



Interview Questions

The bio on your website mentions that you grew up with the shadow of the Holocaust over your childhood. Would you say a little about the bearing being the daughter of Holocaust survivors had on choosing to write this particular novel?

What else fed your desire to write a book about this historical figure and his teachings?

A book like this clearly required you to do a great deal of research. Can you describe at least one memorable moment in the course of doing your research?

Were there any surprises you encountered in the course of writing—directions you did not foresee the story taking?

This book is neither a quick read nor was it likely to have been written in a short period of time? Where there any points along the way when you felt like giving up?

You've been a writing mentor for decades, working with children through adults in their 80's; how has that work informed your own writing? Clearly finding and giving voice is of central importance in your life—from writing your secrets and questions to an invisible companion as a child, as is also mentioned in your bio, through decades of mentoring others to express themselves and writing about freeing the voice of the heart on your blog *Harvesting Love, Find Love in Unexpected (& Expected) Places*. Would you say something about giving voice to one's heart—perhaps specifically addressing the vulnerability of doing so?

This is your first novel. You are an award-winning poet as well as novelist and your blog includes mention of a memoir you have begun called "Living with an Open Heart: A Mother Son Odyssey about life with your son Emmanuel. Clearly you write in more than one genre. What's next for you?

If you could change one thing about your writing journey, what might it be?