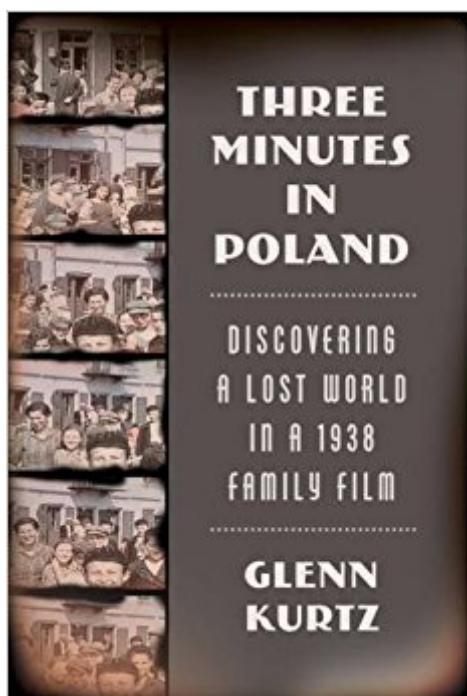


The book was found

Three Minutes In Poland: Discovering A Lost World In A 1938 Family Film



Synopsis

Named one of the best books of 2014 by NPR, The New Yorker, and The Boston GlobeWhen Glenn Kurtz stumbles upon an old family film in his parents' closet in Florida, he has no inkling of its historical significance or of the impact it will have on his life. The film, shot long ago by his grandfather on a sightseeing trip to Europe, includes shaky footage of Paris and the Swiss Alps, with someone inevitably waving at the camera. Astonishingly, David Kurtz also captured on color 16mm film the only known moving images of the thriving, predominantly Jewish town of Nasielsk, Poland, shortly before the community's destruction. "Blissfully unaware of the catastrophe that lay just ahead," he just happened to visit his birthplace in 1938, a year before the Nazi occupation. Of the town's three thousand Jewish inhabitants, fewer than one hundred would survive. Glenn Kurtz quickly recognizes the brief footage as a crucial link in a lost history. "The longer I spent with my grandfather's film," he writes, "the richer and more fragmentary its images became." Every image, every face, was a mystery that might be solved. Soon he is swept up in a remarkable journey to learn everything he can about these people. After restoring the film, which had shrunk and propelled across the United States; to Canada, England, Poland, and Israel; and into archives, basements, cemeteries, and even an irrigation ditch at an abandoned Luftwaffe airfield as he looks for shards of Nasielsk's Jewish history. One day, Kurtz hears from a young woman who had watched the video on the Holocaust Museum's website. As the camera panned across the faces of children, she recognized her grandfather as a thirteen-year-old boy. Moszek Tuchendler of Nasielsk was now eighty-six-year-old Maurice Chandler of Florida, and when Kurtz meets him, the lost history of Nasielsk comes into view. Chandler's laser-sharp recollections create a bridge between two worlds, and he helps Kurtz eventually locate six more survivors, including a ninety-six-year-old woman who also appears in the film, standing next to the man she would later marry. Painstakingly assembled from interviews, photographs, documents, and artifacts, *Three Minutes in Poland* tells the rich, harrowing, and surprisingly intertwined stories of these seven survivors and their Polish hometown. "I began to catch fleeting glimpses of the living town," Kurtz writes, "a cruelly narrow sample of its relationships, contradictions, scandals." Originally a travel souvenir, David Kurtz's home movie became the most important record of a vibrant town on the brink of extinction. From this brief film, Glenn Kurtz creates a poignant yet unsentimental exploration of memory, loss, and improbable survival--a monument to a lost world.

Book Information

Paperback: 432 pages

Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux; Reprint edition (November 17, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0374535795

ISBN-13: 978-0374535797

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.1 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 58 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #697,779 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #29 in Books > Travel > Europe > Poland > General #1360 in Books > History > World > Jewish > Holocaust #13501 in Books > History > Europe

