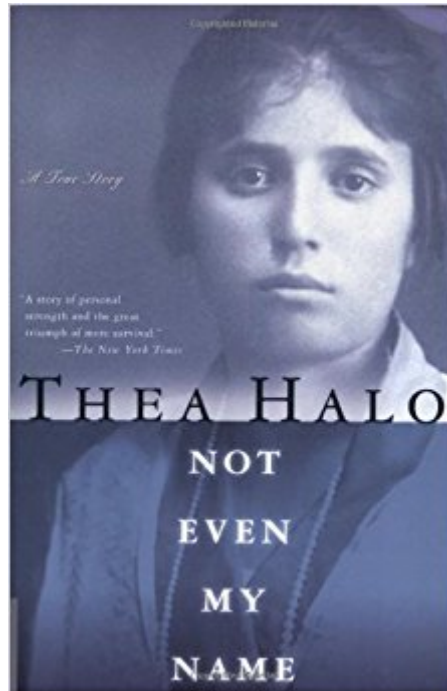




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Not Even My Name: A True Story



Synopsis

Not Even My Name is a rare eyewitness account of the horrors of a little-known, often denied genocide, in which hundreds of thousands of Armenian and Pontic Greek minorities in Turkey were killed during and after World War I. As told by Sano Halo to her daughter, Thea, this is the story of her survival of the death march at age ten that annihilated her family, and the mother-daughter pilgrimage to Turkey in search of Sano's home seventy years after her exile. Sano, a Pontic Greek from a small village near the Black Sea, also recounts the end of her ancient, pastoral way of life in the Pontic Mountains. In the spring of 1920, Turkish soldiers arrived in the village and shouted the proclamation issued by General Kemal Atatürk: "You are to leave this place. You are to take with you only what you can carry . . . " After surviving the march, Sano was sold into marriage at age fifteen to a man three times her age who brought her to America. Not Even My Name follows Sano's marriage, the raising of her ten children, and her transformation from an innocent girl who lived an ancient way of life in a remote place to a woman in twentieth-century New York City. Although Turkey actively suppresses the truth about the murder of almost three million of its Christian minorities--Greek, Armenian, and Assyrian--during and after World War I, and the exile of millions of others, here is a first-hand account of the horrors of that genocide.

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Customer Reviews

The harrowing story of the slaughter of two million Pontic Greeks and Armenians in Turkey after WWI comes to vivid life in Sano Halo's memoir, as told by her daughter Thea. The story begins with the two women's journey to Turkey in search of Sano's native village in the Pontic Mountains, a

remote region south of the Black Sea that had been settled by Greeks more than 2,000 years ago. In 1920, at the age of 10, Sano was the oldest of five children. She adored her beautiful mother and was favored by her grandfather, a blacksmith who was revered in their community. She felt secure in the closeness of her family, the beauty of farm life, the rituals of church and school. Ominous rumors of the persecution of Greeks by the Turkish military became a nightmarish reality when her father was conscripted. He escaped, but several months later everyone in her village was forced to leave their homes with scarcely a day's notice. The "emigration" was a death march, in which three of Sano's sisters perished. Not able to provide food for the family, Sano's parents left her with a surrogate family who treated her harshly. At the age of 15, Sano was sold into marriage to an Assyrian, three times her age, who had returned from America to find a wife. Despite the early tragedies of her young life, Sano's courage and determination to survive prevailed as she and her husband successfully raised 10 children. Her daughter has written an eloquent and powerful account of this tragic chapter of Turkish history. Photos and map not seen by PW. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The Armenian genocide in Turkey during World War I is widely known. Almost unknown, however, is the annihilation of the Pontic Greeks, who had lived for 3000 years in the Pontic Mountains near the Black Sea, by Kemal Ataturk's military forces after the war. In 1921, one survivor, ten-year-old Sano Halo (the author's mother), was forced with her entire village on a nearly year-long death march to Syria. Separated from her family, she lost even her name when she was sold by her surrogate family to a man three times her age, whom she married; later, they emigrated to New York City and raised ten children. Sano's is truly an amazing story of survival and resilience (she will soon be 90 years old). Even more remarkable is the lack of rancor, which so often permeates survivors' memoirs. Indeed, in describing the Turks who helped the author and her mother in their 1989 quest to find Sano's childhood village, there is only amazement at the hospitality and support they receive. An important and revealing book; highly recommended for all libraries.-Ruth K. Baacke, Whatcom Community Coll., Bellingham, WA Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

One of the best books I've read in a long time. Thea Halo is an excellent writer. Her descriptions were so vivid that I could see and feel the love, pain and courage of her dear mother. Her happy childhood memories were destroyed when the government decided to cleanse their society of Christians. They were taken from their homes and began the long death march where she watched

family members die along the way as vultures flew in circles over head. Somehow she lived and eventually made it to the U.S. where she and her husband raised a large family. The writer, Thea Halo, is one of those children.

This is one of my favorite historical books. The heartache you experience reading this true account of the widely unknown Pontic Greek, Armenian, and Assyrian genocide in Turkey after WWI will stick with you. How awful that such cruelties can be so quickly brushed over, unnoticed, and largely erased from history? I applaud Thea Halo in bringing to light such a wonderful account of personal perseverance and cultural struggle in the face of such horrific events. Highly recommended.

Really good quality. So much history here we were never taught.

If you have such strong opinions on whether the "genocide" really occurred then why a. read this book and b. feel the need to comment on . This is not a message board nor a place for one's beliefs or personal beliefs. Many of these reviews from both sides of the argument come across as being offensive and completely unnecessary on this platform. As far as the book "Not even my name", I received the book quickly and in great condition as expected from . It was well written and easy to read. If you are looking to read a story that was passed down through family regarding this part of history then I highly recommend this book. If you disagree that this genocide happened or feel as though there isn't much historical data to confirm then this book may not be for you either way it's just a book.

Held my attention completely. A new realization of what incredible difficulties people in other countries go through that we cannot even imagine in the US. It was just suspenseful enough, but not evil. It brought to mind geography and other areas of Turkey I'd visited. A good read.

A loving pilgrimage of a book. It rings home the tragedies of genocides in Anatolia before Atatürk. A companion to Eleni, also descriptive of the sufferings of the Greeks at the hands of the Greeks. These were sad, difficult times. Few think we know. Idleness. No. They knew violence.

I really love history and this was really interesting! It just shows how they try to cover up history instead of learning by it. I want to study more on Christian genocide. We have to understand our history in order to learn from it no matter how bad it looks.

A sad book about the inhumanness of humans. But also a story about strength and courage. The author manages to portray the two extremes of kindness and cruelty in this story. Sometimes too much detail is given but the book is well worth a read.

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