

After 1933, Jewish doctors are driven from their professions, non-Jewish patients disappear, staff flee abroad and the hospital becomes increasingly isolated. By the war years, medicine itself has been drawn into the machinery of persecution. Lists determine who is to be deported and who may remain. A diagnosis can mean a few more weeks of life. Declaring a patient unfit for transport may save a child—for a time. Caught within this system are Dinah Halberstam and Dr Chaim Mavet, physicians forced to make decisions no physician should ever have to make. Every name removed from a transport list may save one person while exposing another. Healing becomes resistance, compromise, bargaining—and sometimes complicity.

A century later, Professor Lea Mendel is fighting to preserve the same Jewish children's hospital. On its hundredth anniversary, financial crisis and political hostility threaten its independence, while her assistant Eva Bernstein uncovers documents that disturb the heroic story the institution has long told about its survival. Among the archives she also encounters Anika Maschka, whose research into an artist connected with the hospital opens another path into its buried history.

Past and present begin to fold into one another. What does it mean for an institution to survive? What compromises may be made in order to save lives? And who has the right, generations later, to judge those who had life and death placed in their hands?

The third novel in the Anika Cycle, *Life and Death in Their Hands* is a story about medicine under dictatorship, the moral price of survival, and the fragile difference between saving a life and merely postponing its destruction.