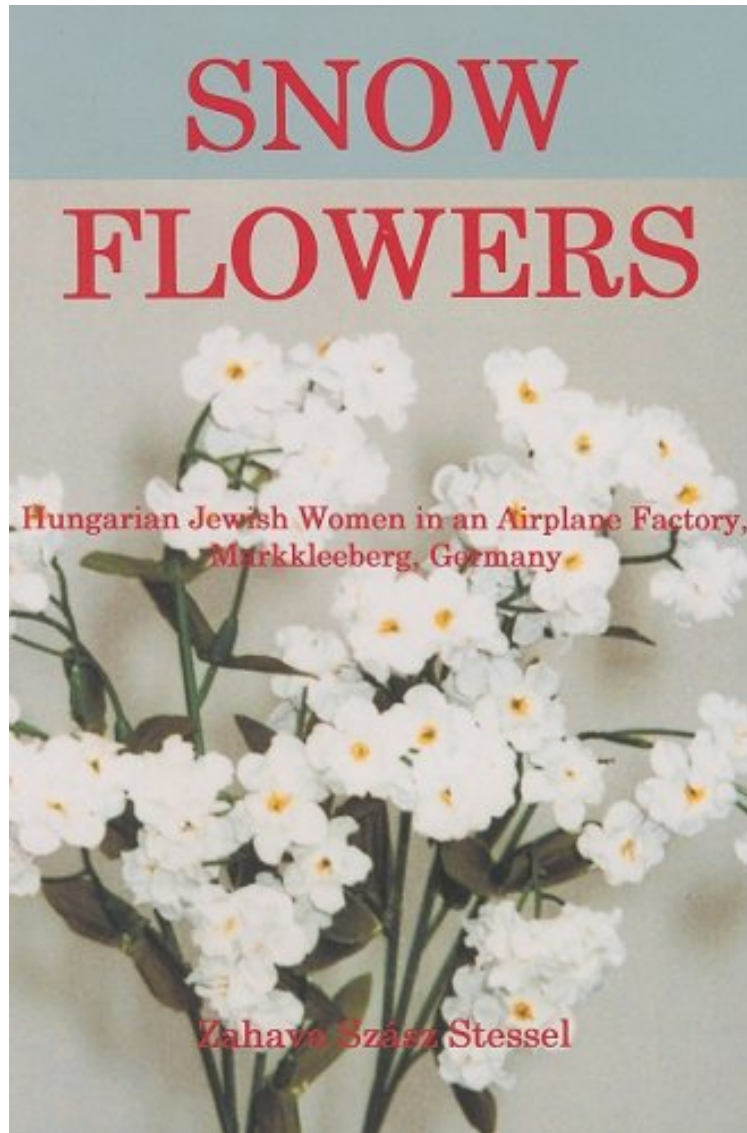


[Ebook free] Snow Flowers: Hungarian Jewish Women in an Airplane Factory, Markkleeberg, Germany

# Snow Flowers: Hungarian Jewish Women in an Airplane Factory, Markkleeberg, Germany

*Zahava Szasz Stessel*

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**Zahava Szasz Stessel : Snow Flowers: Hungarian Jewish Women in an Airplane Factory, Markkleeberg, Germany** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Snow Flowers: Hungarian Jewish Women in an Airplane Factory, Markkleeberg, Germany:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Unbeleivable hardships overcome by sisterly loveBy Moshe Ganan-

