***The Nazi Hunters***

**Chapter Summaries**

**Prologue (pgs.1-2)**

* 2 cars with men/youth on a bike
* Plan-Not a lot of communication
* Eichmann steps off bus

1. **Chapter One (pgs.3-20)**

* *Background on Eichmann…rounded up Hungarian Jews (1944)*
* Title (Lt Colonel, Chief of Dept. IV B (Jewish Affairs)
* Stage 1: Isolate the Jews
* Stage 2: Get wealth
* Stage 3: Ghettos
* Deceive Jewish community (labor supply or safety)
* Expert-studied German Jews for three years
* Sonderkommando
* *Background on Zeev Sepir*
* 20 years old
* Younger siblings
* from Dobravdovo
* Sent to Munkacs
* Stayed in ghetto (grounds of brick factory) for 3 weeks
* Heard Eichmann promise jobs/safety
* Sent to Auschwitz-never saw his family again
* Worked as a sonderkommando
* Went on a Death March- almost executed-rescued by Russian army

1. **Chapter Two (pgs.21-35)**

* Mid-June 1945
* Simon Wiesenthal-survivor- looking for escaped Nazis
* Eichmann (OSS)
* Diamant who finds photo of Eichmann
* Met Eichmann’s wife-Meets Wiesenthal and Baron and points him to Argentina
* 1956- Sylvia and father-boyfriend-Nick Eichmann
* Set out to track him down
* Fritz Bauer- Sylvia goes and finds Nick’s family and is convinced that she meets Adolf Eichmann

1. **Chapter Three (pgs.36-45)**

* Isser Harel- like CIA head- very good spy
* He gets information that Eichmann is alive and living in Argentina
* Sends another spy to check it out
* Other guy says Eichmann cannot be living in a hovel like that
* Harel stops investigating

1. **Chapter Four (pgs.46-53)**

* Fritz Bauer goes to . Germany to meet ith H Cohen, AG-Israel
* New source for Eichmann’s ID
* Harel, Aharoni (FBI) “Ricardo Kelemnt”
* David Ben-Gurion=Father of Israel
* Anti-Semitic desecrations

1. **Chapter Five (pgs.54-67)**

* Zev Aharoni goes to Argentina to verify for Harel once and for all if it is likely Eichmann living in Argentina
* He uses different “sayanim-Jewish volunteers who are available to help Mossad agents with surveillance”
* One of these agents locates Dito Eichmann, youngest son of Adolf at his job
* Locate San Fernando where Eichmann family has moved
* They find the house after a week of trying to trail Dito
* They follow a paper trail to R. Klement; Aharoni also wants photos of all of the family
* They are able to photograph the house, wife, and Eichmann, confirming the location and main folks for Harel back in Israel

1. **Chapter Six (pgs.68-74)**

* Harel understands that there is no turning back once the order is given to capture Eichmann
* Aharoni’s plan to identify Eichmann and get a better photograph is on
* Uses different cars and different guys to do surveillance
* Jeep goes into ditch and almost gives them away
* Rendi, an operative, conducts the plan using a briefcase armed with a camera
* He gets photos of Eichmann and Dieter

1. **Chapter Seven (pgs.75-90)**

* Argentina’s Vice-President, Juan Peron, tells top people in the Argentine German community that they have to declare war on Germany so as not to get punished by the Allies, but that former Nazis are welcome in Argentina
* Eichmann’s journey from post-war Germany to how he lands in Argentina is traced in this chapter
* The story of how his family is reunited with Eichmann is also told in this chapter
* Isser Harel tells Rafi Eitan, the Shin Bet Chief of Operations to pick the team he needs to capture, hold, and transport Eichmann back to Germany
* The team is introduced in this chapter and they all make their way to Argentina from different places and in different ways
* Eitan tells Harel everyone is in place and ready to go

