



Reviews

Once I started reading **The Minyan**, I could not put it down and finished the first section in one sitting. The unraveling of the second part has not only been one of good storytelling but it has also been one that is educational. Your story is peppered with images of why we must not forget the past, lest we journey down the same road. The climate in which your characters live is fraught with challenges at every turn – be it because of gender, race, religion or ignorance. Before I began reading the manuscript, I had the foreboding thought that the black character, Burt, would be treated from a stereotypical perspective. Thankfully you did not do that. His character and all the other characters were interesting and fascinating human beings. The third section of the *Minyan* took off like a rocket. I loved the fact that Stan was brought into the action abroad. He was instantaneously thrown into a world that required him to operate on a primal level in order to survive. To me, he represented the depths we must descend to in order to protect/rescue those we love, even if our own life is put in peril.

There were moments I felt pity for the Nazi characters in your manuscript. This is because they were oblivious to their own loss of humanity and myopic view of the world. The surviving Nazi looking from the shadows of the forest I thought was a poignant statement that evil can never be completely defeated.

I thoroughly enjoyed your story and succinct writing style. After reading your manuscript of **The Minyan**, I look forward to submerging myself in your other published work.

Edgar Fraser, Actor

Reading **The Minyan** was a true adventure from start to finish. The characters were alive and jumped out of the pages like a good friend. It was a toss up between earning an income or reading the book all day and into the early morning hours. The characters became a part of my life. I couldn't wait to pick up the book again and continue on **The Minyan's** journey. Each of the characters took on a life of their own and I seemed to become a part of the story.

From Gabe Garshowitz to Iris Forester, from Rachel Ackerman to Janusz Zwonarz, each character made the story move, and move excitingly, with their vulnerability and strength. The scenes from the death camps made a real impression on the brutality of that horrible period in history.

The Minyan made one realize the pain and humiliation the victims felt and lived through and how revenge probably strengthened them to live through those horrific years. In the end, however, is revenge the answer? . . . that is what **The Minyan** brought home for all of us to contemplate. Can we ever go back and how do we face the future?

*Zelda Young,
of the Zelda Show – CHIN Radio*

About the Author

ALVIN ABRAM is a storyteller, writer and graphic designer of books. He attended York University's Creative Fourth Year Writing Course in 1995, returning to the dream of his youth. Followed by an Outline Course in 1996 at University of Toronto, finishing with a Creative Summer Writing Course at Humber College in 1997.

As a volunteer for The Survivors of the Shoah, the organization created by Stephen Spielberg, he refined his craft by listening to Holocaust stories, gleaned first hand knowledge and insight from their experiences. He knows how to keep an audience interested and entertained by relating his stories with a passion for the events he unfolds. Since 1995, he has had over 100 speaking engagements, has been reviewed on radio, television and in the newspapers in Canada and the U.S.

Self-published **An Eye For An Eye**, in 2004, (a trilogy), a 428-page epic novel described as, "a monumental work . . . a magnificent tragic tale." A murder/mystery centered in Lodz, Poland that spans the years 1921-1946. The novel is about the Ackermans (Jewish) and the Zwonarz families (Catholic) whose lives intertwine in the ebb and flow of true historical incidents before, during and after the Second World War. Winner of the 2005 International BookAdz Award for the Best Novel for 2004 published by a Canadian and American author and published by independent, university, small press and self-publishers or print-on-demand (POD) or self-published authors.

The Minyan is the second novel in the trilogy. A 428-page soft cover novel that continues with the Ackerman and Zonarz families and takes into account current events in the year 2000, neo-Nazis, Simon Wiesenthal and the threat to Israel.