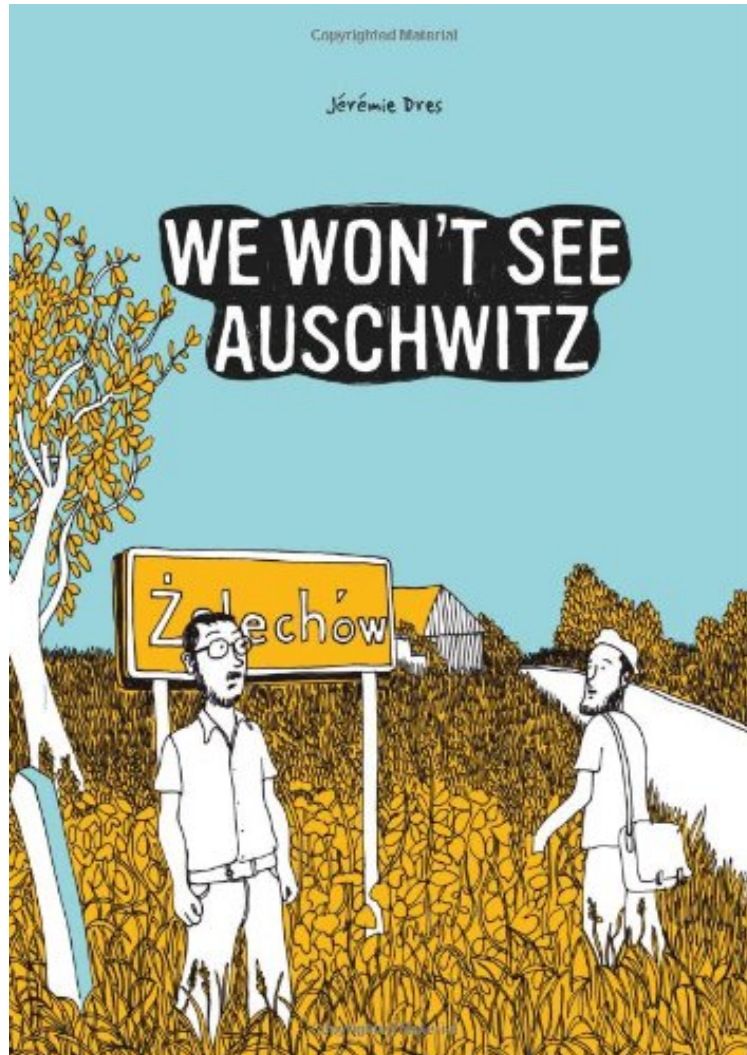


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## We Won't See Auschwitz (SelfMadeHero)

*Jérémie Dres*

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#2069734 in Books SelfMadeHero 2013-09-24 2013-09-24Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.50 x .75 x 6.50l, 1.17 #File Name: 1906838631208 pages | File size: 20.Mb

**Jérémie Dres : We Won't See Auschwitz (SelfMadeHero)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised We Won't See Auschwitz (SelfMadeHero):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Searching for past and current Jewish presence in PolandBy TomJeremie Dres's graphic novel, "We Won't See Auschwitz" (2013), documents the French author's trip to Poland to seek out his Jewish family's roots. Jews generally view Poland only as a massive graveyard filled with anti-Semites that they must scurry through on their pilgrimages to Auschwitz and other concentration camp sites but Dres is genuinely interested in searching for his family's Polish-Jewish heritage prompted by the death of his beloved grandmother and the memories she shared of her Polish childhood. In Warsaw, Dres and his brother visit several Jewish organizations searching for traces of their family and the sizeable pre-Holocaust Jewish community. The

organizations assist Jews who come to Poland interested in learning about their family's heritage as well as Poles who are only now discovering their formerly concealed Jewish ancestry. Dres and his brother are able to locate the graves of their maternal great-grandparents in Warsaw's Jewish cemetery but find there's very little else remaining that would indicate the city's former substantial Jewish presence. They then journey to the small village of Zelechów in search of evidence of their paternal family but are so completely rankled by fear of the dreaded rural "Polack" anti-Semites they flee in the middle of their investigation; a poignantly funny misadventure. In the final leg of their journey the men travel to Kraków and discover some of the Jewish heritage "attractions" that are springing up in that city. *We Won't See Auschwitz* is an interesting and entertaining look at the past and current Jewish presence in Poland from a Jewish point of view. The small Polish Jewish community is divided into various factions with different interests and priorities. Dres reveals that Polish attitudes towards the past and contemporary Jewish presence range from curiosity to indifference to fervent anti-Semitism. Recent surveys\* indicate Poles are still one of the most anti-Semitic peoples in Europe. But there are several positive signs of Jewish resurgence in Poland including the new Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw. Also, while the Jewish heritage events in Kraków are a mix of authenticity and exploitative commercialism, they do generate interest in Poland's Jewish past. Dres's journey has its high points as well as its fill of disappointments, but he ultimately celebrates the connection made with his grandparent's past and his own Jewish identity. The author conveys his story using some delightfully "bare bones" but effective artwork and text.

