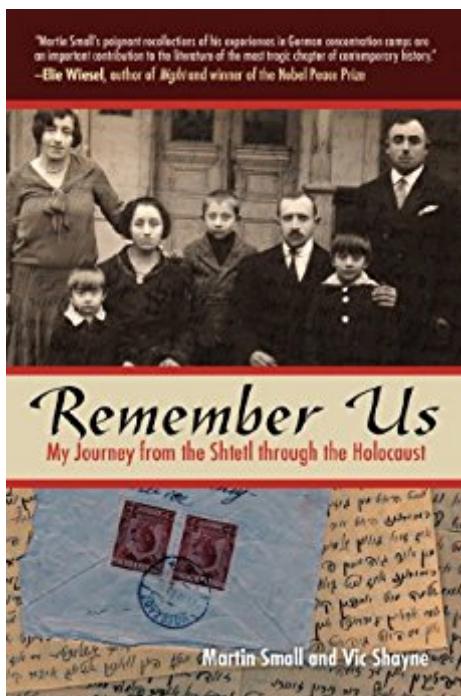


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# Remember Us: My Journey From The Shtetl Through The Holocaust



## Synopsis

Remember Us is a look back at the lost world of the shtetl: a wise Zayde offering prophetic and profound words to his grandson, the rich experience of Shabbos, and the treasure of a loving family. All this is torn apart with the arrival of the Holocaust, beginning a crucible fraught with twists and turns so unpredictable and surprising that they defy any attempt to find reason within them. From work camps to the partisans of the Nowogrudek forests, from the Mauthausen concentration camp to life as a displaced person in Italy, and from fighting the Egyptian army in a tiny Israeli kibbutz in 1948 to starting a new life in a new world in New York, this book encompasses the mythical hero's journey • in very real historical events. Through the eyes of 91-year-old Holocaust survivor Martin Small, we learn that these priceless memories that are too painful to remember are also too painful to forget.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

It took me 5 days to finish this book. Not because it was boring or poorly written, but because of just how powerful this man's story was. There were many times where I had to put the book down and step away for awhile when things got too intense. Unfortunately Mr. Small didn't have the luxury of taking a break from the horror. He had to endure it and live with the memories for the rest of his

life. Born Mordechai "Motel" Leib Schmulewicz in what is now Belarus, bordering on Russia, Small had an ideal childhood supported by a tight knit Jewish community led by his Rabbi grandfather. Zayde reminded everyone in the community that to whom much is given, much is required and always help your fellow man. Jewish families escaping the rising anti-Semitism in Germany were welcomed by members of Motel's community and shared terrifying accounts of people losing everything, from their homes to their very lives. The young man's father assured his son that the Nazis wouldn't dare invade their home, but he was sadly mistaken. The Nazis weren't the only ones to fear since many Polish neighbors took it upon themselves to terrorize their former friends. For days on end homes were robbed, daughters raped, and whole families shot. Motel, along with a cousin, were dragged from their homes and descended into what would become 5 years of pure hell in which he would lose his entire immediate family and find himself in Mauthausen, one of the most notorious death camps in Holocaust history. Small doesn't sugar coat (as if that's even possible) when describing the unimaginable torture and inhumanity he witnessed and experienced, but he also doesn't dwell on the details.

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