BOOKCLUB DISCUSSION GUIDE

With an address by Nanette Blitz Konig
CONTENTS

Address by Nanette Blitz Konig
Questions
Bookdetails & Bulkorder options for bookclubs
About Amsterdam Publishers
Further Reading
Address by Nanette Blitz Konig

Dear Book Club Members,

Thank you for reading my memoirs.

For many years I have been speaking about my wartime experiences at schools, universities, government institutions and other gatherings; but I decided to write this book as a permanent record of these events that took place in Holland under the Nazi occupation, in memory of my family who perished, and as one more nail in the coffin of Holocaust deniers.

The relevance of the Holocaust in today’s world is that people who do not remember their history, are doomed to repeat it, as we have witnessed since the event of the Holocaust.

It is not enough to say that the Holocaust should never happen again, there must be awareness of the circumstances that were its principal causes, and recognize the signs of danger of intolerance and discrimination against minorities of any sort.

It is up to each and every one of us, to speak out actively against injustices, and all infringements of human rights.
QUESTIONS

Some of the questions you might discuss after reading the book:

Jews in Germany, as well as in other highly civilized European countries, were well integrated into their societies. Citizens going about their ordinary, everyday lives; some were distinguished and valued contributors such as professors, scientists, doctors, lawyers and so forth. In spite of this, the Nazi propaganda machine succeeded in de-humanizing the Jews in the eyes of the German people, to the extent that none stood up in their defense, and when a few did, it was at great peril to their lives.

Do you think that Social Media platforms can achieve similar results against any minority?

In your opinion, is there enough vigilance to stop this from occurring?

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The Nazi Government in Germany, through the introduction and approval of the Nuremberg laws, legally took away civil rights from their Jewish citizens, making them stateless solely for being Jews.

In your own communities do you see examples of discrimination that need to be corrected, and if so, what can you do about it?

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Hitler and the Nazi party were democratically elected by the German people, even though his platform was clearly described in his book “Mein Kampf” (My Struggle), that eventually led to the Holocaust and World War II, with the estimated loss of 70 million lives.

How do you think voters facing elections, can avoid repeating such a disaster?

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A famous historian once said: “The only thing we learn from history, is that we learn nothing from history”.

Do you agree? And if so, why? How can we learn from history?

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How do you think my memoirs shed more light on Anne Frank’s Diary?

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I hope you have a stimulating and engaging debate, and find ways of applying some of these principles in your daily lives, as steps to building a better world.

Thank you!

Nanette Blitz Konig, December 2019
A monument to the indestructible nature of the human spirit

In these compelling Holocaust memoirs, Nanette Blitz Konig relates her amazing story of survival during the Second World War when she, together with her family and millions of other Jews, was imprisoned by the Nazis with a minimum chance of survival. Nanette was a classmate of Anne Frank in the Jewish Lyceum of Amsterdam. They met again in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp shortly before Anne died.

During these emotional encounters, Anne Frank told her how the Frank family hid in the annex, talked about the deportation from the Annex, her experience in Auschwitz and about her plans for her diary when the war would be over.

This honest WW2 story describes the hourly battle for survival under the brutal conditions in the camp imposed by the Nazi regime

It continues with her struggle to recover from the effects of starvation and tuberculosis after the war, and how she was gradually able to restart her life, marry and build a family.

Nanette Blitz Konig (1929), mother of three, grandmother of six and great grand mother of four, lives in São Paulo, Brazil. Her Holocaust
memoirs were written to speak in the name of those millions who were silenced forever. For more information on the author see her Wikipedia page https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nanette_Blitz_Konig

Book: Holocaust Memoirs of a Bergen-Belsen Survivor and Classmate of Anne Frank

Author: Nanette Blitz Konig

Publisher: Amsterdam Publishers (2018)

ISBN: 978 9492371614 (black & white) and 978 9493056053 (color)

**Bulk price for bookclubs for Color version (excl shipping)**

Copies 1-5: €12,95
Copies 6-10: €11,95
Copies 11-20: €11
More than 21: €10

Black & white version on Amazon: getbook.at/BlitzKonig
Color version on bol.com: bit.ly/2QdMYSv

Please feel free to contact Liesbeth Heenk of Amsterdam Publishers for all enquiries: info@amsterdampublishers.com
Amsterdam Publishers specializes in memoirs written by Holocaust survivors. Holocaust survivor stories need to be kept alive. Every year, survivors with unique testimonies are passing away. This means that we will soon no longer be able to hear first-hand from the people who survived the Holocaust. Books and video testimonials by survivors will be the only ways to get to know their moving stories.

In case you enjoyed reading Nanette Blitz König memoirs, you might be interested in reading some of our other titles. They are available in Amazon and in all good bookshops around the world.

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The Dead Years - Holocaust Memoirs by Joseph Schupack is available as paperback (ISBN: 9789492371164) and as Kindle ebook. Also available in German as Tote Jahre.

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