



# The Heart Has Reasons: Holocaust Rescuers and Their Stories of Courage

*Mark Klempner*

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**Paperback: ISBN 0988567407**

**Kindle: ASIN: B00BRJHPKQ**

*"You can't let people be treated in an inhuman way around you. . . . Otherwise you start to become inhuman."*

So speaks rescuer Hetty Voûte in *The Heart Has Reasons*, a remarkable book that provides both a fresh look at the "righteous gentiles," and a meditation on what they might have to teach us more than half a century after they defied Hitler.

In 1996, Mark Klempler sought out some of the last surviving Dutch rescuers of Jewish children to better understand how and why they made their courageous choices. Inspired by their willingness to risk everything to help others during the war, the author became deeply interested in what the rescuers have done with their lives since, and where their moral compasses point today.

What emerges is both a window to the past and a vision for the future. If the rescuers could remain committed to making a difference while under the boot of the Nazi regime, we surely have something to learn from them about taking a stand against injustices, about maintaining an open heart, and about not giving in or giving up. Framed by Klempler's quest for meaning, their words resonate across generations, providing insightful guidance as to how people of conscience can navigate ethically in an increasingly complex world.

From the Foreword:

"I have spent much of my professional career trying to put a human face on the ordinary men who committed acts of unspeakable evil. Like no other work I have read, *The Heart Has Reasons* puts a human face on those who committed acts of inestimable goodness."

---Christopher R. Browning.

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