

Chernoff, Rena Margulies and Allan Chernoff. *The Tailors of Tomaszow: a Memoir of Polish Jews*. Lubbock, Texas: Texas Tech University Studies Press, 2014. 208 pp. \$24.95. (9780896728790). Reviewed from an ARC.

Before the Second World War, the town of Tomaszow-Mazowiecki, in Poland, harbored a vibrant Jewish community. Nearly 14,000 Jews lived there, about one third of the city's total population. This community was almost completely decimated by the Nazis. Only 250 Tomaszowers survived the Holocaust. This is a memoir written by one of the youngest survivors. Most of these survivors were tailors and dressmakers, and it was their skill with the thread and needle, a skill useful to the Nazis, that contributed to their survival. Rena Margulies introduces us to her extended family in Tomaszow and to the day to day life of the Jewish community in this Polish town. Born in 1933, her normal life was soon to end. Her father, brother, and grandparents, as well as many of the extended family were killed in Auschwitz. Rena and her mother survived the Blizyn slave labor camp and the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp. Liberated by the Russians in January 1945, she was 11 years old and in poor health. Returning to Poland and finding anti-Semitism very well alive, the author and her mother applied for a visa to the United States. It is in this new country where Rena built her new life and in her old age decided to speak about her experiences during the Holocaust. Well written and moving, this book is recommended for all synagogues and community libraries.

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