1. **Chapter Eight (pgs.91-100)**

* The team assembles in Argentina at a safe house
* Harel finalizes plans with the airport team who will transport Eichmann out of Argentina and back to Israel
* Surveillance is now being done by the team to determine Eichmann’s movements and daily habits….they will use this information to formulate a final plan to capture him
* David Ben-Gurion stresses that Eichmann is to be brought to Israel alive so he can stand trial

1. **Chapter Nine (pgs.101-110)**

* Finding reliable, inconspicuous, and affordable transportation with which to use to grab and transport Eichmann was a problem
* Harel and another team arrive in Buenos Aires to brief the first team on the airport situation
* Yosef Klein, manager of El Al’s base in NY’s Idlewild airport, was told why he was to fly to Argentina
* The Eichmann team continue to look at and discuss the intelligence information as they plan their capture
* In order to keep the cover of the airplane, the dates would have to coincide with office protocol, so the capture date may have to be postponed
* Harel orders the date of capture as May 10 or 11

1. **Chapter Ten (pgs.111-120)**

* Return flight to Israel as well as how to get Eichmann on board unseen was being organized by Yousef Klein
* Dani works on forgeries of all kinds of documents: passports, drivers’ licenses, insurance cards, IDs, etc. for the team
* Different license tags are created
* Different escape routes are planned for
* Rehearsals of the kidnapping were practiced
* Some of the team become sick
* Aharoni goes over the final plan two days before the capture date of May 10
* Complications from the airport caused them to have to change the place of take off for the plane
* The safe house where Eichmann would be taken initially was set up
* One final meeting was held and they talked back-up plans in case something went wrong

1. **Chapter Eleven (pgs.121-134)**

* May 11 is designated as the day
* They will capture him at night
* Try to spend the day passing the time
* Change into disguises and review the plan
* Eichmann spends his day as he always does…working and staying by himself
* Team reaches Garibaldi Street around 7:35 pm
* Car 1 faces Eichmann’s house
* Second car has hood lifted as if experiencing car trouble
* Boy on a bike comes up to them and offers assistance and is told to go on his way
* At 7:40, the bus had still not arrived…it was late
* Teams had no weapons, Malkin practices his Spanish to speak to Eichmann
* Bus arrives but doesn’t stop
* 8:05, another bus comes and Eichmann gets off; meanwhile, Harel waits nervously in a cafe
* The team takes up their places and wait for Eichmann to walk their way; they were unsure if Eichmann carried a gun which would determine how they got him into the car
* Malkin speaks to Eichmann as he gets closer and then grabs him; they both fall and roll into a muddy ditch; Eichmann fights back and screams several times; Eichmann eventually goes slack and stops screaming;
* They blindfold Eichmann once they get him in the car and pull away (all of this takes place in 25 seconds since they grab him)
* They threaten to shoot him if he resists; Eichmann doesn’t respond; They tie his hands and feet, push him to the floor and cover him with a blanket. When Eichmann is asked what language he speaks, he tells them he is already resigned to his fate. He speaks in German.
* They stop and switch license plates on the cars. On their way to the safe house, they have to stop at a railroad crossing. They waited 10 minutes. At 8:55, they pull into the garage of the safe house with Eichmann.

1. **Chapter Twelve (pgs.135-144)**

* Eichmann was taken upstairs into his “cell.” No one spoke. Only Aharoni was supposed to communicate with Eichmann on Harel’s orders.
* They took off his dirty clothes and examined him to see if he had cyanide pills hidden. (He didn’t).
* He said that “no man can remain vigilant for fifteen years.”
* The team’s doctor examined him and took his vital signs. He was examined for distinguishing marks as recorded on the Mossad file. He had the scars the file said he was supposed to have.
* He was dressed in loose pajamas. They laid him flat on the bed, and handcuffed his left ankle to the end of the bed.
* Aharoni began his interrogation, never using force, only questioning. He knew it would be a long night.
* at 9:15, the interrogation began. He asked lots of questions about his name, his family, birthrates, his role in the Nazi party, etc.
* Eichmann finally admits who he is then asks for wine to calm him
* They question him longer, then two leave to talk to Harel.
* Vera Eichmann becomes concerned that her husband isn’t home. She feared his past would catch up with him.
* They realize Eichmann’s glasses are missing and Malkin goes back to try and find them in the ditch. He could not find them.
* 24 hour look out on the house. A guard was always in Eichmann’s room…they put goggles on the prisoner. Eichmann finally ate the second day but remained shaky.
* Aharoni questioned Eichmann about other former Nazis living in Argentina. Eichmann did not want to stand trial in Israel. He said he had not done anything; he was only following orders.

