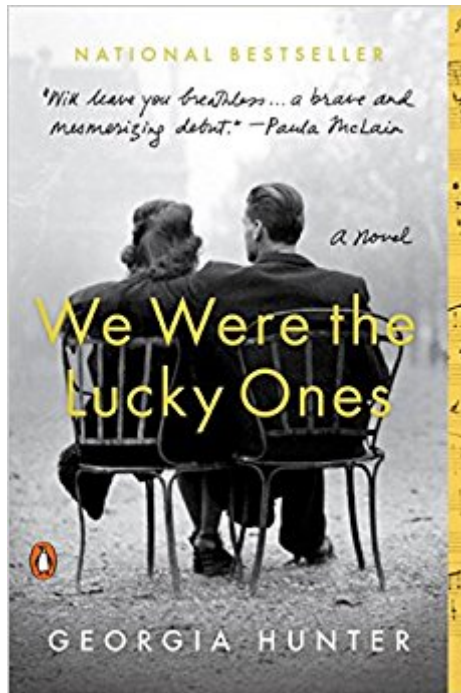




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We Were The Lucky Ones: A Novel



Synopsis

Inspired by the incredible true story of one Jewish family separated at the start of World War II, determined to survive—and to reunite—*We Were the Lucky Ones* is a sweeping novel spanning six years and five continents and a tribute to the triumph of hope and love against all odds. “Love in the face of global adversity? It couldn’t be more timely.” —*Glamour* It is the spring of 1939 and three generations of the Kurc family are doing their best to live normal lives, even as the shadow of war grows closer. The talk around the family Seder table is of new babies and budding romance, not of the increasing hardships threatening Jews in their hometown of Radom, Poland. But soon the horrors overtaking Europe will become inescapable and the Kurcs will be flung to the far corners of the world, each desperately trying to navigate his or her own path to safety. As one sibling is forced into exile, another attempts to flee the continent, while others struggle to escape certain death, either by working grueling hours on empty stomachs in the factories of the ghetto or by hiding as gentiles in plain sight. Driven by an unwavering will to survive and by the fear that they may never see one another again, the Kurcs must rely on hope, ingenuity, and inner strength to persevere. An extraordinary, propulsive novel, *We Were the Lucky Ones* demonstrates how in the face of the twentieth century’s darkest moment, the human spirit can endure and even thrive.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“[Georgia Hunter is] just as courageous as the characters her writing will never let us forget.” —*Harper’s Bazaar* “Love in the face of global adversity? It

couldn't be more timely. **• Glamour**, "Best Books to Read in 2017" **• Bustle**, "15 New Authors You're Going To Be Obsessed With This Year" **•** "A remarkable story of courage, love, and of course, luck. **• Book Riot**, "cs Best Books of 2017" **•** "Turning history into fiction can be tricky, especially when using real names and details. Hunter finesses the challenge. Her novel brings the Kurcs to life in heart-pounding detail, from passionate young love and beloved traditions to narrow escapes, heartbreaking choices, starvation, imprisonment and torture. We come to care deeply about the fate of each of these resourceful, determined characters. **• The Jewish Voice** "The story that so grippingly comes across in the pages of *We Were the Lucky Ones* isn't strictly fiction the characters and events that inhabit this Holocaust survival story are based on her family's own history. **• Newsweek** "[A] must-read. **• New York Post** "[A] remarkable history . . . Hunter sidesteps hollow sentimentality and nihilism, revealing instead the beautiful complexity and ambiguity of life in this extraordinarily moving tale. **• Publishers Weekly** "Reading Georgia Hunter's *We Were the Lucky Ones* is like being swung heart first into history. Her engrossing and deeply affecting account of how the Kurc family survives the Holocaust, against every possible odd, will leave you breathless. But the true wonder of the book is how convincingly Hunter inhabits these characters, each modeled after her own family members. This is their story Hunter is telling so beautifully and profoundly, and ours as well. A brave and mesmerizing debut, and a truly tremendous accomplishment. **• Paula McLain**, author of *The Paris Wife* and *Circling the Sun* "We Were the Lucky Ones is the most gripping novel I've read in years. Georgia Hunter pulled me into another world, vivid, horrifying, astonishing, and heartbreaking, and I walked with the Kurc family as they traversed the edges of life and death. **• Lauren Belfer**, New York Times bestselling author of *And After the Fire*, *A Fierce Radiance*, and *City of Light*. "Georgia Hunter's *We Were the Lucky Ones* is a skillfully woven reimagining of her own family's struggle for survival during World War II. Hunter takes us from the Polish ghetto to Siberia to Brazil, all with spectacular historical detail. This emotionally resonant, gripping portrait of the war is filled with beautifully drawn and wonderfully heroic characters I won't soon forget. **• Jillian Cantor**, author of *Margot* and *The Hours Count* "In her debut novel *We Were the Lucky Ones*, Georgia Hunter has crafted her own family history into a sprawling, yet still intimate portrait of those swept up in the devastation of war and scattered to the winds. It is an astonishing saga of hope, of luck, of destruction, and most

