



The Golem's Holocaust

by Scott Eveloff



Fiction - Historical - Event/Era

264 Pages

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Book Review

Reviewed by Asher Syed for Readers' Favorite

In Scott Eveloff's *The Golem's Holocaust*, after Jewish teenager Shayna Essenreich survives a mass execution inside a Nazi death camp in occupied Poland, an elderly rabbi gives her sacred clay tied to an ancient legend about a protector created for persecuted Jewish communities. Buried beneath the murdered prisoners, Shayna brings forth Emmett, a living Golem formed from mud, blood, ash, and the souls of the dead. As Shayna is dragged through the Nazi prison system toward Treblinka, Emmett follows the trail left behind by the deportation trains moving across occupied Europe. SS officer Klaus Wirtzler is convinced the creature threatens the future of the Reich after witnessing entire camps destroyed in its wake. While Nazi officials expand Operation Reinhard into a machine built for extermination, Shayna fights to stay alive long enough for Emmett to find her before the people behind the Final Solution erase every trace of them both.

Scott Eveloff's *The Golem's Holocaust* treats Jewish folklore as something born directly from terror inside Nazi-occupied Europe. The author describes the daily life of Theresienstadt, where frightened prisoners trade favors for bread while Jewish Council officials occupy larger apartments beside overcrowded families packed into narrow rooms. Shayna Essenreich, imprisoned at Treblinka, gives the novel its human center after hiding sharpened splinters inside her clothing before the expected assault by SS officer Lukas. Her determination never slips into heroic spectacle because survival is a series of private decisions made under constant threat. SS officer Klaus Wirtzler is especially disturbing once reports about the Golem push him toward advocating cremation facilities during meetings with Reinhard Heydrich. The image of Emmett watching smoke rise above Treblinka while transport trains unload Jewish families remains the novel's defining scene, joining supernatural folklore with historical horror grounded in documented atrocity.