

BOOK REVIEW

'Blood Promise'

By Jessica Dearborn

The fiction novel, *Blood Promise*, by Robert L. Hecker is an echo of the past and a remembrance of human strength. Intelligently written, his storytelling is rich and fluid. Having been a pilot in World War II, flying B-17's in thirty missions, he has eyewitness accounts of tales and history.

The story is told through the characters of Anna and Erik. Anna, who is half Hungarian and half gypsy, has been living in New York for a few years and has acquired her American citizenship. She receives news of her father's illness and returns to her family's estate in Hungary, where she learns of her fate. Through this, she and



Robert L. Hecker

her childhood friend, Erik reunite and reminisce about more carefree days of dancing, playing, and enjoying the traditional gypsy culture.

Robert L. Hecker tells the story of these groups of gypsies being captured and taken from their homes, only to be taken to Nazi work camps. The gypsies suffer great tragedies, are starved, many are beaten and are murdered. Anna and Erik must use their wits to escape.

The author clearly describes the sights of the people suffering, the smell of disease and death, and the emotional and physical damnation of a people that have been enslaved. Each page assures the reader that they have found an exceedingly compelling, interesting and detailed piece of writing that cannot easily be set down.

Blood Promise, A Novel by Robert L. Hecker, Double Dragon Publishing, U.S., 2002, 212 pp: \$16.95