



## THE LISTENER: In the Shadow of the Holocaust

by Irene Oore

**A reflection on how trauma is passed  
from generation to generation**

In *The Listener*, a daughter receives a troubling gift: her mother's stories of surviving World War II in Poland. During the Holocaust, Irene Oore's mother escaped the death camps by concealing her Jewish identity. Instead, those years found her constantly on the run and on the verge of starvation, living a harrowing and peripatetic existence as she struggled to keep herself and her family alive.

Throughout her memoir, Oore reveals a certain ambivalence towards the gift bestowed upon her - the stories of fear, love, and constant hunger traumatized her as a child. Now, she shares these same stories with her own children, to keep the history alive.

**Irene Oore** is the co-author of *Marie-Claire Blais: An Annotated Bibliography*. Born in Łódź, Poland, she immigrated to Israel as a child and is now a professor of French at Dalhousie University in Halifax.

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"...demonstrates the persistence of  
memory and the pervasiveness of  
evil"  
-*Kirkus Reviews*

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