Reviewed by Sharon Levine
TBI member 9 years.

In 1940, Lilli Chernofsky, her brother Aaron, a group of yeshiva students, along with other Jewish families, flee Europe and head for Shanghai, China. Though they escape the Nazis, they end up facing subhuman conditions and violence from the Japanese who invade China.

Many Holocaust books, fiction and non-fiction, deal with Europe. This book, however, deals with Jews in Asia. This is a view of World War II not often covered. While life under China’s rule wasn’t good, in the research I did after reading this book, there is little mention of the starvation, violent life, or death that Jews endured under the Japanese control.

This would be an interesting topic of study for TBI members. While the book is fiction, the author states in the acknowledgments and a YouTube video that she based the story on interviews she made with Shanghai survivors.