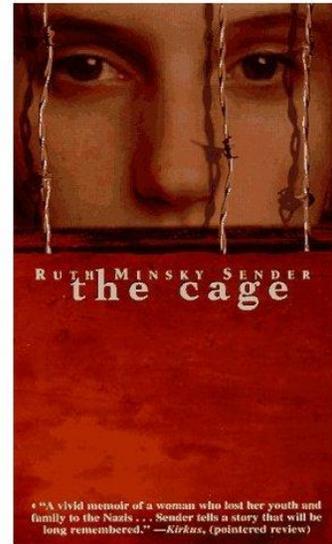


A quick summary of .....

## **The Cage by Ruth Minsky Sender**

*The Cage*, written by Ruth Minsky Sender, is a true story about the hardship and cruelty of being a Jew during the Holocaust. At the beginning of the book it is 1985 (the year the book was written). Riva( Ruth) is talking with her daughter Nancy when her mind is taken back in time to Lodz, Poland 1939.



Thirteen year old Riva Minska, her mother, three brothers, and landlord are living in the same house in Lodz, Poland. Soon after Germany invades Poland, Riva and her family are betrayed by their landlady and robbed of their valuables. The gates of the Lodz ghetto were shut and no one came in, they only went out.

After fourteen years chaos has spread quickly and rapidly through the ghetto. Riva's brother Laibele contracts tuberculosis. Her mother is taken away in a Nazi raid because she looks sick. Soon after her mother's deportation, a social worker tries to find homes for the children who are now without adult supervision. Adoption means the remains of her family will be separated. Riva protests and eventually becomes the sixteen year old legal guardian of her younger brothers, Laibele, Motele, and Moshiele.

In the following years Riva must fight sickness, deportation, and losing hope. In the midst of all of this Laibele is consumed by his disease. Riva, Motele, and Moshiele must fight harder than ever to prevent being caught by the Nazis and deported. However, they are eventually rounded up and deported to Auschwitz, a labor camp in southern Poland. On the train to Auschwitz, Motele tells Riva that he will look out for Moshiele and try to remain with the family friends, Berl and Laibish. Motele tells Riva to remain with her friends Karola, and Rifkele.

After spending time in Auschwitz. Riva and her friends, including Rifkele's long lost friend Tola, are deported to Mittlesteine, another labor camp in Poland.

In Mittlesteine, Riva makes the most of a miraculous gift, a pencil. Riva had written poetry before being deported but she had left most of it in Auschwitz. Now she starts writing poetry again. When Riva is infected with blood poisoning the cruel commandant of the camp finds out about her poetry. However, the commandant gives Riva a notebook and tells her to continue writing.

Riva and her friends are deported to another labor camp some time after. There she is liberated. Riva returns to Poland only to find that her home has been given to a Polish woman. Riva and some of her friends live in an apartment together. There she met her husband Moniek Sender. Five weeks after they meet, they are married. They later move to a displaced persons camp. In the camp, Riva gives birth to her two oldest children Laibele and Averome. In the camp, Riva does find her three older siblings who had escaped to Russia before the war. It is not said what happened to Motele and Moishele, but it is implied that they did not survive.