

Miriam Kahn
Columbus, OH 43209-1524

An Open Letter about IBM and the Holocaust
By Miriam Kahn

In the summer of 2001, I reviewed the audiobook of *IBM and the Holocaust* for *AudioFile Magazine*. This short review contained false statements. My review was based only on the spoken book, which author Edwin Black narrated—not the written book. Although I am a librarian, I never saw or consulted the written book prior to writing the review. I have since seen the book and learned of all the footnotes.

In my review, I wrote: “The listener may question the veracity of conclusions drawn from documents that the author states contain no outright proof of his theory.” This is completely false. The author never made any such statement on the audio tape, nor has the author said or suggested those words anywhere. I should not have written it.

In addition, I wrote: “at times he [Edwin Black as narrator] seems proud of the computational and military might of the Nazis. This is ironic--as he is the child of Holocaust survivors.” I do not actually believe Edwin Black was “proud” of the Nazi use of IBM machines--and quite simply, it should not have been written.

AudioFile Magazine long ago unilaterally withdrew this review from its website and archive, and has accepted a letter of correction for a forthcoming issue. Because of my misstatements, I would like to retract and withdraw my review and apologize. I would however remind readers of another statement I wrote about Edwin Black’s book. I said it was “shocking and mind-numbing in its scope and detail.” I prefer this statement to endure.



Miriam Kahn
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