

characters it is a man – the only teacher shown to be dynamic and free of prejudice – who most influences and encourages Keith.

This is not a great novel. It contains a number of interesting ideas and some excellently-written passages, but does not avoid self-consciousness or banality; and so in the end it is not the resolution of the plot, nor the transmission of the message which come across most clearly. Instead, it is that certain reality – Toronto in the summer and autumn of 1939, Eaton's annex dresses, Sunnyside, Mackenzie King's voice on the radio – a reality the author lived through as a child, of a specific time, place, and social class, which leaves an autumnal Canadian savour in the reader's mind. This already is much.

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The Holocaust – From the Inside

EDRA BAYEFSKY

One Who Came Back, Anita Mayer. Oberon Press, 1981. 110 pp. \$7.95 paper. ISBN 0-88750-3829 hardcover; 0-88750-3837 paper.

Anita Mayer was nineteen-years-old when she walked away, free, from the nightmare of Nazi domination. She was taken prisoner with her family in August 1944 after being in hiding for eighteen months. In May 1945, she was freed, for the war was over, and the Germans had lost. Emaciated and lice-infested, she went home to find that she was the only one out of her family to return. In *One Who Came Back* Mayer records her life as a victim of the Nazi attempt to destroy the Jews. She survived; six million other Jews did not. Her book does many things, including making a statement about the Jewish people's determination to survive.

One Who Came Back is an important book because it records conditions inside the concentration camp and it describes impressions and reactions of the imprisoned Jewish prisoners: the author is the

major source of these impressions; she describes herself as “dazed,” “bewildered,” “living in a dream.” The remarks of hollow-faced labourers scurrying to newly arrived prisoners for news of the war and of family and friends is brought several times before the reader. Likewise, the reader sees the process of imprisonment as it is taking place. Mayer writes of train loads of Jews arriving daily at the camp, of cart loads of bodies being towed away, of smoking crematoriums and of the smell of burning human flesh. Although she does not mention the number “six-million,” she conveys the sense of the many people being involved.

One Who Came Back is a short book, written simply and in a matter-of-fact way. There is a message of how senseless and how real the murder of Jews was in World War II. The author wrote her book because she does not want people to forget. Not to forget is to ensure that a holocaust never happens again.

Edra Bayefsky is in Israel on a Kibbutz; she has an Honours Degree in English literature from the University of Toronto.

Divorce North American Style: What it Does to Kids

ELEANOR SWAINSON

My Parents are Divorced, Too, Bonnie Robson. Dorset, 1979. 211 pp. \$10.95 paper. ISBN 0-88893-010-0.

Divorced Kids, Warner Troyer. Clarke, Irwin, 1979. 174 pp. \$12.95 hardcover. ISBN 0-7720-1122-9.

“Children are not witnesses to divorce,” says Warner Troyer, “they are participants.” That being the case, it is astonishing that until now little has been written either for or about these children. Bonnie Robson’s *My Parents Are Divorced, Too* and Warner Troyer’s *Divorced Kids* are beautifully written and compelling books