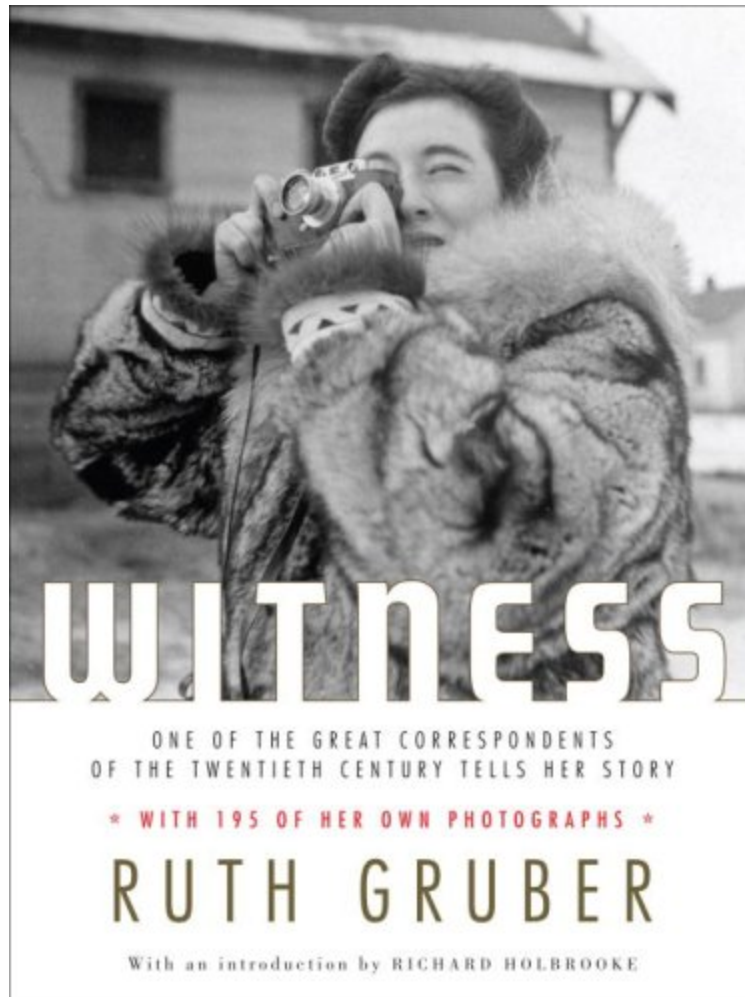


[Free pdf] Witness: One of the Great Correspondents of the Twentieth Century Tells Her Story

Witness: One of the Great Correspondents of the Twentieth Century Tells Her Story

Ruth Gruber

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Ruth Gruber : Witness: One of the Great Correspondents of the Twentieth Century Tells Her Story before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Witness: One of the Great Correspondents of the Twentieth Century Tells Her Story:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I found the book a bit dull and a bit prosaic writing-wise By Renee B. Raye Although she led an interesting life and met some important, impressive and powerful people, I found the book a bit dull and a bit prosaic writing-wise. She took a few leaps of faith and was helped by some non-Chauvenistic men I felt that her travels and her encounters might have been more interestingly portrayed. In my opinion it read like a Wikipedia biography and was not as compelling as it could have been. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. I liked it By George I did not know about this person Ruth Gruber it was very interesting to see that you did so much I'm glad I read this book. The pictures she took were good they were good because they made me see what

she saw at that time and she did so much it was interesting. The book was easy for me to read and it was formative. I recommend this book. Sorry, for the misspelled words, and the wrong words here or any errors. I am using, "Dragon speech recognition software 12.5" from for people that can't use their hands for typing. Mem.Sin. 20011 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An excellent history. By Adam. This memoir is a personal history of Ruth Gruber as well as a look back at the world of the mid-twentieth century. Of particular interest is Gruber's coverage of Jewish refugees after the second world war and the founding of the state of Israel. Not only was she there to witness these events, but her photos and news articles at the time also influenced the decisions of international policymakers. Her narrative and pictures are simple and straightforward, but both are made powerful by her compassion and quiet self-confidence. The book moves quickly through historical periods and can easily be read in a day.

