

Tatae's Promise – You will live... you will tell

by

Sherry Maysonave & Moises J. Goldman

Quotes from Reviewers

Mike O'Krent

Founder and CEO, LifeStories Alive, LLC

Holocaust Survivors Interviewer for [Steven Spielberg's Survivors of the Shoah History Foundation](#)

Summary: “As a student of the Holocaust and one who interviewed Holocaust survivors for Steven Spielberg's Survivors of the Shoah History Foundation, I thought I had heard it all. Now, I know I was wrong. This is not your ordinary Holocaust story. Do yourself a favor. Find out for yourself.”

Full Review: “A well-written book grabs your attention from the start and never lets go. Such is the case with *Tatae's Promise*. Sherry Maysonave and Moises Goldman weave the stories of four main characters, each a separate piece of cloth, into a warm, beautiful quilt that seemed unthinkable to construct. Each story comes to life from the combination of the recorded oral history of the main character, Hinda Mondlak, and the engaging writing style of the authors. The challenge you will have, as I did as I read it, is putting the book down. I just had to know what was going to happen next!

As a student of the Holocaust and one who interviewed Holocaust survivors for Steven Spielberg's Survivors of the Shoah History Foundation, I thought I had heard it all. Now, I know I was wrong. This is not your ordinary Holocaust story. Do yourself a favor. Find out for yourself.”

Betty Sue Flowers, PhD

Professor Emeritus UT-Austin, former Director, Johnson Presidential Library

Editor, *Joseph Campbell and the Power of Myth*

“This moving and suspenseful book tells the story of Hinda Mondlak, who escaped from Auschwitz with her sister. Based on hours of her taped testimony, it describes in rich detail every phase of the persecutions she endured—Nazi occupation, the village ghetto, the death journey to Auschwitz, beatings, illness, starvation, escape, and then a harrowing flight from Russian troops. Saved occasionally through the unexpected kindness of others and always by her own courage, Hinda is vividly alive in this reweaving of her memories. A memorable story of resilience and enduring love.”

Eli Rubenstein, Religious Leader, Congregation Habonim Toronto

National Director, March of the Living Canada; Director, International March of the Living

Appointed to the “Order of Canada” by The Governor General of Canada

“Hinda Mondlak’s story is nothing short of extraordinary.

To survive the selections in Auschwitz, followed by more than two years of brutal incarceration in this infamous factory of death, and then to be one of the very few brave souls to successfully escape the heavily guarded compound, is a testament to the truly remarkable spirit of Hinda Mondlak.

Inspired by her father's promise and last words to her just before his execution - You Will Live; You Will Tell - this riveting adaptation urgently demands only one thing from us - We Must Listen!

In doing so, we engage in a sacred duty and pay tribute to the millions of martyred souls whose lives were so tragically cut short during Nazi Germany's long and dark Kingdom of Night."

Philip Klein, DMD

Chairman and President of the Board, Viva Learning, LLC

Summary: "Against the backdrop of the horrors of the Holocaust... The book [*Tatae's Promise*] is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the power of love - and the will to live to heal even the deepest wounds."

Full Review: "Against the backdrop of the horrors of the Holocaust, this beautifully written narrative paints vivid images of the characters and the unimaginable lives they lived under the terror of the Nazi regime. Both heartbreaking and uplifting, Hinda Mondlak, the protagonist, must overcome the loss of her parents and navigate saving herself and her younger sister through the death throes of starvation, disease and mass murder.

The book [*Tatae's Promise*] is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the power of love - and the will to live to heal even the deepest wounds. Hinda's charismatic and relatable figure will resonate with readers from all backgrounds as she relentlessly struggles to preserve her faith and fulfill her father's promise: You will live; You will tell."

Victor Yagoda

Deputy Director General, United Israel Appeal of Canada, Israel Office, Retired

Summary: "During all my life, I was exposed to the Holocaust horrors with ongoing descriptions and testimonials. Every year, Israel honors Holocaust Memorial Day with a shutdown. The media tunes up to listen to testimonies of survivors. Every year each testimony is carefully selected and transmitted. I expose myself to them year after year. BUT NOTHING compares to Hinda's testimony in this book."