Recommended.\* "Anti-Semitism still strong in Europe, Poland, new study finds," *Warsaw Business Journal*, March 21, 2012 and "Anti-Semitism high among Warsaw teens," *Agence France-Presse*, April 16, 2013

Below is a list of books which examine Polish-Jewish relations and Polish Catholic anti-Semitism: *Antisemitism and Its Opponents in Modern Poland* by Robert Bloebaum *Between the Brown and the Red: Nationalism, Catholicism, and Communism in Twentieth-Century Poland* by Mikolaj Stanislaw Kunicki *Bondage to the Dead: Poland and the Memory of the Holocaust* by Michael C. Steinlauf *Boycott! The Politics of Anti-Semitism in Poland, 1912-1914* by Robert Bloebaum *Bystanders, Blackmailers, and Perpetrators: Polish Complicity During the Holocaust* by Jacob A. Flaws *Collaboration with the Nazis: Public Discourse after the Holocaust* by Roni Stauber *Conflicts Across the Atlantic: Essays on Polish-Jewish Relations During World War I and in the Interwar Years* by Andrzej Kapiszewski *Contested Memories: Poles and Jews during the Holocaust and Its Aftermath* by Joshua D. Zimmerman *Difficult Questions in Polish-Jewish Dialogue* by Jacek Santorski *Economic origins of Antisemitism: Poland and Its Jews in the Early Modern Period* by Hillel Levine *Faith and Fatherland: Catholicism, Modernity, and Poland* by Brian Porter *Fear: Anti-Semitism in Poland After Auschwitz* by Jan Gross *Forced Out: The Fate of Polish Jewry in Communist Poland* by Arthur J. Wolak *From Assimilation to Antisemitism: The "Jewish Question" in Poland, 1850-1914* by Theodore R. Weeks *Golden Harvest: Events at the Periphery of the Holocaust* by Jan Gross *Holocaust and Memory* by Barbara Engelking *Hunt for the Jews: Betrayal and Murder in German Occupied Poland* by Jan Grabowski *Imaginary Neighbors: Mediating Polish-Jewish Relations after the Holocaust* by Dorota Glowacka *In the Shadow of Hitler: Personalities of the Right in Central and Eastern Europe* by Rebecca Haynes *In the Shadow of the Polish Eagle: The Poles, the Holocaust, and Beyond* by Leo Cooper *Jews and Heretics in Catholic Poland: A Beleaguered Church in the Post-Reformation Era* by Magda Teter *Karski: How One Man Tried to Stop the Holocaust* by E. Thomas Wood *Memory Offended: The Auschwitz Convent Controversy* by John K. Roth *My Brother's Keeper: Recent Polish Debates on the Holocaust* by Antony Polonsky *Neighbors: The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland* by Jan Gross *Neutralizing Memory: The Jews in Contemporary Poland* by Iwona Irwin-Zarecka *New Poland and the Jews* by Simon Segal *No Way Out: The Politics of Polish Jewry, 1935-1939* by Emanuel Melzer *On the Edge of Destruction: Jews of Poland Between the Two World Wars* by Celia Stopnicka *Heller Poland and the Jews: Reflections of a Polish Jew* by Stanislaw Krajewski *Poland's Threatening Other: The Image of the Jew From 1880 to the Present* by Joanna B. Michlic *Poles and Jews: A Failed Brotherhood* by Magdalena Opalski and Israel Bartal *Polin: Studies in Polish Jewry, Volume 8: Jews in Independent Poland, 1918-1939* *Polish Politics in Transition: The Camp of National Unity and the Struggle for Power, 1935-1939* by Edward D. Wynot *Polish-Jewish Relations During the Second World War* by Emanuel Ringelblum *Polish-Jewish Relations Since 1984: Reflections of a Participant* by Antony Polonsky *Rethinking Poles and Jews: Troubled Past, Brighter Future* by Robert Cherry *Rome's Most Faithful Daughter: The Catholic Church and Independent Poland, 1914-1939* by Neal Pease *Search and Research: Lectures and Papers, Vol. 18, Changing Perspectives on Polish-Jewish Relations During the Holocaust* by Havi Dreifuss *Secret City: The Hidden Jews of Warsaw, 1940-1945* by Gunnar S. Paulsson *Shtetl: The Life and Death of a Small Town and the World of Polish Jews* by Eva Hoffman *Sinners on Trial: Jews and Sacrilege after the Reformation* by Magda Teter *Social and Political History of the Jews in Poland 1919-1939* by Joseph Marcus *Studies on Polish Jewry, 1919-1939: The interplay of social, economic, and political factors in the struggle of a minority for its existence* by Joshua A. Fishman *Symbiosis and Ambivalence: Poles and Jews in a Small Galician Town* by Rosa Lehmann *The Catholic Church and Antisemitism: Poland, 1933-1939* by Ronald E. Modras *The Convent at Auschwitz* by Wladyslaw Bartoszewski *The Crosses of Auschwitz: Nationalism and Religion in Post-Communist Poland* by Genevieve Zubrzycki *The Hidden Pope: The Untold Story of a Lifelong Friendship That Is Changing the Relationship Between Catholics and Jews - The Personal Journey of John Paul II and Jerzy Kluger* *The House at Ujazdowskie 16: Jewish*