Customer Reviews

âœKurtz's quest to learn about the lost world depicted in his grandfather's home movie is at the heart of this deeply moving, gorgeously written book.â • âœKate Tuttle, The Boston Globeâœ[An] expansive, beautifully rendered micro-history. . . In the pages of Glenn Kurtz's marvelous book, the ghosts from those three minutes are breathtakingly brought to life.â • âœLouise Steinman, Los Angeles TimesâœAn impressive feat of historical research . . . In a genre so often preoccupied with the recitation of horrors, *Three Minutes in Poland* is the rare work that seems more about people than about ghosts.â • âœSarah Kaplan, The Washington PostâœIn this captivating book, Mr. Kurtz tries to reconstruct Jewish Nasielsk, knowing he will fail--not only because he arrives too late but because memory is by nature incomplete.â • âœDara Horn, The Wall Street JournalâœThree Minutes in Poland--along with the remarkable four-year quest it documents--is an act of reverence, as well as a feat of archival reconstruction. Kurtz's patience, energy and appetite for detail seem boundless, and they gradually bring a community--a microcosm of Polish Jewry, with all its political and religious factions and class divisions--(almost) to life . . . The book accumulates elegiac power . . . *Three Minutes in Poland* describes with horrifying precision the ordeals that preceded the murders of most of Nasielsk's Jewish community. But equally compelling pages document how Chandler, with guile, luck and some Polish help, escapes the Warsaw ghetto, took a non-Jewish Polish identity and managed to survive.â • âœJulia Klein, The Chicago TribuneâœKurtz weaves . . . a haunting web of contingencyâ • âœThe New YorkerâœKurtz's tenacious research and sensitive reporting make this book a gem.â • âœThe Christian Science Monitor, The 10 best books of NovemberâœEngrossing, exhaustively researched.â • âœJessica Zack, San Francisco ChronicleâœA rare glimpse of a lost world.â • âœMoment magazineâœA pilgrimage of the highest

order. • • Elaine Margolin, Jewish Journal • Three Minutes in Poland begins as the story of an old family film rediscovered and veers into an important tale of Polish shtetls during World War II. It is intensely moving and brilliantly researched, and it reads like a thriller. • • Elie Wiesel, author of *Night* • A masterpiece. With scrupulous intelligence and deep compassion, Glenn Kurtz tells this stupendous, terrifying, and ultimately consoling story in a way that fully honors the material. The reader grieves for what was lost, but is also alert to the miracle that anything was saved at all. Kurtz has done us all a great service in rescuing this tale from oblivion. *Three Minutes In Poland* is destined to be a classic. • • Teju Cole, author of *Open City* • Glenn Kurtz's beautifully written book is many things at once: a family memoir, a page-turning mystery, a penetrating look at one of the darkest chapters in human history. Above all, it's a powerful testament to the singular worth of every life. That's the passion that inspired Kurtz through his years of research, and I can't think of a worthier one. • • Rebecca Goldstein, author of *Mazel* • Glenn Kurtz leads the reader on an inspiring journey through the forgotten past in this meticulous work of historical reconstruction. I was amazed by the patient, forensic skill with which he followed the trail of a handful of images into a vibrant array of voices and visual memories. By helping his many interview subjects remember details of a world they themselves didn't know they still carried inside, Kurtz discovers life where there had seemed only to be loss. • • George Prochnik, author of *The Impossible Exile* • With nothing more to go on than three scant minutes in a family film, Glenn Kurtz has meticulously pieced together a luminous, searing story of a place and its people. I read this beautiful book wishing for nothing less than to turn back the clock and change the course of history. Kurtz is a restrained and elegant writer, and *Three Minutes in Poland* is not only a magnificent literary achievement, but a human one. • • Dani Shapiro, author of *Devotion*

Glenn Kurtz is the author of *Practicing: A Musician's Return to Music* and the host of *Conversations on Practice*, a series of public conversations about writing held at McNally Jackson Books in New York City.

"Three Minutes in Poland: Discovering the lost world in a 1938 family film." by Glenn Kurtz. An excellent read 'who were they...and what happened to them?' kind of book. The book traces the inquiry of Glenn Kurtz into the origins of the people in an old family film taken by his Grandparents on a trip to eastern Poland in 1938. The author takes us on a journey that involves his Grandparents who made a trip to eastern Poland in 1938 to visit their ancestral home they left in the 1800's, an old film that needs restored for the Holocaust Memorial because it shows life in a Jewish village that

was destroyed in WWII, the process used to restore that film that was extremely interesting, and his journey to find out who the people were that leads down many different paths. It gives a good background of his family, Jewish family life at the time, what Jewish village life was like prior to WWII, the religious traditions involved, that of the region he is examining in eastern Poland, the history of the region, the small village his Grandparents take photos of that one of his Grandparents was born in. It also involves the impact the occupation of Poland had on the Jewish population. So the search begins for the people in the photos and where they are at today? It is a fast read, that keeps the reader engrossed in finding out the answers. The only argument I have against the book, which is why I only gave it four stars, it often gets tedious near the end with all the (what appears to be) extra people that are being brought into the story. It gets to the point of being confusing as to who is who and what relationship they have to the story? But, I realize that's just my opinion. Otherwise it is a good book. The title in itself is what drew me to the book. It turned out to be money well spent, one of the better books I have read recently.

A fascinating book. Especially if you appreciate facts that are facts and mindful methodology. It takes you through his whole trip and he admits when and why at times he was wrong. He had a passion which he followed in a valid way, unemotional. There is much to be learned about WW2 and about resources.

