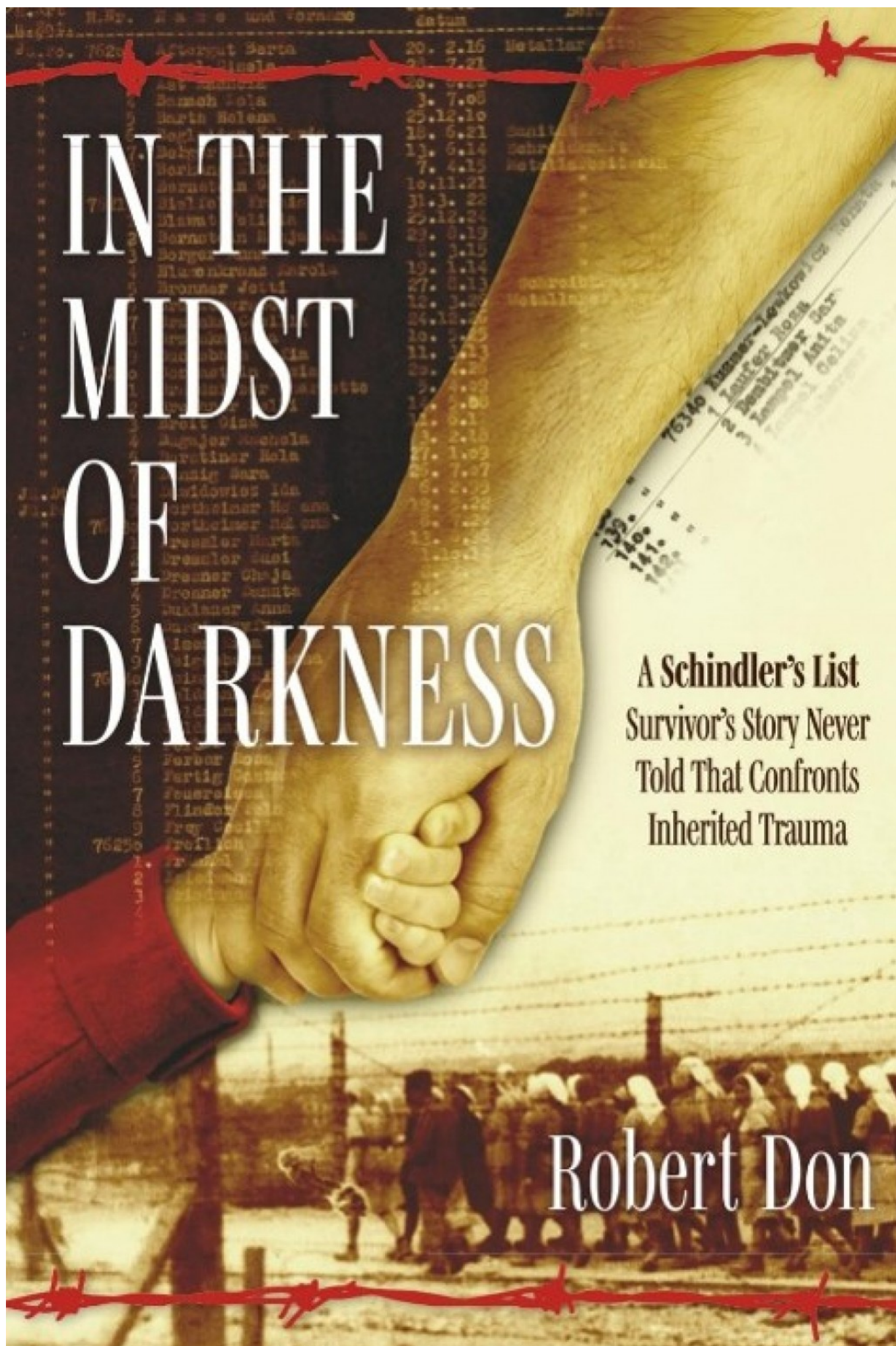


Robert Don's "In The Midst Of Darkness" Highlights Schindler's Legacy and The Emotional Cost of Trauma



IN THE MIDST OF DARKNESS

A Schindler's List
Survivor's Story Never
Told That Confronts
Inherited Trauma

Robert Don

Chicago, Illinois Jul 27, 2026 ([IssueWire.com](https://www.IssueWire.com)) - A Holocaust survivor's trauma does not end with them; it can shape the lives of the next generation. In his debut memoir, *In the Midst of Darkness: A Schindler's List Survivor's Story Never Told*, Robert Don shares the profound impact of his mother's unhealed Holocaust trauma on his childhood, identity, and family relationships.

