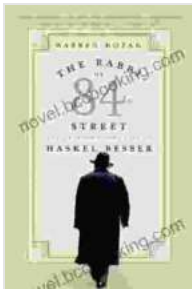


Unveiling the Extraordinary Life of Haskel Besser: A Journey of Triumph and Resilience

A Holocaust Survivor's Inspiring Journey

In the annals of human history, the Holocaust stands as a chilling reminder of the darkness that can consume humanity. Amidst the tragedy and despair, however, there emerged beacons of hope and resilience, individuals whose stories serve as testaments to the indomitable spirit of the human soul. One such figure is Haskel Besser, a Holocaust survivor whose extraordinary life defied the odds and left an unerasable imprint on the world.



The Rabbi of 84th Street: The Extraordinary Life of Haskel Besser by Warren Kozak

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

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Early Life in Poland

Haskel Besser was born in 1928 in Łódź, Poland, to a loving and close-knit Jewish family. As a child, he enjoyed a happy and carefree life, surrounded by the warmth and affection of his family and friends. However, his idyllic childhood was abruptly shattered by the outbreak of World War II and the subsequent Nazi invasion of Poland.

Enduring the Horrors of the Holocaust

With the arrival of the Nazis, Haskel's family was forced into the Łódź Ghetto, where they faced unimaginable hardships and brutality. Over the next several years, they endured starvation, disease, and the constant threat of deportation to concentration camps. Haskel witnessed unspeakable horrors firsthand, including the execution of his father and the separation from his mother and sister.

In 1944, Haskel was deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest and most notorious of the Nazi concentration camps. There, he faced unimaginable suffering and witnessed countless acts of cruelty and barbarism. Yet, amidst the despair and darkness, Haskel refused to give up hope. He clung to the belief that he would survive and that he would one day be reunited with his family.

Liberation and a New Beginning

In January 1945, with the Allied forces advancing, Haskel was evacuated from Auschwitz on a death march that claimed the lives of thousands of prisoners. Remarkably, he managed to survive the march and was eventually liberated by the Soviet Army. Weighing only 60 pounds, Haskel was a mere shadow of his former self.

After the war, Haskel spent several years in a displaced persons camp, desperately searching for any surviving members of his family.

Miraculously, he was reunited with his mother and sister, the only other members of his family to survive the Holocaust.



Haskel Besser reunited with his mother and sister after the Holocaust, a testament to the resilience of the human spirit.

