



The Kiss

Scott E. Blumenthal

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Gold Medal: Independent Publisher Book Award (2014)

Winner: International Book Award (2015)

Finalist: International Book Award (2015)

November, 1941. War and genocide have plunged Europe into darkness. Then, a ray of sunlight: whispers of Aron Beckman, an extraordinary young Jewish musician in Poland - barely twenty years old, they say - who plays the harp that belonged to King David himself. They say that Aron has formed a trio with two fellow prodigies, and that the music is like nothing ever heard before. That it is powerful. That it moves people to do great things. That it can bring the dead back to life. They say the musicians can lift the darkness. And that they are on their way. "This breathtaking novel... will stay with you long after you've read the last page." - Ari L. Goldman, author of The Search for God at Harvard "The Kiss is both brutal and breathtaking...in a way that is utterly fresh and altogether original. I couldn't put it down, and when the end came I couldn't bear to part with it. A stunning, heartbreaking page-turner." -Elizabeth Volpe, two-time Pushcart Prize nominee, author of Brewing in Eden "Moving...powerful. Blumenthal's debut novel keeps us asking the big questions." -Katharine Weber, author of The Music Lesson, Triangle, True Confections

The Kiss Details

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From Reader Review The Kiss for online ebook

La Tonya Jordan says

Aron Beckman is part of a trio of musicians called the Rovner Klezmorim who performed as the Nazis invaded Poland during World War II. These musicians gave hope to a people of despair at time when it appeared all was lost. For Polish Jews, this music sounded like the arms of God had opened the heavens to usher in all the blessings that would take away the atrocities that had befallen them before their own eyes. Aron Beckman, Reuven Dekelbojm, and Benjamin Schlossman the trio members play with the passion and intensity that made you cry, weep, and smile at the same time. Aron's kinnor was said to have been played by King David himself. Reuven's the flautist plays like the song of a bird. Benjamin plays the viola like a madman attempting to forget his own pain.

The Kiss is an exciting read from start to finish. It begins with survivors of the holocaust being interviewed to tell their story about the Rovner Klezmorim of what they saw, knew, and heard to put the legend to rest. Once read you will not forget the legacy of what music can do for the human spirit and how cruel and inhumane another human being can be to another human being. An enjoyable read you will not forget.

Deb says

Good book.

Terri says

Interesting story. It's always hard to read about what Hitler did to the Jews. Very cool twist in the epilogue!

Vanessa says

Very well-told tale that evoked emotion and the question that plagues us even in 2014: Why and how can humans behave so savagely against their own species over religious and cultural differences? Yet, at the same time, it inspires the hope that there are always those who survive, achieve, and work to make us all believe that we are better than the least common denominator.

Paula Bennett says

very moving

Lorri says

My actual review is 3.5 stars.

Connie Lansberg says

Excellent, heart wrenching story, set in Poland before and during the war. Scott's characters are believable and become very real within this devastating piece.

Worth the read.

Sarah says

This was a really moving story with an unusual perspective. I found it a little slow to start, but it became increasingly engaging and engrossing as time went on. Not an easy book to read, but beautifully told.

Candace Austin says

Excellent book!

Rachel says

Great story to humanize such tragic events.

The Jewish Book Council says

Reviewed by Suri Boiangiu for the Jewish Book Council.
