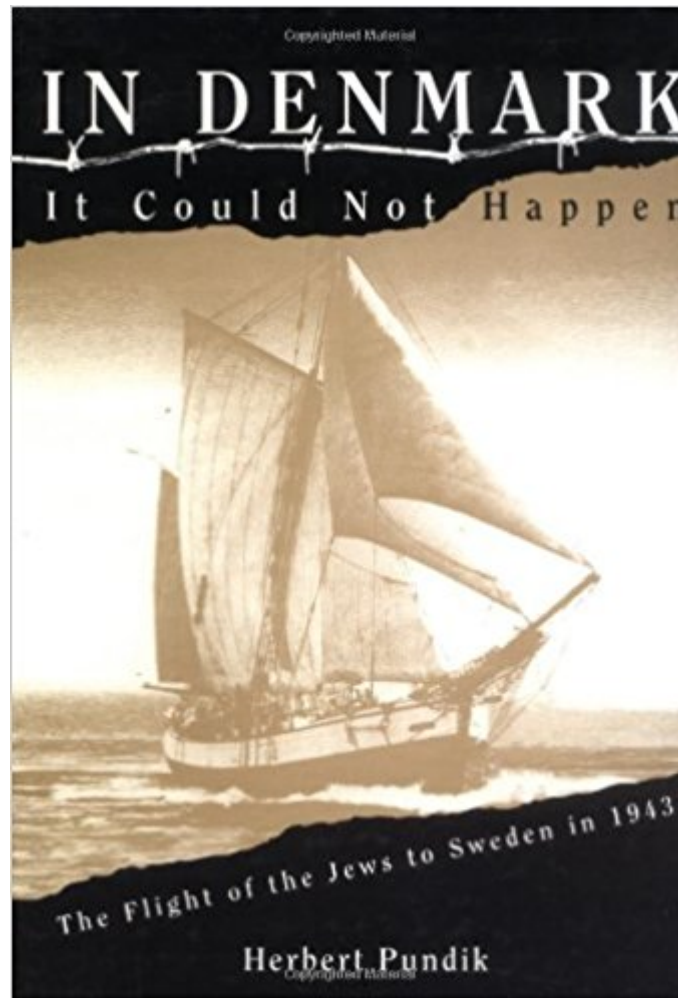




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In Denmark It Could Not Happen



Synopsis

A moving narrative about heroes and ethics, survival and appreciation. Part memoir and part pure history, Pundik's talent for storytelling and his journalistic compunction for detail puts his book in a class of Holocaust literature still capable of expanding our understanding of humanity's darkest years.

Book Information

Hardcover: 178 pages

Publisher: Gefen Books (November 1, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 9652291765

ISBN-13: 978-9652291769

Product Dimensions: 9.7 x 6.9 x 0.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,225,305 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #44 in [Books > History > Europe > Scandinavia > Denmark](#) #84 in [Books > History > Europe > Scandinavia > Sweden](#) #1474 in [Books > History > World > Religious > Judaism](#)

Customer Reviews

The author, one of the rescued Jews, is a grandson of Jews who had fled Russia in 1905. (p. 8). Like many Jews, Pundik displays a pro-Communist orientation. He complains that he was too young to fight against Franco in the Spanish Civil War. (p. 5). Once the Nazis were about to make their move against the Jews, the Danes took hefty payments for shipping Jews to neutral Sweden. Pundik writes: "That night, the price for getting across was 2,000 Danish kroner per person. This corresponds to 40,000 to 50,000 Danish kroner today (6,000 to 7,000 dollars). Poor refugees were taken across for free...The fishermen needed to be paid for risking their lives or their freedom if they ran into a hostile German patrol boat." (p. 26). [Unlike in German-occupied Poland, where a caught rescuer of Jews was almost always shot or hanged on the spot, this seldom (if ever) happened in Denmark.]. Another rescued Danish Jew recounts having to pay 10,000 kroner for the crossing. (p. 125). Four young Danish women exerted herculean efforts to collect one million kroner (corresponding to 20 million kroner in 1993 money, or about \$3 million: p. 106) for the shipment of Jews to Sweden. As was the case with their counterparts in all of German-occupied Europe, Danish rescuers of Jews faced betrayal by Danish informers and denouncers. This happened on numerous

occasions. (p. 58, 64-67, 71, 129, 130, 133). Danish Nazis attempted firebombing a synagogue. (p. 21). Danish Nazi collaborators worked directly with Germans in the interrogation of caught Danish rescuers. (pp. 120-122). Danish traitors jeered Danish Jew rescuers in German captivity. (p. 123). German punishments for caught Danish rescuers were very lenient.

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