1. **Chapter Thirteen (pgs.145-153)**

* May 12…Dieter finds his brother Nick Eichmann and tells him that their father is gone. They think he has been picked up or assaulted by Israelis.
* They go to see Carlos Fuldner, the man who had helped Eichmann get into Argentina.
* Fuldner reasons out that there could be other reasons why he did not come home
* Fuldner promises to search hospitals and police stations.
* They find Eichmann’s glasses in a ditch in the mud. They know he was taken.
* Members of Tacuara, an anti-Semitic fascist group of young people were asked to help look for Eichmann.
* Malkin broke Harel’s orders and talked with Eichmann. They assured him he would not be killed but taken back to Israel to stand trial.
* Yousef Klein was finalizing plans for the flight back to Israel.
* Harel and Klein discussed three different plans for getting Eichmann onboard.
* Harel went to see Eichmann. He was also worried about the depression of the agents guarding him.
* He gave them a pep talk. They talked about the plan and made sure the documents were all in place.

1. **Chapter Fourteen (pgs.154-166)**

* May 18… the Israeli delegation for the Argentine anniversary celebration leaves Israel for Argentina.
* Many of the flight crew had lost family in the Holocaust and were briefed on the passenger they were bringing back to Israel.
* That night, Dieter and Nick Eichmann broke into a Jewish synagogue, armed. They were looking for their father. Throughout the city, Tacuara members were looking as well. Nothing was turned up.
* Malkin continued to talk to Eichmann about the Holocaust and the Final Solution. Malkin could not understand how Eichmann could convince himself he had not done anything wrong.
* Eichmann wrote a statement stating he was prepared to go to Israel and give a straightforward accounting of the facts.
* The flight from Israel had to make a couple of refueling stops before it reached Argentina. One of these places was Brazil. The plane was refueled but not allowed to take off because its flight plans were changed, and the commandant who could authorize the plans was asleep. The agents had to bride the commandant to allow them to fly out.
* Harel details the plans to bring Eichmann onto the plane disguised as a flight attendant.They also were working on a new route so they would not have to stop back in Brazil again on the return flight home.

1. **Chapter Fifteen (pgs.167-176)**

* May 20, the day Eichmann was to be flown out of Argentina…the team was preparing final plans, documents, arrangements to get him on the plane in disguise.
* A special hiding place was built into the first class cabin.
* At 7:30 pm, the team was ready to transfer Eichmann to the plane. Eichmann’s hair had been dyed gray and make up had been applied to his face. He was wearing a fake mustache, and he was dressed in the flight uniform of the El Al crew.
* The doctor injected him with a sedative.
* They helped him walk to the car, still conscious, but not really able to speak.
* The final flight crew was assembled and told of their mission.
* When the team arrived at the airport, Eichmann was “walked” onto the plane in a circle of people. He was not noticed by the searchlights.
* He was seated in the first class cabin, given a blanket, and slept as the plane taxied on the runway.
* The plane could not leave until all documents were checked. At midnight, they were still waiting for that to happen. Then they were almost ready to go when the pilot was told to wait because of an irregularity in their documents.

