

## The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris

The Holocaust still seems to generate many books, but this one particularly interested me because it is “based on the powerful true story of love and survival,” to quote the cover. The book grabbed my interest immediately because the main character, Lale, is horrified to find himself tattooing the arms of young women, an atrocity that seems even worse to him than forever marking the arms of men. Usually, he keeps his eyes down, but one pair of eyes captures his attention and a connection that will develop into lifelong love begins.

Auschwitz seems the most unlikely place for romance to blossom or survive. The accounts of atrocities that Lale witnesses and some that he manages to survive are as horrifying as any I’ve read. This is not always an easy book to read, but the promise that it is based on a true story gave me hope as I read it. The two lovers are caught up in an awful time and place that would claim the hopes and lives of millions, but they would survive it and so would their love for each other.

I recommend this book for adults who have an interest in holocaust history or those who enjoy a true love story. Lale and Gita survive conditions and treatment that seems unthinkable; I suspect I would have given up if I were in their place. But it is a tribute to the human spirit that they help each other survive, and contribute to the survival of others around them as well.

Review by Debra Blunier