Unbelievable true but very sad detailed story regarding a family home movie of a 1938 visit to Nasielsk, Poland that was found after 50+ years of storage but was still able to be saved by extensive efforts of the author, detailing the shtetl life of the Jewish inhabitants who the majority of which would be victims of the Holocaust.

This is a fascinating book on a village near Warsaw that had a large Jewish population prior to the September 1939 Nazi conquest. It took a 3 minute segment of a movie made in 1938 by the grandparents of the author who attempted to trace the fate of the people in the film and create a vision of the town and its inhabitants. He was able to find several of the few who survived the Holocaust as well as determine how many of the victims perished. It is a story of individuals and families that goes beyond numbers. At times, it is difficult, but necessary, to read because of the horrific treatment of the Jews in their often futile attempt to go on living.

Fascinating glimpse into film preservation, this book really got me thinking about the way we

perceive history and the way we should take stock of our present. Fantastic book. Just what I wanted. A lovely historical, biographical, non-fiction survival story with a mystery element. Inspirational, poignant, educational and at times even humorous. Filled with beautiful photographs, this is a true book of substance. I wasn't 20 pages in before I bought another copy for my cousin, and told everyone at work to get a copy. The book gives a link to the discussion-guide which is also great.

Fascinating unraveling of a mystery 3 minute video film from 1938 vacation trip to Poland by the authors Grandfather. It details life in the village, the destruction/mass murder of Jewish life during World War 2 and then how the few displaced survivors returned to some semblance of life....who come forward to tell this story. Very moving, very informative.

Very Interesting Premise. As the story unfold, the family & friends trees become difficult to remember because the number of names involved. There is, perhaps, a little too much detail & repetition. Parts should have been edited out. But, it's definitely worth a try.

An unbelievable story of Polish occupation like you have never heard it told. Luck and coincidence and descendants who will not forget those they love combine to make this book quite a read. In this book some people survive to tell the story, I can only imagine the number of people and cities lost forever. Thanks to this author in combination with the help of many others looking for lost families and towns, you get a picture of life in these times,

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Three Minutes in Poland: Discovering a Lost World in a 1938 Family Film Poland: Poland Travel Guide: 101 Coolest Things to Do in Poland (East Europe Travel, Krakow Travel, Warsaw, Gdansk, Poznan, Wroclaw) Krakow Poland Bucket List 55 Secrets - The Locals Travel Guide For Your Trip to Krakow 2017: Skip the tourist traps and explore like a local : Where to Go, Eat & Party in Krakow Poland 101 Coolest Things to Do in Poland: 101 Coolest Things to Do in Poland (East Europe Travel, Krakow Travel, Warsaw, Gdansk, Poznan, Wroclaw) Jews in Poland: A Documentary History : The Rise of Jews As a Nation from Congressus Judaicus in Poland to the Knesset in Israel Warsaw : The best Warsaw Travel Guide The Best Travel Tips About Where to Go and What to See in Warsaw,Poland: (Warsaw tour guide, Warsaw travel ... Travel to Poland, Travel to Warsaw) Bang Poland: How To Make Love With Polish Girls In Poland Top 14 Places to Visit in Poland - Top 14 Poland Travel Guide (Includes Krakow, Warsaw, Wroclaw, Gdansk, Poznan, Auschwitz, & More)

(Europe Travel Series Book 31) WARSAW 25 Secrets - The Locals Travel Guide For Your Trip to Warsaw (Poland): Skip the tourist traps and explore like a local : Where to Go, Eat & Party in Warsaw (Poland - Warszawa) Amazing Pictures and Facts About Poland: The Most Amazing Fact Book for Kids About Poland (Kid's U) Krakow: A Travel Guide for Your Perfect Krakow Adventure!: Written by Local Polish Travel Expert (Krakow, Krakow Travel Guide, Poland Travel guide, Warsaw Poland) Poland Invites You Thirty Years of the People's Republic of Poland The Film Encyclopedia 7th Edition: The Complete Guide to Film and the Film Industry Genealogy Basics In 30 Minutes: The quick guide to creating a family tree, building connections with relatives, and discovering the stories of your ancestors Lost & Found: Three by Shaun Tan (Lost and Found Omnibus) Bruce Sargeant 1898 - 1938 Love In Vain: Robert Johnson 1911-1938, The Graphic Novel Magritte: The Mystery of the Ordinary, 1926-1938 Is It Night or Day?: A Novel of Immigration and Survival, 1938-1942 One Eye Laughing, The Other Eye Weeping: The Diary of Julie Weiss, Vienna, Austria to New York 1938 (Dear America Series)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)