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## Introducing

### **Branded on My Arm and in My Soul**

A Holocaust Memoir by Abraham Landau

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EDITED BY JOSEPH D. THOMAS, MARSHA L. MCCABE AND JAY AVILA

NEW BEDFORD, MASS. This riveting narrative of Abe Landau's Holocaust journey is a bittersweet story of survival, a study of the strength of the human spirit and a graphic portrayal of man's inhumanity to man.

Abe Landau's near-idyllic life growing up in Wilczyn, Poland in the 1920s and '30s was filled with all the joys of youth—attending cheder school, playing and picnicking with friends, working with his father and spending holidays with his loving family. Little did he know that his world would soon crumble around him. In 1940, soon after the Nazi invasion of Poland, the town's Jewish families were rounded up and transported to a ghetto in Zagorow. The following year, an SS man burst into Abe's home, grabbed him and threw him into the back of a truck bound for a labor camp in Inowroclaw. The sight of his mother chasing the truck and falling beneath the spray of machine-gun fire would be his final image of her or of anyone in his immediate family.

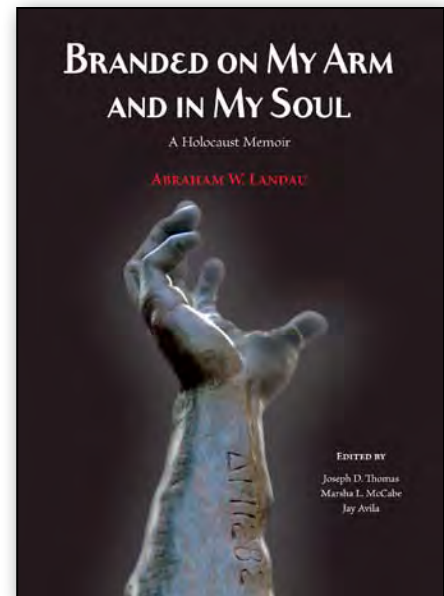
Abe spent the next five years in thirteen labor and concentration camps throughout the Reich—a slave for the Nazi machine committed to exterminating him and millions of other Jews. He built railroads in Poznan, mined coal in Gleiwitz, paved roads at Buchenwald, and ran errands for death doctors at Auschwitz Birkenau. He made the "Death March" from Auschwitz to Gleiwitz in 1945, and rode the death train from Dora to Bergen-Belsen before Liberation in April 1945. Yet, he emerged from the nightmare a man of faith and endurance, his spirit still alive after surviving starvation, beatings and brutal transports in cattle cars crisscrossing Europe.

Starting anew in the United States, Abe rebuilt his life—as a tailor, cantor, activist and the founder of the Holocaust Memorial in New Bedford, Massachusetts. He frequently spoke about his horrific experience to civic groups and school children throughout the region. Abe died in 2000 and leaves behind this stirring memoir and survival story, warning that we must be ever vigilant to the dark side of human nature. His is also a story of faith and renewal, celebrating the triumph of the human spirit.

As the number of accounts that bear testimony to the horrors of the Holocaust grows increasingly finite, it becomes all the more important for us, now, to seek out stories such as Abe's and learn from them.

*Branded on My Arm and in My Soul* is another volume in Spinner's ongoing mission to document important events of the 20th century. The book will be available everywhere after October 23.

For more information visit [www.spinnerpub.com/Branded\\_Home.html](http://www.spinnerpub.com/Branded_Home.html).



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