auschwitz in a clear way that helps the reader understand the atrocities perpetrated there. Recommended for Holocaust collections.

*Mary Salony, West Virginia Northern Community Coll. Lib., Wheeling*

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#### Review

This is a book filled with melancholy wisdom and bitter artistry.... A miraculous message...a voice which we must heed and honor. --Mike Fink, *Rhode Island Jewish Herald*

"A personal story of courage....[Rena's] first-person account is an illustration of the power of love, even in the face of the Nazi killing machine." --Paul Nowell, Associated Press

"Deeply moving." --Dena Taylor, *San Francisco Chronicle*

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##### Bob Pratt:

Book is definitely written, printed, or highlighted for everything. You can understand everything you want by a guide. Book has a different type. As it is known to us that book is important issue to bring us around the world. Close to that you can your reading talent was fluently. A guide Rena's Promise: A Story of Sisters in Auschwitz will make you to be smarter. You can feel considerably more confidence if you can know about

anything. But some of you think that open or reading any book make you bored. It's not make you fun. Why they could be thought like that? Have you seeking best book or suitable book with you?

**Leslie Marcellus:**

Rena's Promise: A Story of Sisters in Auschwitz can be one of your beginning books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in words, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nonetheless delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort that will put every word into satisfaction arrangement in writing Rena's Promise: A Story of Sisters in Auschwitz however doesn't forget the main position, giving the reader the hottest in addition to based confirm resource info that maybe you can be considered one of it. This great information can easily draw you into brand-new stage of crucial contemplating.

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**Gerald Rountree:**

Is it anyone who having spare time subsequently spend it whole day through watching television programs or just lying down on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This Rena's Promise: A Story of Sisters in Auschwitz can be the answer, oh how comes? It's a book you know. You are and so out of date, spending your time by reading in this brand-new era is common not a geek activity. So what these books have than the others?

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