Full Review: The book is written in an extraordinary and sensitive way. It has time pauses that eases the read. It deals with hunger, punishment of all kinds, thirst, malaria, typhus, experimentation on living humans by Dr. Josef Mengele, home expulsion by the Nazis, destruction of homes and synagogues, executions by hanging, gas chambers (Zyklon B), mass train transportation in box-cars for cattle, inhuman torment, extraction of gold-teeth by force, body parts amputation, tattooing (the number 25305 was horrifically tattooed with a needle on Hinda's left arm by the Nazis in Auschwitz), electrified fences, and more.

Salomon Mondlak, father of Hinda, asked Hinda to promise him that she would be both mother and father to her younger sisters, protecting them. He promised her that she would survive and tell the family's tragic fate. Against all odds, Hinda and her younger sister Rachel escaped Auschwitz in order to: "survive and tell".

This book is based on factual events, which Hinda recorded on eleven audio tapes in three languages during the final years of her life in Mexico, while suffering terminal cancer. She died in 1985 in Moises' arms as she entrusted the tapes with him. Moises promised her that he would tell her story to the world, and fulfill the prophecy of tatae Salomon, back in Poland 52 years earlier.

Hinda's story is so harsh and hard to believe, that it took Moses another 37 years to TELL and honor his promise to his mother when Hinda gave him her final goodbye.

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BUT NOTHING compares to Hinda's testimony in this book.

Wheeler Chapman

President, Chapman Financial Group

“This powerful, page-turning book is the story about man's capacity for evil and the triumph of the human spirit to endure and survive. Based on the true lives of the author's parents and their journeys through the ghettos of Poland and the Nazi concentration camps of Auschwitz and Buchenwald, *Tatae's Promise* is their gripping story of faith, family and tenacity which guides them through the inhumanity of the camps, their daring escape, and their paths to freedom.”

Dr. Arturo Constantiner Sourasky

Board of Governors, Tel Aviv University and Tel-Aviv Sourasky Medical Center

Summary: “In this great book, *Tatae's Promise*, Hinda Mondlak has three goals that she must accomplish, at all costs, and she does it with tremendous determination and resilience. This book should be read by anyone who wants to grasp the unfathomable suffering that Hitler and his followers intentionally caused; but most importantly, it should be read by the people who, in spite of massive evidence, still have the audacity to deny that the Holocaust occurred.”

Full Review: “In this great book, *Tatae's Promise*, Hinda Mondlak has three goals that she must accomplish, at all costs, and she does it with tremendous determination and resilience. For her, the only way to achieve these goals is to persevere and to first, save her own life. Otherwise, she cannot attain the second goal, which is protecting and saving her sister Rachel's life.

Hinda's third goal is to achieve the wishes of her father, which is “to live and tell” of the horror. She understands that if she does not fulfill her father's wish, she not only would fail him, but she would also fail humankind, by depriving all of us of knowing the terrible reality and incredible persecution that she endured because one fellow human can cause such on another fellow human for no reason other than they believe that there are superior and inferior races, and that handicapped people don't have the right to live. Dostoyevsky states that it is only humans that kill for no reason, compared to animals that only kill to eat and survive.

Not only did Hinda survive the atrocities of the Holocaust... she began a new life, even bringing children into the world. One of those children, author Moses Goldman, through great pain, shares in this book the tremendous and difficult experiences that his mother managed to endure. The story underscores Hinda's extraordinary determination; she was one of only 200 people, out of millions, who successfully escaped Auschwitz.

This book should be read by anyone who wants to grasp the unfathomable suffering that Hitler and his followers intentionally caused; but most importantly, it should be read by the people who, in spite of massive evidence, still have the audacity to deny that the Holocaust occurred.”

Neil F. Blumofe, Senior Rabbi, Congregation Agudas Achim, Austin, Texas

Summary: “*Tatae's Promise* is a tribute that penetrates our heart deeply. Let us learn this story and teach it to our own children.”

