



The King of Children: The Life and Death of Janusz Korczak

Betty Jean Lifton

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A classic as stirring as *Schindler's List*, *The King of Children* is the acclaimed biography of the first advocate of children's rights and the man known as the savior of hundreds of orphans in the Warsaw ghetto.

Janusz Korczak was known throughout Europe as a Pied Piper of destitute children even before the onslaught of World War II. But on August 6, 1942, Korczak stepped into legend. Refusing offers for his own safety, and with defiant dignity, he led the orphans under his care in the Warsaw Ghetto to the trains that would take them to Treblinka.

An educator and pediatrician, Korczak, a Polish Jew, introduced progressive orphanages for both the Jewish and Catholic children in Warsaw. Determined to shield his children from the injustices of the adult world, he built these orphanages into "just communities" with their own parliaments and children's courts. Korczak also founded the first national children's newspaper, testified on behalf of children in juvenile courts, and trained teachers and parents in "moral education," with his books *How to Love a Child* and *How to Respect a Child*.

The King of Children is now recognized as a classic work for educators, historians, parents, and anyone who lives or works with a child.

A *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year

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