

Running for Shelter: a true story by Suzette Sheft

Running for Shelter is written for a young adult reader, although nothing about the book or the writing would hinder an older reader from appreciating the depth of the story. Suzette Sheft has written this biography about Inge, her grandmother, and Inge's experiences as a child in Austria and France during World War II.

Early memories for Inge included living with her mother in Vienna, Austria. Inge's parents were divorced, but she stayed with her mother in a beautiful home along with her grandmother, a cook, and nanny. The year was 1938, and while much was happening within the city of Vienna, the innocence of Inge's nine-year-old mind allowed her to assume it was not going to affect her life.

Just days after her birthday, Inge's mother packs a small bag and they leave Vienna, traveling together into Switzerland. While in Switzerland Inge's mother leaves Inge behind, saying she will send for Inge soon. This is the beginning of seven years of Inge's dependence on family members she does not know and strangers who are willing to help provide for all her basic needs. Inge is eventually reunited with her grandmother in France, where the two live in total poverty, at times near starvation. After the end of the war Inge's father is able to find her, and eventually Inge and her grandmother travel to the United States together. While not graphic in detail, the poverty and abuse Inge and others endured is evidenced through this memoir.