



Lost Childhood My Life in a Japanese Prison Camp During World War II

By Herman J. Viola

National Geographic Children's Books. Hardcover. Condition: New. 112 pages. Dimensions: 8.3in. x 5.7in. x 0.7in. Lost Childhood is the vivid, first-hand account of the horrors of war through the eyes of a child. This real-life memoir breaks a 60-year silence to tell one woman's riveting story of prisoner life during World War II. As a little Dutch girl in Indonesia, Annelex Hofstra's comfortable world was torn apart when she and her family were sent to Japanese prison camps for three and a half years. The story begins in 1942 when four-year-old Annelex is living on the island of Java in the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia). Her grandfather is a successful planter, and her father is a pilot instructor in the Royal Netherlands Navy. But her carefree childhood ends as the Japanese invade Java, and along with 10,000 other Dutch residents, Annelex's family is rounded up. With few belongings, they are shipped off to internment camps, to a helpless, unknown future. In a shockingly honest narrative, we learn of the tactics used by their captors to dehumanize the Dutch prisoners. We learn of the grinding daily routine of the prisoners, the food rations, the sleeping arrangements, and the awful sanitary...



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