



**The Azrieli Series of
Holocaust Survivor Memoirs
2022 Trade Catalogue**



Inspired by Jewish values and the vision and resilience of our founder, David J. Azrieli z"l, the Azrieli Foundation's mission is to improve the lives of present and future generations through Education, Research, Healthcare and the Arts mainly in Canada and Israel. The foundation has eight priority funding areas with support reaching a diversity of people, places and needs. Our vision is to remember the past, heal the present and enhance the future of the Jewish people and all humanity.

The Azrieli Foundation's Holocaust Survivor Memoirs program is guided by the conviction that each survivor of the Holocaust has a remarkable story to tell, and that the personal accounts of those who survived against all odds are as different as the people who wrote them. Recognizing that most survivor memoirs never find a publisher, the Azrieli Foundation established the not-for-profit Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program to collect, archive and publish these distinctive records.

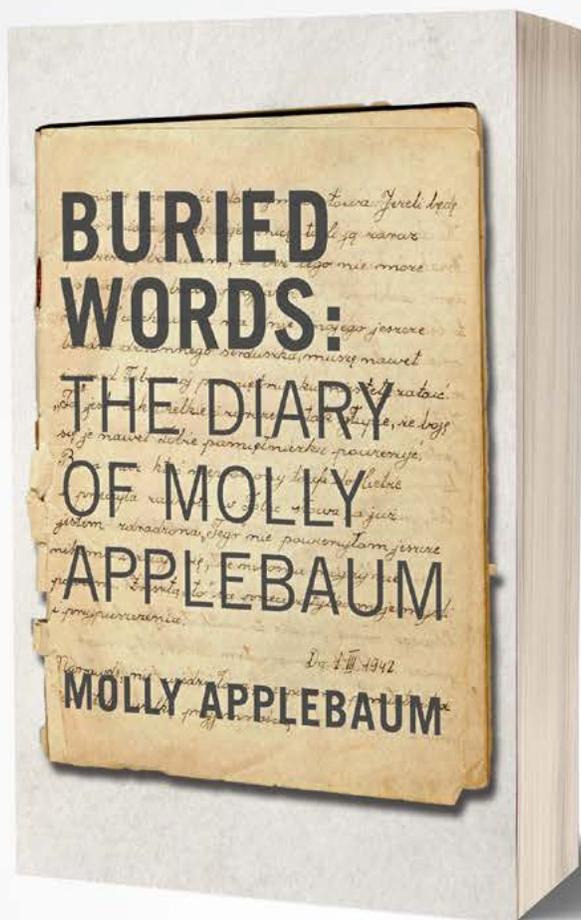
The Holocaust Survivor Memoirs program is a not-for-profit program. All revenues to the Azrieli Foundation from the sales of the memoirs go toward continuing the publication and educational work of the Memoirs Program.

In telling these stories, the writers have liberated themselves. For so many years we did not speak about it, even when we became free people living in a free society. Now, when at last we are writing about what happened to us in this dark period of history, knowing that our stories will be read and live on, it is possible for us to feel truly free. These unique historical documents put a face on what was lost, and allow readers to grasp the enormity of what happened to six million Jews — one story at a time.

David J. Azrieli, C.M., C.Q., M.Arch.

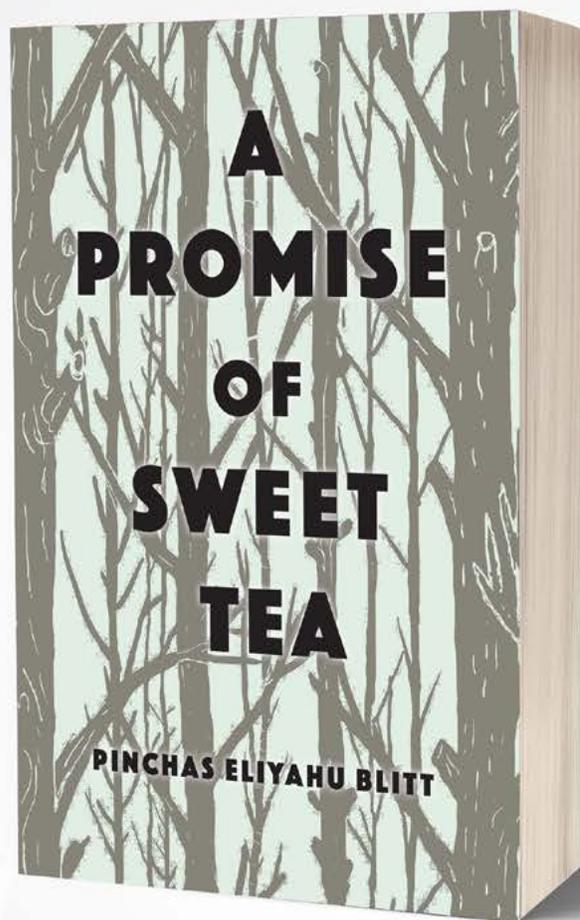
Holocaust survivor and founder, The Azrieli Foundation

