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A Holocaust Memoir of Love & Resilience: Mama's Survival from Lithuania to America

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<https://amsterdampublishers.com/books/holocaust-memoir-of-love-resilience/>

BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How did Zlata demonstrate love and/or resilience?
2. How did Zlata demonstrate courage, pluck or courage? Others?
3. How does Zlata describe her challenges after liberation?
4. Zlata recorded her story at the age of 82. How do you know that her memories are accurate?
5. Why was it important for Ettie to corroborate, research and document Zlata's memories with other sources?
6. Why was the trip to Lithuania and Poland so important to Ettie?
7. Why was it so important for Ettie to locate and acquire the ***Savanoris*** medal? How did she do it? Is it important that the medal be the actual one which was owned by Ettie's grandfather?
8. Why was Ettie so conflicted about travelling to Poland and Lithuania?
9. What parental beliefs and behaviors influenced Ettie's behaviors and beliefs? Do you think it is all behavioral or possibly genetic? E.g. nature vs. nurture; behavioral or epigenetics?

- 10 Do you see any similarities between the behaviors of Ettie's family and other families? Differences? Why?
- 11 What similarities did Ettie's family exhibit to other immigrant or refugee families you know? What were the differences?
- 12 What were some of the challenges Ettie described, being the second generation, i.e. child of Holocaust survivors?
- 13 Why did Ettie feel obligated to document this story? Why was it important to her to publish this book? What were her major goals?
- 14 Why does Ettie say that she feels particular empathy, kinship, bond to 'others' who are challenged, disabled, immigrants, refugees, expats, language learners, or groups who suffer historic trauma? Are there any other groups who might fit in this category?
- 15 How does this book differ from other memoirs from the Holocaust?
- 16 Why does Ettie wonder how she would behave in similar war circumstances, either as a Jew or as a non-Jew?
- 17 Were there any anecdotes or sayings which resonated with you for your life today?
- 18 What questions would you have liked to ask Zlata? Which ones would you like to ask Ettie? Feel free to write to her at the email address above.

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