



# Childhood

By Jona Oberski

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## Childhood By Jona Oberski

**A rediscovered masterpiece: an unblinking view of the Holocaust through a child's eyes**

Told from the perspective of a child slowly awakening to the atrocities surrounding him, *Childhood* is a searing story of the Holocaust that no reader will soon forget. As five-year-old Jona waits with his mother and father to emigrate from Nazi-occupied Amsterdam to Palestine, they are awakened at night, put on a train, and eventually interred in the camps at Bergen-Belsen. There, what at first seems to be a merely dreary existence soon reveals itself to be one of the worst horrors humanity has ever created. A triumph of heartrending clarity and dispassionate amazement, *Childhood* stands tall alongside such monuments of Holocaust literature as *The Diary of Anne Frank*, Elie Wiesel's *Night*, and Primo Levi's *Survival in Auschwitz*.

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## Childhood By Jona Oberski Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

### Review

“A book which will shock every reader with a heart.” —**Isaac Bashevis Singer, winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature**

"Simple... terse... shattering." —**Harold Pinter, winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature**

"A dark fairy tale ... of the fears and anguish of a child, based on experiences that could not be grasped by reason, irrational yet truly real." —**Heinrich Böll, winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature**

“An astonishing book—memorable, piercing. It reaches to the very soul.” —**Chaim Potok**

“Deserves to be widely read.” —*The New York Times Book Review*

“A haunting jewel of a memoir that takes the holocaust a step beyond the tragic.” —*Christian Science Monitor*

"A haunting Holocaust autobiography."—*Atlanta Jewish Times*

“A child sees the barbarities of an event such as the Holocaust not in terms of race and politics, but in the way a Martian would see them, as amazing and stupefying instances of the cruelty of man. Jona Oberski conveys this amazement in an unembroidered and memorable way.” —**Thomas Keneally, author of *Schindler's List***

“This is a book that matters. There is a purity in it which leaves you speechless, a humanity which gives you no rest.” —*Die Zeit*

“This is not the book of the year, but the book of this damned century. *Childhood* is going to reach everyone and go on reaching people for generations to come.” —**Allan Sillitoe, author of *Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner***

“It will shock, move you to tears. . . . Admirably understated . . . haunting.” —*Daily Mail*

“Singular and powerful . . . There is no mawkish sentimentality here. . . . *Childhood* punches well above its weight, and everyone should read it.” —*Historical Novel Society*

“A rare achievement and a delight . . . It approaches perfection.” —*Asylum*

### Language Notes

Text: English, Dutch (translation)

### About the Author

**Jona Oberski** is a Dutch nuclear and particle physicist. He was born in 1938 and lives in Amsterdam.

**Jim Shepard** is the author of *The Book of Aron*, a novel narrated by a child in a Warsaw Ghetto orphanage, as well as several other novels and collections of short stories, including *Like You'd Understand, Anyway*,

which won The Story Prize and was a finalist for the National Book Award. He teaches at Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts.

**Ralph Manheim** (1907–1992) was a noted translator. The PEN/Ralph Manheim Medal for Translation is named in his honor.

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#### **David Lacey:**

What do you concerning book? It is not important together with you? Or just adding material when you want something to explain what you problem? How about your time? Or are you busy man or woman? If you don't have spare time to complete others business, it is gives you the sense of being bored faster. And you have extra time? What did you do? Everyone has many questions above. They have to answer that question mainly because just their can do which. It said that about reserve. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is correct. Because start from on pre-school until university need this kind of Childhood to read.

#### **Clyde Welch:**

This Childhood book is not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you obtain by reading this book is definitely information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get details which is getting deeper a person read a lot of information you will get. This Childhood without we comprehend teach the one who looking at it become critical in pondering and analyzing. Don't end up being worry Childhood can bring once you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' come to be full because you can have it in your lovely laptop even mobile phone. This Childhood having fine arrangement in word and layout, so you will not really feel uninterested in reading.

#### **Tyrone Knudson:**

The reason? Because this Childhood is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will surprise you with the secret this inside. Reading this book close to it was fantastic author who all write the book in such awesome way makes the content interior easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of positive aspects than the other book have such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking way. So , still want to hold up having that book? If I had been you I will go to the reserve store hurriedly.

#### **Nora Emerson:**

Reading can called head hangout, why? Because if you find yourself reading a book specifically book entitled Childhood your thoughts will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in most aspect that maybe not known for but surely can be your mind friends. Imaging every single word written in a book then become one web form conclusion and explanation which maybe you never get before. The Childhood giving

you one more experience more than blown away your mind but also giving you useful data for your better life on this era. So now let us explain to you the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind are going to be pleased when you are finished reading through it, like winning a sport. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

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