

# Maus by Art Spiegelman

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# Book Summary

The comic book, *Maus*, was written by Art Spiegelman and was told through his perspective. Art illustrates an interview with his father who is a Holocaust survivor. Vladek Spiegelman was a Polish Jew who saw the genocide from multiple views.

# Conditions of Genocide Protrayed in Maus

# Persecution

- Beginning stages
- Included:
  - Separation of races
  - Racist laws
    - Jewish curfews
    - Limited food
    - No more Jewish owned businesses
  - Discrimination
    - Forced to sing prayers while being laughed at and beaten
    - Cut off beards

(Spiegelman 75)

# P.O.W / Forced Labor Camps

- Forced to clean stables
- Separated Polish prisoners and Jewish prisoners
- Took Jewish prisoners, officially released them as P.O.W. but didn't take them home
- Led them to mass shootings in the forest
- Start to see the organization and planning of the Germans

# Relocation and Ghettos

- Jews were forced to move to smaller communities
- Multiple times
  - Each time worse than the last
- Nazis took a majority of the population to Auschwitz with each relocation

# Elaborate Hiding Places

- Out of fear, many Jew took their families and went into hiding
- The ghettos were small so they had to get creative
  - Tunnels within piles of shoes
  - Bunkers behind false walls
  - Garbage

Was Maus Demeaning the Holocaust  
Experience?



# No

- Maus brings honor and humanity to the survivors
- Each has a story and a different perspective
- The comic book style reached a wider audience
  - “People who don’t usually read such stories will be interested,” (Spiegelman 133).

# Works Cited

Spiegelman, Art, and Art Spiegelman. *Maus*. Rowohlt-Taschenbuch-Verl., 2004.

*United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*, [encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/remaining-jewish-population-of-europe-in-1945](https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/remaining-jewish-population-of-europe-in-1945). Accessed 3 May 2023.