The Lost: A Search For Six Of Six Million

Daniel Adam Mendelsohn

The Lost: A Search for Six of Six Million (ISBN 978-0-06-054297-9) is a non-fiction memoir by Daniel Mendelsohn, published in September 2006, which has received critical acclaim as a new perspective on Holocaust remembrance. It was awarded the National Book Critics Circle Award, the National Jewish Book Award, and the Prix Médicis in France, and it was shortlisted for the Duff Cooper History Prize in the UK. An international bestseller, The Lost has been translated into numerous languages, including Daniel Mendelsohn's The Lost is a remarkable accomplishment. Un livre sur rien. Gustave Flaubert dreamed of writing such a work, a book about nothing. Its substance would be its style. In the innumerable accounts of the Holocaust as a whole, the relentless accretion of statistics, the six million Jews, the hundreds of thousands of gypsies and homosexuals, all these huge figures with their endless zeros have become barely comprehensible abstractions. What makes Mendelsohn's book so important, and so disturbing, is the focus on one nuclear family surrounded by the extended family of survivors in America, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews, cousins; all related by blood and marriage to the six whose fate the author so zealously tracks down.
The Lost is a very long and rich book, well worth the investment of time to read it. I'm not sure everyone would like The Lost as much as my husband and I do, but we both think it is superb and one-of-a-kind. In it, the author, a relative of a family of six who were killed by the Nazis in the Holocaust, in their little native town in Poland, represent the six million Jews who perished. Each had a specific personality and life story, and death story too, and Daniel Mendelsohn, a writer, out of curiosity, respect, and love for his grandfather, brother of the patriarch of the slaughtered fam