By Zahava Szasz Stessel  
Snow Flowers  
Dr. Stessel wrote a very readable book - which is difficult to read. It is succinctly written, rich in material, all encompassing; it is the almost unbelievable story of two little girls, one 14 and the other one a mere 13, turned into slaves, in the clutch of the Nazi war machine. They care for each other and stick together through all the hardships, hunger, fatigue and want. One of the wonders of this war happens when in spite of all they recover from the outcome of the "medical examinations", (p. 51) thus proving themselves unnecessary for further experiments and are sent to Germany to a factory producing war materials. The book tells of all that the girls went through, from their leaving home to their returning there, after many hardships, finding empty houses and heavy memories. The book deals with all aspects of the life led by these young girls and their sisters in fate - the inhuman overseers, a stray hand offering a piece of bread, as if forgotten on the edge of a machine, a poem suddenly written, telling the inmates' fate- these later being the rare "flowers in the snow" - reminiscences of humanity in the midst of inhumanity, hate, hunger, exploitation, dirt and death, bereavement and hopelessness. The book tells the stories of the sisters, but also of thousands of others of similar fate in the German concentration camps, those that were not gassed straight upon arrival into these factories of death but chosen instead to die through work, hunger and all other hardships the very inventive German mind could devise for them.<sup>3 of 3</sup> people found the following review helpful.

Snow Flowers  
By Filis M. Casey  
Snow Flowers is a personal narrative of Zahava Stessel describing the daily lives of women forced into a labor camp in Markkleeberg, Germany during World War II. The author describes how 1,300 terrified but brave Hungarian women reacted in extreme situations. The author's own experience of being forcibly taken from her family at age 14 together with her 13-year-old sister is a story of courage, strength and love. She credits her early family life (with its strong family values and shared love) and being together with her sister which greatly contributed to her ability to survive. Dr. Stessel was able to appreciate how acts of kindness, hope and compassion transcend the cruelty around her. She lives her life remarkably free of bitterness and resentment. Dr. Stessel writes movingly about her life after liberation, including moves from Israel to the U.S., where she lives a fulfilled family life, earned a PhD, became a librarian of the New York Public Library. She is determined to preserve the memories of those who did not survive. In 1998 the author and her sister returned to Germany to participate at the unveiling of a memorial at the site of the labor camp. Snow Flowers was written to break the silences of the author's parents and grandparents whose lives were lost in the Holocaust. Snow Flowers is an embodiment of the triumph of the human spirit. The author spent 8 years carefully recording the testimonies of as many camp survivors as could be located. She had a very valuable reason to write and preserve the memories of those who did not survive and we have a very good reason to read it.<sup>4 of 4</sup> people found the following review helpful. riveting and inspiring

By Phyllis Abend  
Dr. Stessel's personal narrative recounts the horrors she and her sister endured as thirteen and fourteen year olds who passed the "selection" process at Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen to be transported to the women's work camp at Markkleeberg, Germany. The two sisters, slave laborers in the Junkers aircraft plant, devoted themselves to ensuring the other's survival there and during the terrifying Death March to Terezin, demonstrating amazing ingenuity and fortitude. The author meticulously documents her account through German archives and the testimonies of over 100 survivors, as well as the songs and poetry they created to sustain their spirit. Dr. Stessel's moving narrative of this aspect of the holocaust reminds us of how strong parental and cultural values affect our ability not only to survive a horrific experience but to go on to lead a rich, fulfilling life. I could not put down this riveting and inspiring book until I had finished it and strongly recommend it to thoughtful readers.

"Snow Flowers" is a rare study by one of the 1,300 Hungarian Jewish inmates who were 'eased out' by the SS to Junkers Company to produce airplane parts in Markkleeberg, Germany. Working conditions and profits shed light on slave labor establishments. Describing prisoners' ways of coping, their spiritual world addresses the question of how it was possible to live in the camp. A recurring theme is the experience of the author and her teenage sister. The 250 French political resistance fighters in the camp shared the death march and the anguish of the Allied bombing. Russian soldiers bent on sexual exploitation were the first disappointment after liberation. Homecoming and life of the survivor are recounted in the concluding chapters. The eight years of research on this book was prompted by the query of a Markkleeberg school teacher. German archival documents, songs, diaries written in the camp, and the testimonies of 110 fellow survivors provide a collective and a personal narrative. The book is part of a traveling exhibit, 'The Forgotten Women of Buchenwald'. Dr. Stessel is a retired librarian from The New York Public Library.

About the Author  
Zahava Szasz Stessel is a retired librarian from The New York Public Library.