Building a New Life in America

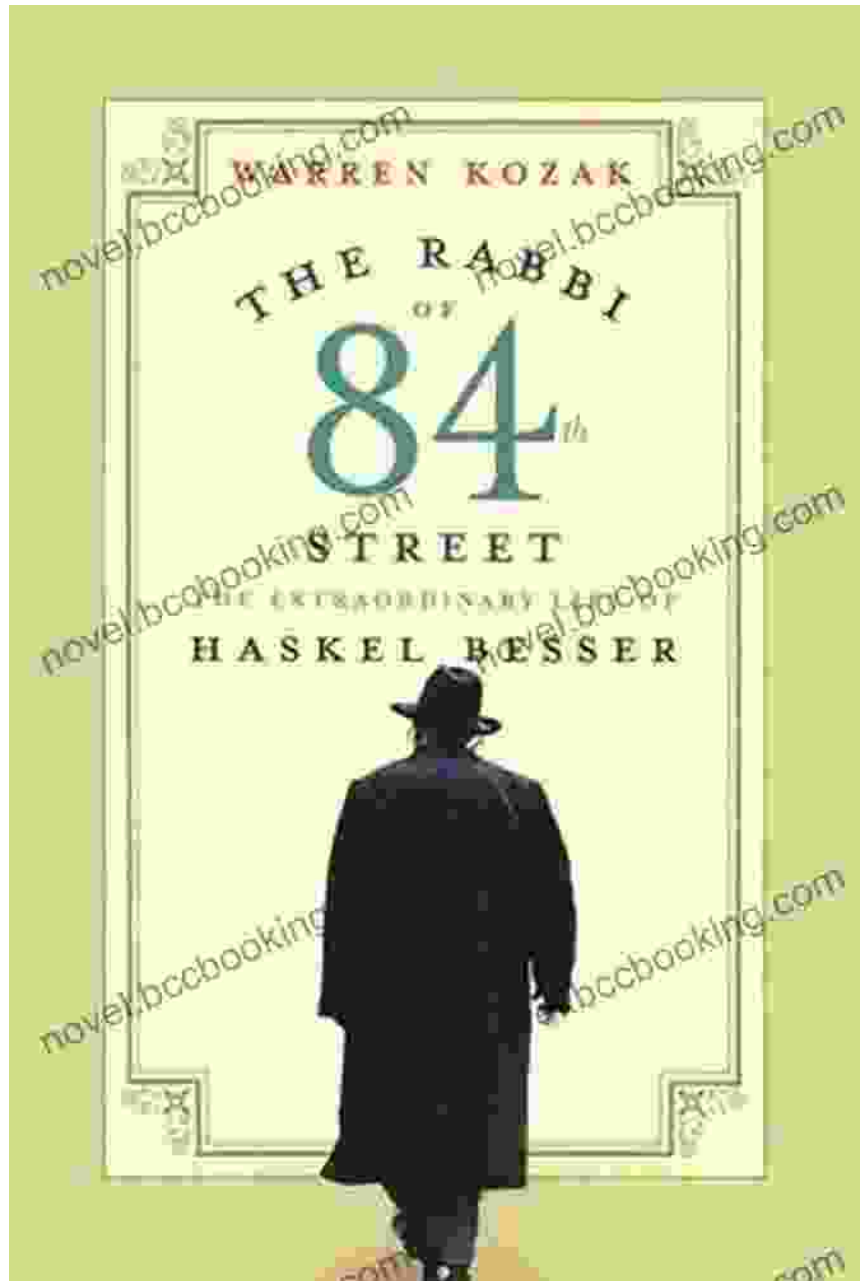
In 1949, Haskel immigrated to the United States, determined to build a new life for himself and his family. He settled in Brooklyn, New York, where he met his wife, Esther, and together they raised a family of three children.

Despite the horrors he had endured, Haskel never allowed his past to define his present. He worked tirelessly to provide for his family and became a successful businessman. Yet, he never forgot the lessons he had learned during the Holocaust, and he dedicated his life to sharing his story and inspiring others.

A Legacy of Hope and Resilience

Haskel Besser's life became a beacon of hope and resilience for countless others. He spoke to countless audiences, sharing his firsthand account of the Holocaust and the importance of combating hatred and discrimination.

In 1987, he published his memoir, "Haskel's Story: From Holocaust Survivor to American Citizen," which became a testament to his indomitable spirit.



Haskel Besser's legacy extends far beyond his own personal journey. He became a tireless advocate for Holocaust remembrance and education, working to ensure that the horrors of the past would never be forgotten.

In 2006, Haskel Besser was awarded the Yad Vashem Medal for Holocaust Survivors, a prestigious honor bestowed upon individuals who have dedicated their lives to preserving the memory of the Holocaust.

Haskel Besser's extraordinary life is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the power of hope in the face of adversity. His story reminds us that even in the darkest of times, we can find light and inspiration.

As we continue to grapple with the horrors of the past and the challenges of the present, let us draw inspiration from Haskel Besser's life and strive to build a better world for all.

Haskel Besser passed away in 2019 at the age of 91, leaving behind a legacy that will continue to inspire generations to come.



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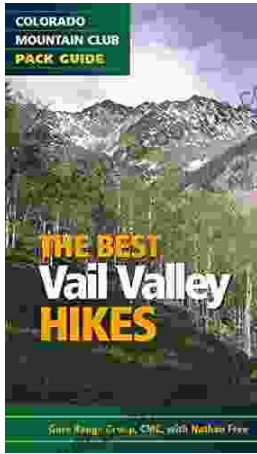
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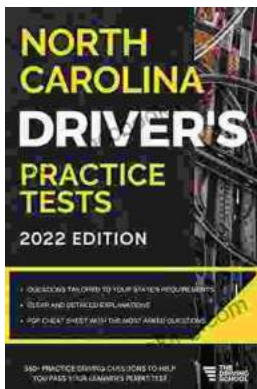
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