MEDIA RELEASE



by Hetty Verolme

ABOUT THE BOOK

Hetty was just twelve years old in 1943 when her family was torn apart by the Nazis. Rounded up from their home in Amsterdam, Hetty and her brothers were sent to the children's house at Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. There, Hetty became known as the 'Little Mother', helping to look after the babies, toddlers and children through those terrible years. In her direct and powerful style, Hetty recalls one of the remarkable, largely untold stories of the Holocaust.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Hetty Esther Verolme was born in Belgium in 1930. In 1931 her family moved to Amsterdam in the Netherlands. In 1943 she and her family were sent to the Nazi concentration camps.

After surviving the war and working for a time in the fashion industry, she emigrated to Australia in 1954. She worked in many jobs, from waitress to bus conductress, from door-

to-door retailing to selling real estate. She eventually established herself as a successful shopping centre developer.

In 1972, Hetty Verolme was presented with "Most Successful Migrant" award. In 1977 she was appointed to the Australian Ethnics Affairs Council, and for many years she has been actively involved in a wide range of community and charity organizations.

NOTES

- Released in time for the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.
- *Hetty* is an inspiring memoir of resilience and bravery, that remains relevant to a contemporary audience.
- This memoir is suitable for teachers looking for personal accounts of WWII that align with the high school curriculum.
- This is an Australian story: one of hope ultimately triumphing over tragedy.
- Free teaching notes are available online at the Fremantle Press website.

PRAISE FOR THE BOOK

'An unflinching and chilling account, suitable for secondary students studying the Holocaust or WWII.' *Bookseller+Publisher*

'This highly readable book deserves to be in every school and public library and would make a worthwhile gift for children.' *History West*



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