

Contents

Acknowledgements	ix
1. Journey with my Lost Father	1
2. Lonely Times	16
3. The Safety of Bratislava	23
4. Rudolf	30
5. Heda	41
6. Rudolf: Into Adulthood	53
7. Heda: Life's Endings and Beginnings	60
8. Between the Wars	67
9. An Impotent Army	78
10. Chances of Survival	83
11. Transport to Łódź	99
12. A Stumble out of Auschwitz-Birkenau	111
13. Return to Prague	117
14. From Idealism into Self-Destruction	127
15. Politics Taking Over	141
16. Stranded in the Forcefully Distorted Economy	147
17. The Soviets Arrive	151
18. Journeys of Misunderstanding	156
19. Towards Manufactured Guilt	161
20. Ways into Detention	174
21. To Nowhere	188
22. In the Name of the Party	197
23. Making Trade	202
24. Ruzyně Interlude	208
25. The Theatre of Absurdity	219
26. A Trip to the Land of No Return	234
27. The Last Journey	241
28. Sinking Deeper	246

CONTENTS

29. Towards Beauty	253
30. A Walk from School	259
31. Youthful Dreams	267
32. The Emergence of Truth	274
33. Living Anew	287
Appendices:	
Families and Friends, Artists and Writers, Defendants, Politicians and Interrogators	302
Notes	308
Index	311