

Holocaust Episode Guide

Disc 1



PART 1: (1:26) First Aired: 16 Apr. 1978

Berlin, Germany, 1935: Karl Weiss (James Woods), the artist son of a prosperous Jewish doctor, marries Inga Helms (Meryl Streep), a Catholic girl. Elsewhere in Berlin, Erik Dorf (Michael Moriarty), a friend of the Weiss family, gets a job as an aide to a top SS official. He warns the Weiss family to leave Germany, but they refuse. Kristallnacht, the “night of the broken glass,” occurs, with German mobs raging through the streets of Berlin attacking Jews and destroying their property. The Weiss family suffers a series of unspeakable tragedies in the aftermath of Kristallnacht and Inga’s husband, Karl, is imprisoned at Buchenwald. But their time of trouble is only just beginning.

PART 2: (1:30) First Aired: 17 Apr. 1978

Anna, Dr. Weiss’s daughter, has been committed to a Nazi hospital for the mentally ill. Rudi Weiss (Joseph Bottoms) runs away to Prague, where he is saved from arrest by a Czech girl, Helena Slomova (Tovah Feldshuh). Josef (Fritz Weaver) and Berta Weiss (Rosemary Harris) are reunited in the Warsaw Ghetto, where they join the growing resistance movement. Erik Dorf’s career as a Nazi official is rising. He witnesses mass executions: for the first time, he uses his pistol to finish off one of the wounded Jews.

Disc 2

PART 3: (1:30) First Aired: 18 Apr. 1978

Rudi and Helena escape from a long procession of Jews being marched into Babi Yar. They are eventually rescued from a hayloft by a group of Jewish partisans. Erik Dorf attends a top-level Nazi conference in which Heydrich gives Hitler’s orders of the final solution for all the Jews in Europe. Karl Weiss has been transferred to Theresienstadt concentration camp which the Germans use to display to the Red Cross officials and representatives of neutral countries that Jews are being treated kindly. Karl learns that his fellow artists in the camp are creating propaganda paintings by day while secretly drawing images of the brutal conditions of the camp by night.

PART 4 (1:28) First Aired: 19 Apr. 1978

Erik Dorf complains that the executions of Jews is being inefficiently done. An order is placed for Zyklon B, a lethal gas that will be labeled “for disinfecting only,” for use as Auschwitz. Inga asks Muller (Anthony Haygarth) to denounce her so that she can join her husband, Karl, at Theresienstadt. Karl is tortured after the guards find his anti-German drawings. In Warsaw, Josef and Berta Weiss are ordered onto a train bound for Auschwitz.

Disc 3

PART 5: (1:31) First Aired:

Moses Weiss (Sam Wanamaker) joins the resistance in the Warsaw Ghetto and helps to hold back 7000 German soldiers for twenty days. Barely alive, Karl Weiss is removed from the Theresienstadt dungeon and briefly reunited with Inga, who tells him she is carrying his child. He is then taken to Auschwitz. After Rudi’s wife Helen is killed in an attack on a German convoy, he is captured and sent to Sobibor, a prison camp in eastern Poland. He escapes Sobibor with other prisoners and is reunited with Inga and her 2 year-old son, who were released during the liberation of Theresienstadt. As the war draws to a close, Inga returns to Berlin and Rudi agrees to lead a group of orphaned boys past the British blockade into Palestine.