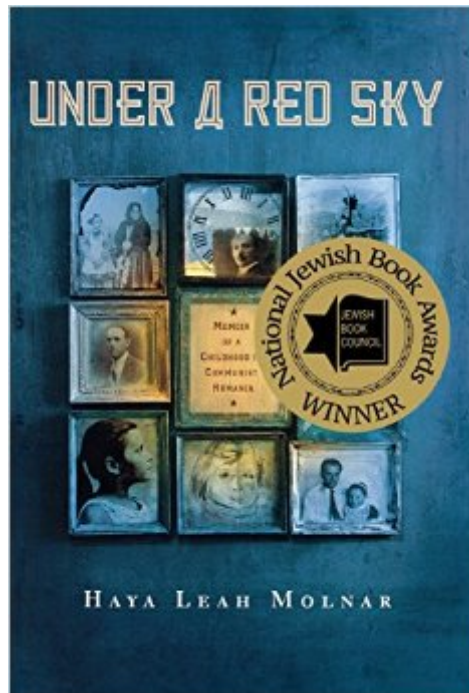


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# Under A Red Sky: Memoir Of A Childhood In Communist Romania



## Synopsis

Eva Zimmermann is eight years old, and she has just discovered she is Jewish. Such is the life of an only child living in postwar Bucharest, a city that is changing in ever more frightening ways. Eva's family, full of eccentric and opinionated adults, will do absolutely anything to keep her safe—even if it means hiding her identity from her. With razor-sharp depictions of her animated relatives, Haya Leah Molnar's memoir of her childhood captures with touching precocity the very adult realities of living behind the iron curtain. *Under a Red Sky* is a 2011 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 870L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 320 pages

Publisher: Farrar Straus Giroux (BYR); First Edition edition (March 30, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0374318409

ISBN-13: 978-0374318406

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.9 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (21 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #450,384 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #16 in [Books > Teens > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism](#) #43 in [Books > Teens > Education & Reference > History > Europe](#) #47 in [Books > Teens > Education & Reference > History > Holocaust](#)

Age Range: 12 - 18 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

## Customer Reviews

*Under a Red Sky* is a memoir that tells the little known story of Bucharest's Romanian Jews under Communism from the late 1950's to 1961. This intense first person narrative is full of immediate detail about the life of an extended family of seven adults and one child, who live in a few rooms in a house in Bucharest. Eva, the young narrator, recalls the details, sounds, sights, foods, and Romanian words that draw the reader close to her experiences. Though the narrator is ostensibly a child, the voice is the perceptive and expressive voice of an adult, accurately recalling her childhood. We follow Eva's story during the years she grew from seven to ten, when the family, after much difficulty, emigrated to Israel. Living a secular life, her family is nevertheless branded as

Jewish, and subjected to governmental scrutiny, loss of their jobs, and many punitive indignities. Perseverance, courage, and complicated love and support relationships keep them sane until their final escape. Eva's connection with her beloved Grandpa Yosef, her Grandma Julia and her parents are memorable. The story moves swiftly, and the book is difficult to put down. One reads the last page with regret, wanting to know what happened next to people one has come to care for. When the book begins, Eva does not know that she is Jewish, though she hears her grandparents speak Yiddish frequently. The passage where grandpa Yosef gives Eva a mezuzah and introduces her to Hebrew letters and her previously unknown Jewish identity is strongly felt. The book includes black and white photographs of the family, some by Eva's father, Gyuri Zimmerman, which intensify its authenticity. It is necessary to issue a caveat about designating this as a children's book.

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