With her perfect memory (and plenty of zip), ninety-five-year-old Ruth Gruber—adventurer, international correspondent, photographer, maker of (and witness to) history, responsible for rescuing hundreds of thousands of Jewish refugees during World War II and after—tells her story in her own words and photographs. In *Witness*, Gruber writes about what she saw and shows us, through her haunting and life-affirming photographs—taken on each of her assignments—the worlds, the people, the landscapes, the courage, the hope, the life she witnessed up close and firsthand: the Siberian gulag of the 1930s and the new cities being built there (Gruber, then untrained as a photographer, brought her first Rolleicord with her) . . . the Alaska highway of 1943, built by 11,000 soldiers, mostly black men from the South (the highway went from Dawson Creek, British Columbia, 1,500 miles to Fairbanks) . . . her thirteen-day voyage on the army-troop transport *Henry Gibbins* with refugees and wounded American soldiers, escorting and then photographing the refugees as they arrived in Oswego, New York (they arrived in upstate New York as Adolf Eichmann was sending 750,000 Jews from Hungary to Auschwitz). In 1947, Gruber traveled for the *Herald Tribune* with the United Nations Special Commission on Palestine (UNSCOP) through the postwar displaced persons camps in Europe, and then to North Africa, Palestine, and the Arab world; the committee's recommendation that Palestine be partitioned into a Jewish state and an Arab state was one of the key factors that led to the founding of Israel. We see Gruber's remarkable photographs of a former American pleasure boat (which had been renamed *Exodus* 1947) as it limped into Haifa harbor, trying to deliver 4,500 Jewish refugees (including 600 orphans), under attack by five British destroyers and a cruiser that stormed the *Exodus* with guns, tear gas, and truncheons, while the crew of the *Exodus* fought back with potatoes, sticks, and cans of kosher meat. In a cable to the *Herald Tribune*, Gruber reported that "the ship looks like a matchbox splintered by a nutcracker." She was with the people of the *Exodus* and photographed them when they were herded onto three prison ships. Gruber represented the entire American press aboard the ship *Runnymede Park*, photographing the prisoners as they defiantly painted a swastika on the Union Jack. During her thirty-two years as a correspondent, Ruth Gruber photographed what she saw and captured the triumph of the human spirit. "Take photographs with your heart," Edward Steichen told her. *Witness* is a revelation—of a time, a place, a world, a spirit, a belief. It is, above all else, a book of heart.

From Publishers Weekly. Journalist Gruber, a Ph.D. at age 19, became an international correspondent for the *New York Herald Tribune* in 1935, launching a career that covered the liberation of Nazi concentration camps, the establishment of Israel and the first glimpse of Siberian gulags. Gruber has a charming, feminine perspective rare to the times; combined with her knack for (very) telling details, she makes a riveting storyteller. For instance, 1941 found Gruber in Alaska with troops preparing for the U.S.'s entry into WWII, and she captures their desperation expertly in a single quote from a teenaged soldier who visited her one morning: "Excuse me for bothering you. I'm so lonely. I only want to hear you laugh." Similarly, a plane full of Yemenite Jews emigrating to Israel in 1949 hides a thunderous story: "Because of years of starvation, (the Yemenites) were so tiny that the plane could hold twice as many Yemenites as Americans." Gruber also found herself a participant in history-making: at 33, she escorted 1,000 Jews from Europe to America; in a 1951 visit with refugees in Israel, Gruber admonished Prime Minister Ben Gurion for deplorable living conditions, prompting quick improvements. Complemented by a slew of Gruber's own photographs—which succinctly record the desolation and hope of the times—this life story makes for a fascinating journey. Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist. Through words and photographs, Gruber chronicles an 80-year career as a photojournalist and correspondent. She was a foreign correspondent for the *New York Herald Tribune* from 1935 until 1967. Gruber recorded the rise of Hitler in Germany in the 1930s and later documented the immigration of thousands of refugees to the U.S., an account that was the subject of her well-regarded book *Haven*. She went on to chronicle the emigration of Jews from Europe and around the world to Israel, recording the British attack on a boat carrying 4,500 Jewish refugees to Israel, an account that was later the basis for Leon Uris' *Exodus*. For this stunning book, Gruber chose the best photographs of her eight-decade-long career and offers essays recounting personal observations of major events of the past, including the construction of new cities in the Siberian gulag by pioneers and prisoners spared execution by Stalin. A fascinating look at world events by an adventurous and pioneering woman journalist. Vanessa Bush. Copyright copy; American Library Association. All rights reserved. About the Author. Ruth Gruber was born in 1911. She was a foreign correspondent for

the New York Herald Tribune from 1935 to 1967. In 1998, Gruber received a lifetime achievement award from the American Society of Journalists and Authors. She is the author of nineteen books, including *I Went to the Soviet Arctic*, *Destination Palestine*, *Haven*, *Raquela*, and *Ahead of Time*. She lives in New York City.