



Remembering and Imagining the Holocaust: The Chain of Memory (Cambridge Studies in Modern Theatre)

By Christopher Bigsby

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This is a meditation on memory and on the ways in which memory has operated in the work of writers for whom the Holocaust was a defining event. It is also an exploration of the ways in which fiction and drama have attempted to approach a subject so resistant to the imagination. Beginning with W. G. Sebald, for whom memory and the Holocaust were the roots of a special fascination, Bigsby moves on to consider those writers Sebald himself valued, including Arthur Miller, Anne Frank, Primo Levi and Peter Weiss, and those whose lives crossed in the bleak world of the camps, in fact or fiction. The book offers a chain of memories. It sets witness against fiction, truth against wilful deceit. It asks the question who owns the Holocaust - those who died, those who survived to bear witness, those who appropriated its victims to shape their own necessities.

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Review

"Bigsby's volume is a tremendous addition to the literature on Holocaust and memory. Scholars in this field will surely come to recognize this book for the huge contribution it makes."

Nathan Andrew Wilson, H-German

"The volume offers a well-expressed rumination on the complexities faced by writers of Holocaust literature and the controversies that have surrounded specific literary works."

Alexandra Garbarini, American Historical Review

About the Author

Christopher Bigsby is Professor of American Studies at the University of East Anglia.

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