



The Crooked Mirror: A Memoir of Polish-Jewish Reconciliation (Hardback)

By Louise Steinman

Beacon Press, United States, 2013. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 236 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. A lyrical literary memoir that explores the exhilarating, discomforting, and ultimately healing process of Polish-Jewish reconciliation taking place in Poland today. I'd grown up with the phrase 'Never forget' imprinted on my psyche. Its corollary was more elusive. Was it possible to remember--at least to recall--a world that existed before the calamity? In the winter of 2000, Louise Steinman set out to attend an international Bearing Witness Retreat at Auschwitz-Birkenau at the invitation of her Zen rabbi, who felt the Poles had gotten a bum rap. A bum rap? Her own mother could not bear to utter the word Poland, a country, Steinman was taught, that allowed and perhaps abetted the genocide that decimated Europe's Jewish population, including members of her own extended family. As Steinman learns more about her lost ancestors, though, she finds that the history of Polish-Jewish relations is far more complex. Although German-occupied Poland was the site of horrific Jewish persecution, Poland was for centuries the epicenter of European Jewish life. After the war, Polish-Jewish relations soured. For Poles under Communism, it was taboo to...



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