

(Download free pdf) A Vanished World

A Vanished World

From Farrar, Straus Giroux
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From Farrar, Straus Giroux : A Vanished World before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Vanished World:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The classic pictures of the soon to be lostBy Terry5555This is the classic book of photos of Jewish lfe and people in Poland and around on the just before WWII. Since the people and the way of life was exterminated, this is one of the few remembrances of how things used to be before. I had given a copy to my mother when it was first published 30 years ago. She really appreciated it since she was born in NYC in 1914 as the first generation born in NYC and this was her parents' and ancestors world, now destroyed. Her copy was lost so I bought another one second hand from.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. To fill the voidBy va PRGAIThe photos have helped me to imagine, what Jewish life was like in Galizia. I have toured the region, but found empty buildings. Of course I knew that ahead of the tour, but the book was helping to see, what it was like. For example, I was in Lublin, but the former Jewish part of the city doesn't exist anymore, as it was torn down in the sixties. In the book I found photos of the former Jewish part of Lublin as well.11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. An amazing recordBy David LightWhat is incredible is how Vishniac captured the variety of Jewish life in late 1930s eastern Europe--from the streets of Warsaw, Cracow, and Lublin, to villages in the Carpathians. His photographs also contrast the extreme poverty many Jews fell into at the time (especially as a result of official boycotts of Jewish establishments) with the richness of intellectual and religious life (the two being inseparable in that time and place). We are shown grandfathers and babies, sages and porters, tzaddiks and merchants, women in the

market, boys in cheder, children at play. While strife, anxiety, and resignation are seen on the faces in many of the photographs, there are also many smiling faces--some shy, some beaming at the camera. The most beautiful are those of small children--a girl returning home with a pot of soup and a bottle of milk for the family's dinner, so pleased; a small boy looking off at something his classmates do not see; a boy on a crowded street giving the photographer a friendly wave. Also of great value are Vishniac's captions, printed at the front of the book. One hopes that some publisher will bring this valuable book back into print.

This pictorial history of Jewish life in Germany in the 1930s before the Holocaust, shows the stories of individuals, their increasing poverty, sad wisdom and enduring love in the years leading up to World War II.

.com Roman Vishniac's *A Vanished World* is an extraordinary record of the lives of German and Eastern European Jews in the years immediately preceding the Holocaust. Vishniac, a Russian Jew, began to take photographs of village life during World War I, when Russian Jews who lived near the front were accused of being German spies and were deported to Siberia. He later moved to Germany, where he witnessed the horrible events of Kristallnacht and the anti-Jewish legislation that allowed Hitler to declare his enemies stateless and therefore unworthy of international protection. As we study Vishniac's photographs--a surviving fraction of the more than 16,000 he took--we are aware that we are seeing the faces of those soon to die, witnessing a world that has all but perished. Yet that world, of shops and schools, of busy streets and quiet farms, remains with us if only as a ghostly memory, thanks in part to Vishniac's compassionate eye.