

***Fragments: Memories of a Childhood, 1939-1948.***

**Library Journal (August 1, 1996)**

Wilkomirski, a well-known classical musician in Switzerland, was a small child when the roundups of Jews began in Poland after the German invasion of 1939. He vaguely remembers that his father was killed in front of him. Then he was separated from his mother and brothers. Eventually, at the age of three or four, Wilkomirski found himself in the Majdanek death camp outside Lublin. Here young Benjamin learned to survive on his own while surrounded by strangers. In Majdanek he witnessed every Nazi depravity. Owing to his age he had a very small vocabulary, which was further reduced to understanding whatever was needed to survive. This memoir illustrates the horror and sadness that this small child went through and the terrible loss of family, heritage, and a normal childhood. Written from "fragments" of childhood memories, it conveys the feeling of a child speaking with no adult interpretations. It is helpful to have a brief knowledge of the Holocaust and the death camps to be familiar with events the writer refers to. A powerful book; strongly recommended for Holocaust collections.--Mary F. Salony, West Virginia Northern Community Coll. Lib., Wheeling

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