1. **Chapter Sixteen (pgs.177-187)**

* Klein is worried about the plane not being able to take off. Shaul talks to the people in the control tower and a signature was needed.
* The plane at last takes off, and everyone celebrates.
* They make calculations for their alternate plan (not stopping in Brazil).
* There was some concern about making their first destination, but everything goes according to plan.
* Nick Eichmann learns that an Israeli plan has left Argentina bound for Israel. He is certain that his father is on board.
* Eichmann continues to be compliant on the plane as he was in the safe house.
* The other teammates all leave Argentina at different times and from different locations…just like they had entered.
* They are heading for Dakar and worried that they won’t have enough gas to get there.
* They get there and are boarded by officials as the plane is refueled. Eichmann is given another sedative and is ignored by the officials.
* There rest of the flight is smooth. They finally land in Tel Aviv, Israel.

1. **Chapter Seventeen (pgs.188-195)**

* May 22, the plane lands. There is no celebration. The mood is relief.
* Harel calls Shin Bet headquarters and tells them, “The monster is in shackles.”
* Eichmann is put in the back of a van and taken to a house in Jaffa.
* Harel makes it to the 10:00 am meeting of the Prime Minister and tells them that Eichmann is on Israeli soil.
* Ben-Gurion wants someone else who knew Eichmann to also make an identification before the news is broken.
* A few hours later, Moshe Agami, a Jewish Agency rep during the war is brought into identify Eichmann. The two had met in 1938. His identification is confirmed and the news is shared with Ben-Gurion.
* Harel wanted Ben-Gurion to wait to make the announcement. He said there were still agents in Argentina, but Ben-Gurion said he was going to announce it immediately.
* On May 23, Eichmann was officially arrested and charged with the crime of genocide.
* at 4:00 pm, Ben-Gurion walked into the Knesset, Israel’s parliament, and made the announcement. The place was quiet then everyone reacted.
* Some of the agents who were still in South America and trying to get out heard the news and were furious that the announcement was made before they had all returned.
* The agents had told their families they were in other places, but by the time they got home, their families guessed the truth of their mission.

1. **Chapter Eighteen (pgs.196-211)**

* Reinforced guards kept a 24 hour watch on Eichmann while he was in prison and on trial
* Pride turns to revenge
* Argentina was furious that he had been taken without permission
* Tacuara and other anti-Semitic groups carried out attacks on local Jewish communities in Buenos Aires as “punishment” for grabbing Eichmann
* Vera Eichmann wanted the case investigated. It was but then it was thrown out.
* April 11, 1961, Eichmann’s trial started in Jerusalem
* He is indicted on fifteen counts and numerous charges
* The trial takes 56 days.
* on May 28, Zeev Sapir takes the witness stand. He recounts the information from the beginning of the book.
* Eichmann speaks in his own defense. Closing arguments are on August 14. He is found guilty on all counts.
* On December 15, 1961, he is sentenced to death. It was the first-and to this day only-sentence of death by an Israeli court.
* Eichmann appeals, but on May 29, 1962, it was denied.
* He is hanged at midnight on May 30, 1962. His last words were, “Long live Germany.” Long live Argentina. Long live Austria…I had to obey the laws of war and my flag. I am ready.” He then calls out, “Gentlemen, we shall meet again soon, so is the fate of all men. I have believed in God all my life, and I die believing in God.”
* The body is cut down, wrapped in a blanket, and put into a fiery furnace for cremation. The ashes were placed into a canister, put on a boat, taken in the middle of the water and dumped into the waves.

**Epilogue (pgs.212-217)**

* Trial educates the Israeli public about the true nature of the Holocaust and it allowed survivors to share their experiences
* The rest of the world began hearing about these stories and accounts…this was the beginning of the testimonies
* Vera and her youngest son Ricardo moved back and forth between Argentina and West Germany for many years. They finally settled in Germany. She never accepted that her husband was guilty. Ricardo never really remembered his father. He became a professor but is reluctant to speak of his father.
* Horst Eichmann lives in Argentina and is a Neo-Nazi leader.
* Dieter and Nick moved back to Germany. They said that their father only followed orders and refuse to discuss him.
* Agents moved to find other Nazi criminals over the years.
* Malkin tells his mother he kept his promise to get Eichmann.

**Author’s Note (pgs.212-217)**