Families in Warsaw after the Holocaust by Karen Auerbach  
The Jews in Poland and Russia: Volume III: 1914 to 2008 by Antony Polonsky  
The Jews in Poland by Chimen Abramsky  
The Jews in Polish Culture by Aleksander Hertz  
The Jews of East Central Europe between the World Wars by Ezra Mendelsohn  
The Jews of Poland Between Two World Wars by Yisrael Gutman  
The Legacy of Polish Jewry by Harry M. Rabinowicz  
The Neighbors Respond: The Controversy Over the Jedwabne Massacre in Poland by Antony Polonsky  
The Populist Radical Right in Poland: The Patriots by Rafal Pankowski  
There Once Was A World: A 900-Year Chronicle of the Shtetl of Eishyshok by Yaffa Eliach  
Together and Apart in Brzezany: Poles, Jews, and Ukrainians, 1919-1945 by Shimon Redlich  
Traitors True Poles: Narrating A Polish-American Identity, 1880-1939 by Karen Majewski  
Understanding Ethnic Violence: Fear, Hatred, and Resentment in Twentieth-Century Eastern Europe by Roger Peterson  
Unequal Victims: Poles and Jews During World War Two by Israel Gutman  
Warsaw Between the World Wars by Edward Wyncot  
When Nationalism Began to Hate: Imagining Modern Politics in Nineteenth-Century Poland by Brian Porter

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book on Poland's Jews (yes, there are Jews left in Poland) By B. Wolinsky  
Poland is something of a no-go for Jewish people. If you ask a Jew what he thinks about Poland, he'll tell you all about the Holocaust, and how there are no Jews left there. But in this wonderful graphic novel, you'll see that the opposite is true. There are Jews in Poland, and the Poles are not the pitchfork-wielding peasants intent on driving the Jews out. Jeremy Dres assumes the worst when he visits Poland. What he finds is that the Jews who left after WWII were mostly the ones from the countryside, and before the war they were farmers. But the urbane educated ones didn't all leave, in fact a lot of them stayed on afterwards. The Jews of Poland today are often employed in civil service jobs, and they are in positions of importance. As they go into the countryside, a lot of their fears turn out to be unfounded. It's been years since there were any Shtetls in Poland, and most Poles haven't met any Jews anyway, so it's unlikely there'll be any real anti-Semitism. As for the Christian based anti-Semitism, I doubt most young Poles today ever bother to go to church. There are Jews that visit Poland every two years. We have something called March Of The Living, where Jewish teenagers from all over the world visit the remains of the death camps. They have a protest march from Auschwitz to Birkinau to say "you lost, we're not all dead." Some of my classmates went there back in 1996, and remember the photos of locals lining the streets to jeer at them. Most of them said "I grew up in that time, and I had no idea what those camps were for." But others would say (in hushed tones) "I knew what was happening in Auschwitz, I could smell the burning bodies." Nowadays, the Poles are not as hostile to stories about the Holocaust, but at the same time, can we expect them to feel guilty? To Jewish people, it's a big part in our history, but to Poland it's just history. This book isn't really about history, but the present. It focuses on those who are still living. I give the artwork top scores. The simple pen and ink drawings are perfect for this book. My only problem is that some more background information would have been welcome. I would like to have seen more detailed maps, like we saw in Maus, to show where they were going. Other than that, I'd recommend it to anyone studying Jewish history. The case of the Jewish community in modern Poland has rarely been taken into account.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Touching story and good art By A voracious reader  
The story has a serious side and a humorous side, both portrayed very well. Also, the art work is quite good and I find the storyline to be very compelling.

From Publishers Weekly  
The book, an English translation of Dres's Italian graphic novel of the same name, details the author's journey to Poland with his brother, Martin, to trace their Jewish roots after the death of their grandmother. Told in a clean journalistic style that prizes accuracy over adventure, the volume provides a good history lesson but lacks emotional impact. The book gets off to a promising start, describing the humorous and touching relationship between Dres and his grandmother. It then delves meticulously into the brothers' journey to Poland and the surprises they find there regarding their Jewish heritage. As the title suggests, the brothers choose not to visit Auschwitz and instead focus on the current state of Jews and Judaism in modern-day Poland. It's a smart decision to avoid this already-well-trodden territory, but ultimately the story's a bit dry. It's easy to understand why the trip has affected the creator personally, but the book doesn't entirely succeed in engaging readers. Simple, pared-down bw visuals are a good match for the subject matter, and the more active and emotionally resonant scenes, like the one describing the discovery of the grave sites of the brothers' ancestors, are far superior to those featuring talking heads, which make up the bulk of the book. (Sept.)  
About the Author