remarkably of love, made all the more astonishing because of the true story at its core. —David R. Gillham, New York Times bestselling author of *City of Women* “Elegantly executed and always clear, Hunter evokes pre-war Poland with loving detail, clearly showing what was left behind and lost. . . . *We Were the Lucky Ones* is a compelling read, notable for Hunter’s clear portraits of her plucky, resilient family, and for her ability to build suspense and investment without emotional manipulation.” —Courtney Naliboff, ReformJudaism.org

When Georgia Hunter was fifteen years old, she learned that she came from a family of Holocaust survivors. *We Were the Lucky Ones* was born of her quest to uncover her family’s staggering history. Hunter’s website, georgiahunterauthor.com, offers a behind-the-scenes glimpse at the extensive research this project has entailed. She lives in Connecticut.

400+ pages read in just 3 days.... yes it is that good. Such perseverance to survive against insurmountable odds .

While only the second month into the year, I can say with certainty that Georgia Hunter’s debut novel *WE WERE THE LUCKY ONES* is my favorite book of the year. Definitely one of the books that I will cherish. It is not only a poignant story, written so eloquently and with such heart, but the fact that it is based on the true story of her family makes it that much more special. The book is about a family of Polish Jews who were separated during World War II and what became of them. At many times, this is a difficult book to read, as it should be, given the subject. But because it is so hard to read, all the more reason to do so. I don’t remember the last time that I was so moved by words on a page, characters with such determination, and the evil that lay before them. To read page after page about the destruction of the war, the harsh reality of their living conditions, the brutality of the Nazi regime, and what the Jews were literally stripped of. It is a lesson in humanity, in history, and in how Poland was desecrated. As a third-generation immigrant, like Hunter, my grandparents came from Poland, and while they were in America before the war, nothing has impacted my heart more than reading this book. Surely my grandparents left behind friends and family and felt similar heartache as the Kurcs did with their beloved country. There are many lessons to be learned from reading this book other than how people cope with great sadness. It is about resilience, the strength of the human spirit,

family, and love. Hunter is a writer to watch. Hunter's ancestors would be so proud of what she has done with this book. She has not only written a remarkable piece of literature but the effort that she put forth to gather her family's history seems to have been no small feat, as you will learn. As a Jew and a human, I feel it was an honor to read WE WERE THE LUCKY ONES, to learn about every member of her family. I feel like I know each of them. They were the lucky ones and so are we to be given this book.

I enjoy reading about the holocaust but am always so sad for the survivors. This book though gave hope that this family would survive

I had to finish this book in a hurry because it was so good. Because it was a true story it was even more intense.

Georgia Hunter pays tribute to her family who not only survived the Holocaust but reunited after the war was over and escaped the nightmares they would associate with their hometown of Radom, Poland. I enjoyed reading the stories of each character in a chronicled tale as they each found their way to escape but I am horrified by the reality. Thank you Georgia for sharing your family's experience.

all other books i've read about the holocaust focus on those who were interred in concentration and labor camps. i enjoyed reading about a family who survived it all. their resourcefulness and determination to remain a family was inspiring. i often wonder if i could do something like that and here's hoping i never have to find out. although they considered themselves lucky a lot of it was what they did to overcome their circumstances.

Thoroughly enjoyed this book based on true events of WWII. It's an incredible story of survival when members of a large Polish Jewish get separated during the war. Their bond is so strong giving them strength to endure the worst possible conditions and constant fear of death. I've come to admire those who lived through the war without phone calls, and the ways we communicate today. Truly I was sad when the book came to an end.

Loved this historical story of family survival. It is a story about how amazing we are as individuals and members of a family!

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