On a Jewish Holy Day

On Yom Kippur day, October 1993, my rabbi's sermon in synagogue was the story of Oskar Schindler due to the upcoming release of "Schindler's List" that would debut in the next six weeks. It had been five years since my mother passed away. At the end of the Rabbi's sermon, my father leaned over to me in temple and told me something that she never did. They were six words I would never forget.

"Your mother was on that list."

Saved by Oskar Schindler, Robert's mother carried the scars of Auschwitz and Plaszów for life. But what never left her after the Holocaust didn't end there. She was only 16, when she lost her entire family – both parents, four sisters and a brother who were murdered in the gas chambers of the Auschwitz and Belzec extermination camps. Her deep and long-lasting bitterness toward Germans, including Robert's stepmother, profoundly influenced his upbringing. For over two decades, Robert wrestled with the unrelenting irony of hating his German stepmother and every other German, never knowing that Schindler, a German, let alone a Nazi, had saved his mother and over 1,200 other Jewish lives. The memoir also reflects the impact of his mother's trauma on his brother, illustrating how inherited hatred shaped the entire family's emotional landscape.

The book traces Robert's journey from absorbing his mother's pain and prejudices to finally awakening to the reality of Schindler's humanity. It reflects on the challenges of confronting inherited trauma, manifested in hatred, questioning whether anything could have softened his mother's undeserved anger and rage for his stepmother, and finding his own path to understanding, forgiveness, and self-identity. Through reflection, Robert examines the lasting consequences of generational trauma, revealing how early life experiences can shape perceptions, values, and the capacity for empathy throughout a lifetime.

The numbers of those who may be impacted by generational trauma due to the Holocaust are staggering - surpassing over 10 million direct descendants of survivors, yet it's often unspoken. Of which, 7-8 million of them may be Jewish. That is approximately 50% of the world's Jewish population and doesn't even account for the potential impact of what subsequent and future generations may already face or will need to bear.

"This is also a story of the plea for racial equality and humanity in the midst of unconscionable suffering," says Robert Don. "Even in the darkest moments of history, individuals like Schindler choose to act with compassion and courage. How more important can that be for the world today, which has never been more divided than since the Holocaust, especially knowing that Schindler, who had been penetrated by Nazi ideology, found humanity when there were few who did in a world that didn't feel differently. Finally recognizing that compassion was present amidst such horrors has shaped my journey and the understanding of my own family."

In the Midst of Darkness emphasizes that while the trauma of the Holocaust left indelible scars, there is a path to healing. Robert confronts the legacy of bitterness and fear inherited from his mother, exploring forgiveness, self-discovery, and the moral lessons that arise from acts of extraordinary courage. The memoir underscores the importance of seeing humanity even in the darkest places, highlighting how courage and compassion can persist even when surrounded by unconscionable hatred and injustice.

This memoir is more than an account of survival; it is a testament to the enduring impact of intergenerational trauma and the resilience of the human spirit. Robert's story resonates with anyone navigating complex family histories, grappling with inherited pain, or seeking understanding and forgiveness in the wake of historical injustice.

In the Midst of Darkness is now available on [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08K7K7K7K). For more information, visit <https://inthemidstofdarkness.com>.

About the Author

Robert Don has been changing careers from his professional background in senior risk management in corporate banking to becoming a writer. He recently conducted research in both the Auschwitz and Plaszów concentration camps, where his mother was deported, and is deeply familiar with the Holocaust stories being told. Having lived through this story, he finally wanted to tell the story and is well-versed in the details of this time period from his mother's life during the Holocaust. *In the Midst of Darkness* will be his debut book.

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