

Over six million people were tortured, abused, and murdered for their religious beliefs during the Holocaust. One such person was Estelle Glaser Laughlin, who narrated her story to educate others about the cruelty she endured.

Estelle Laughlin, a Polish girl, was forced into the Warsaw ghetto as a child. When she was thirteen, she, her mother, and sister were sent to the Majdanek Extermination Camp. Laughlin’s sister, Frieda, was put on a list to be sent to a different camp, possibly to be killed. Laughlin and her mother switched places with two others on the list to be with Frieda, regardless of the consequences. Laughlin chose to be with family in life and in death because she “wanted to make the transition to death by holding [her] parents’ hand” (Laughlin 70). Even in terrifying conditions, Laughlin focused on the importance of staying together and supporting her family.

Laughlin had a traumatic childhood, but she used her painful past to educate people all over the world. Laughlin survived the Holocaust, and spent decades teaching others about it, believing that people should not forget mistakes from the past. Laughlin told her story with the hope that it would “serve as a reminder of the consequences... when we accommodate ourselves to tyrants” (Laughlin 1:18). Laughlin is a hero because she used her trauma to educate people about the Holocaust. As a Holocaust survivor, Laughlin supported others in difficulty. She taught us all about the importance of learning from past mistakes.

Works Cited

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