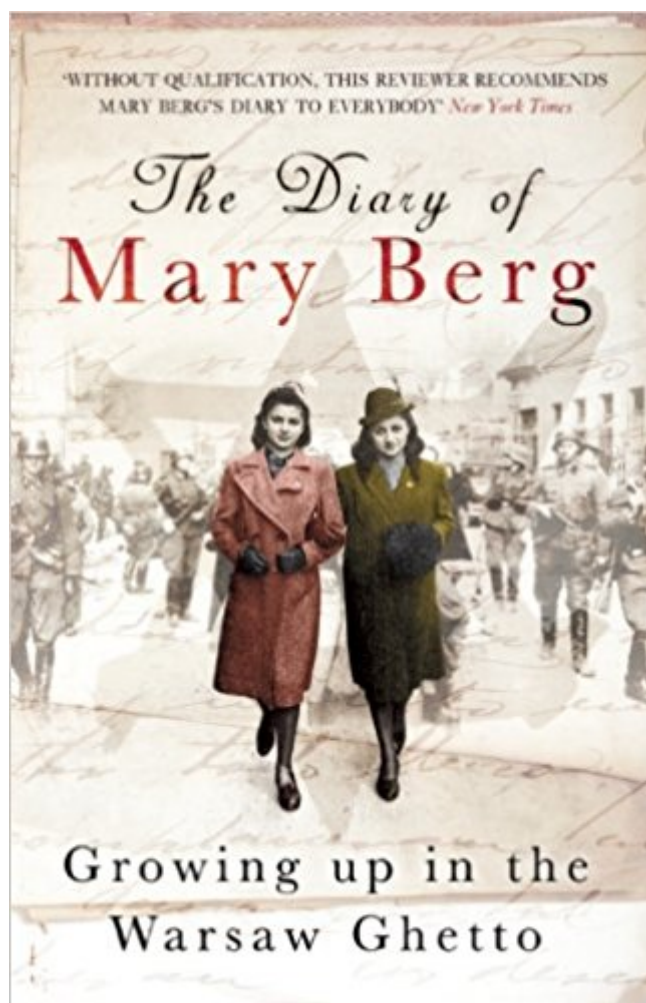


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# The Diary Of Mary Berg: Growing Up In The Warsaw Ghetto



## Synopsis

A revised edition of an extraordinary record of life in the Warsaw Ghetto, first published in 1945, before the end of World War 2. Originally edited by SL Schneiderman, this edition has a new introduction by Susan Lee Pentlin. On her fifteenth birthday, as the German army tightens its grip on Warsaw, Mary Berg begins writing her diary. She does not yet know that by the time she has filled twelve small notebooks she will have endured four years of Nazi terror and recorded in vivid detail some of the most important events of the twentieth century. From the siege of Warsaw to the final, brutal suppression of the Ghetto Uprising, she documents the plight of the refugees, the lives of the nouveaux riches, the forced conscription, the deportations and the heroism of the resistance fighters who rose up against German oppression. Rescued with her family through an allied prisoner exchange, Mary smuggled out of Warsaw the diary she had begun four years earlier. In doing so, she brought to light one of the most incredible documents of the Second World War - the uniquely personal story of a life-loving girl's encounter with unparalleled human suffering, and an extraordinary insight into one of the darkest chapters of history.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Without qualification, this reviewer recommends Mary Berg's Diary to everybody" --New York Times  
"A heartbreaking record of [Mary Berg's] experiences growing up in the Warsaw Ghetto"  
--Good Book Guide, May 2009

"One of the most important documents in the age of Hitler"

I first read this book when I was about 16. At that age *The Diary of Mary Berg* seemed just like a horror story to me. Now that I am a lot older than 16 I know it's a horror story. It is also the truth. Mary and her family were forced into the Warsaw Ghetto when she was just 16, in November 1940. Since her mother was an American citizen, Mary, her sister Ann, and her father had more protection than most of the people in the ghetto. In July 1942 Mary and her family were transferred to Pawiak prison, and from there to Vittel in France, a health resort being used as an internment camp. In March 1944 Mary and her family were exchanged for some German prisoners and sailed for the United States. This book is based on Mary's diary that she started when she was 15 and published in 1945 before the war was over. In reading this book as an adult I can see certain things that didn't mean much to me when I was younger. Mary mentioned a musical contest where a 6 year old boy won the prize. He was a student of Wladyslaw Szpilman, the subject of the book *The Pianist*. Also, her real name was Miriam Wattenberg which I believe she changed when publishing her book. I especially liked the cover of this newer book. There is a picture of Mary and her sister Ann walking in the ghetto. The star of David is in the background along with Nazi soldiers. A very striking book cover. An absolutely excellent book which I highly recommend reading.

"*The Diary of Mary Berg: Growing Up in the Warsaw Ghetto*" was first published in 1945, long before Anne Frank's *Diary*. I highly recommend this book; it's a difficult read in the sense that Ms. Berg (Miriam Wattenberg) witnessed first hand many atrocities perpetrated by the Nazis in the Warsaw Ghetto. It's not easy reading about children being slaughtered and the blood of the murdered Jews running in the gutters of Warsaw, but as the rise of fascism is beginning to reassert itself worldwide, including the U.S. (often in the name of Christ), this diary is a good reminder of what can happen when an ethnic group is devalued and demonized by the majority and viewed as less than human. The Nazis acted upon their hatred and institutionalized it, resulting, as we all should know, in the slaughter of 6 million Jews and millions of others. This is a Holocaust diary that will keep you up at night, in a sweat, because pogroms that occurred in Poland, Germany, etc. have also occurred in recent years, for example, in Bosnia, Serbia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Africa, among other places. We should NEVER forget and NEVER repeat. By the way, what originally piqued my interest in this diary was the fact that Mary Berg lived in York, Pennsylvania, where I live, where she was known as Mary Pentin in the local antiques business. In "*Holocaust Diary Author Mary Berg Lived in York County for Years*," Mike Argento (*The York Daily Record*) reveals the secret she had kept from her colleagues for over 50 years and the rather colorful life she created her York County

community:[http://www.ydr.com/local/ci\\_27170657/holocaust-diary-author-mary-berg-lived-york-county](http://www.ydr.com/local/ci_27170657/holocaust-diary-author-mary-berg-lived-york-county) Like most citizens of York, I had never heard of her, and when she died in 2013 at 88, "...No obituary was ever published. If there was a memorial service, it was private, very private" (Argento). Once she came to the U.S., she and her family pretty much kept to themselves, and Ms. Berg had hidden her Jewish background. Moreover, she wanted to forget about her own book and her time in the Warsaw Ghetto. But these things have a way of eventually coming out.

Stunning first person history. I couldn't read some chapters all the way through without putting the book down to calm my emotions at what she was describing

Sad but true story. The gut spilling madness. The social complexity of Warsaw and its ghetto. The mindless even joyful sadism and savagery of the Germans requires a steady hand to read on.

Eyewitness accounts of history are invaluable. Mary Berg's diary takes the reader to the place and time and helps them see the truth of the ordinary witness. Are there more like this out there??

Please bring them to light!

Powerful book!

Such a sad story but worth the read.

Excellent record of Warsaw survivor's experience in the ghetto. Mary's account of the conditions are of great historical value to future generations.

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