

Association of Jewish Libraries

REVIEWS

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Jopek, Krysia. *Maps and Shadows*. Los Angeles, CA: Aquila Polonica, 2010. 151 pp. \$19.95 cloth (9781607720072); \$14.95 pbk. (9781607720089)

The author, a poet, narrates a fictionalized biography of her family as her mother, father, and two siblings tell of their journey in war-time Poland. The story begins on a supposed idyllic family farm in pre-war Poland, surrounded by Ukrainian villages. Once Germany invades Poland from the West, Russia, by agreement with Germany, invades from the East. The Russians then round up Poles in their occupied areas and "resettle" them in what were essentially slave labor camps in Siberia. Through an agreement reached through British intervention, Polish slave laborers are released and the father joins the Polish army in exile in Palestine. The family, left behind, travels first to Tanganyika, then are finally transferred to a refugee camps in England. The family is reunited and as Polish DPs (displaced persons) find ultimate refuge in the United States. Disguised as a novel the story plays on the heartstrings, but does replicate the history of so many Poles, who were first subjugated by the Germans and then degraded by the Russian Communists. Accompanying the tale is a reading guide offered as a supplement, hence adding to the value as a teaching tool. Overall, this memorial, slimly characterized as a novel, is a terrifying experience given a very human face.

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The following titles, reviewed in the Adult Readers section, may be of interest to teenagers:

Jopek, Krysia. *Maps and Shadows*.

Padowicz, Julian. *A Ship in the Harbor: Mother and Me, Part II*.

Schwartz, Lola Lieber with Alida Brill. *A World After This: A Memoir of Loss and Redemption*.