Full Review: “How does one live by the fifth commandment and honor one's mother? This accounting, authored by Dr. Moises Goldman and Sherry Maysonave, bring Hinda Mondlak's (a"n) life to each of us as an offering of love. This recounting is at turns, tender, defiant, staggering, and hopeful. How can we know our parents and what they have lived through? What sacrifices do our parents make for us so that we can live? Let us not forget, so we can know our parents as heroes. *Tatae's Promise* is a tribute that penetrates our heart deeply. Let us learn this story and teach it to our own children.”

John E. Shephard. Jr.

Retired Senior Executive, Northrop Grumman and ITT-Exelis, U.S. Army Gulf War Veteran

Summary: “*Tatae's Promise* grips your soul from page one... It's relevance today is more than historical as my recent visit to Rwanda's genocide museum makes poignantly clear.”

Full Review: “*Tatae's Promise* grips your soul from page one, telling the harrowing true-life story of the Mondlak family's unimaginable suffering under the depraved Nazi regime from their *shtetl* in Poland to the dismal Mlawa Ghetto to Auschwitz. This stark and riveting account of young Hinda Mondlak's unyielding determination to survive and ultimately escape Auschwitz with her younger sister, obsessed by her father's prophecy that she would live to tell, is by turns gut-wrenching, heartbreaking, and inspiring.

It's relevance today is more than historical as my recent visit to Rwanda's genocide museum makes poignantly clear. More than three-quarters of a century after Hinda's escape, millions of living people suffer under the repugnant brutalities of dictatorships, wars, ethnic cleansing, and hate-mongering. We must not avert our eyes from inhumanity, and we must never shrink from our obligation to tell.”

Jack Kliger, President & CEO, and Mr. Avraham Groll, Vice President of JewishGen, Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust

“The exploration of one's roots offers the opportunity to not only identify relatives, but to understand the context in which they lived. We are gratified to see researchers such as Dr. Moises Goldman recording their family stories [*Tatae's Promise*] that can be accessible for future generations, and which can serve as a template for other Jewish genealogists to follow.”

Carla Meaux, Retired Insurance Executive

“A page turner, this book would not let me go. I could not put it down. I've read many Holocaust survival stories, and none can rival *Tatae's Promise*. It is engaging and beautifully written, even amidst the horror. At times, I was aghast and heartbroken, but, in the end, I felt incredibly inspired.”

Lois Reiswig
President Maui Arts League, Retired IBM Executive

Summary: “Truly a remarkable read. A 10 on a scale of 1-10! This historical fiction story is told in such a manner that the reader just can’t put the book down. I spent many evenings reading until 2 a.m.”

Full Review: *Tatae’s Promise*

Life takes many turns. A young Jewish girl, Hinda Mondlak, about to turn 16 years old lived a happy family life before the war... This book is about a family of eleven children and their parents, living an orthodox Jewish family lifestyle and each of their journeys from “happiness” to “continuous fear.”

This historical fiction story is told in such a manner that the reader just can’t put the book down. I spent many evenings reading until 2 a.m. You will learn about the German Nazis’ treatment of Jews during WWII. The details obtained from eleven audio tapes recorded by Hinda after her escape from Auschwitz go beyond the known gas chambers and internment camps that have been documented and divulged via museum exhibits, books, and profuse articles by journalist, scholars, and professors.

Hinda and her sister Rachel, two of 200 documented, “successful” Auschwitz ‘prisoner escapees’ managed to skirt death many times, experienced hair pulling moments and escapades. Truly a remarkable read. A 10 on a scale of 1-10!

Wade Monroe, Retired Committee Member, Austin Jewish Foundation, Shalon Austin;
Retired CFO, Trilogy Software

“**A masterpiece.** The detailed information captured about the characters, especially Hinda, makes her, the other characters, and events very Real & Believable. We can never learn too much about the impact on the millions of lives systematically Murdered during the Holocaust.”