Highlights



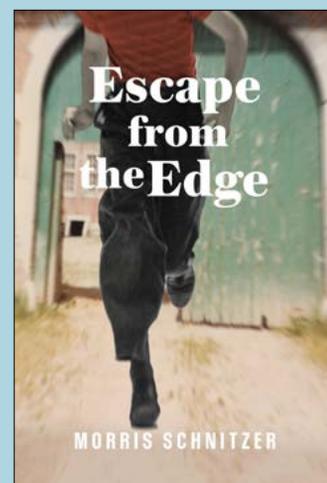
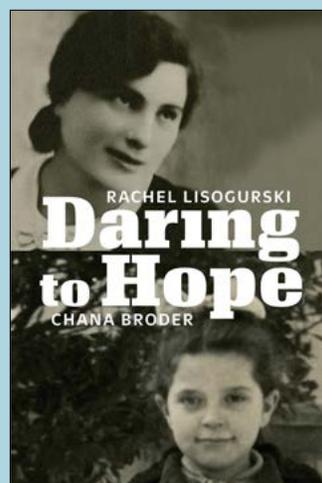
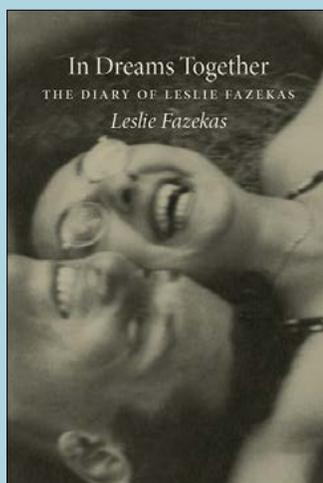
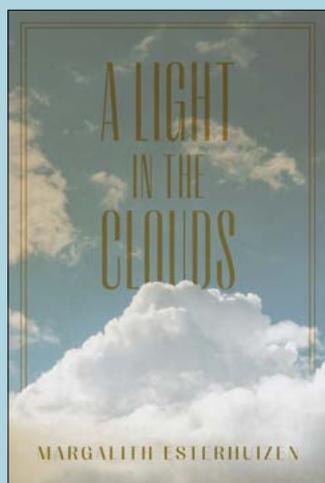
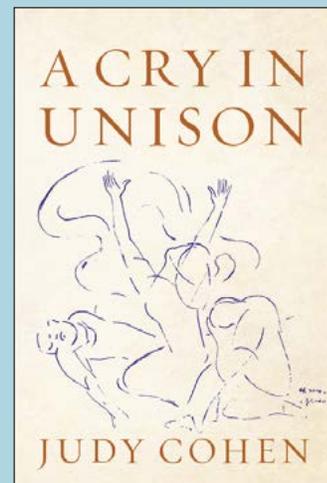
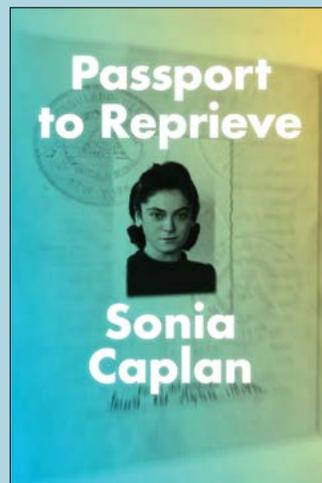
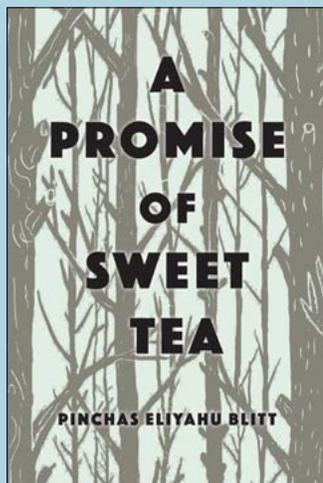
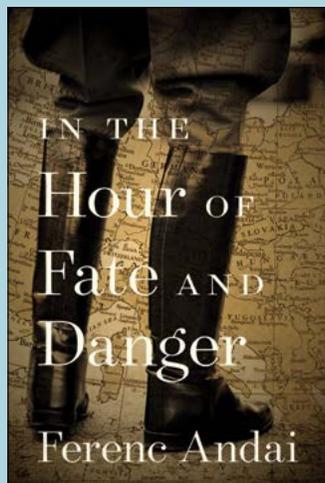
Awarded the inaugural Wolfe Chair Holocaust Studies Student Impact Prize

Featured in new section on diaries and wartime memoirs, page 14.



Finalist for 2021 National Jewish Book Award

Newest Titles



In the Hour of Fate and Danger

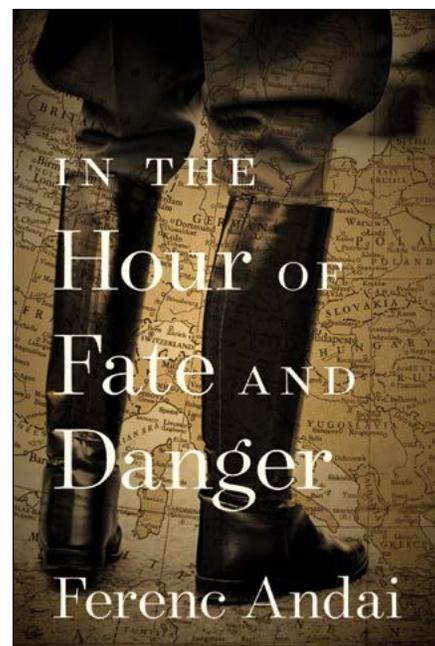
Ferenc Andai

Portents of death are trembling in the air.

In the lush mountains of Serbia in 1944, thousands of Hungarian Jewish men are held captive as slave labourers, their pain and suffering echoing in the silence of their surroundings. Within the beauty and the devastation, nineteen-year-old Ferenc Andai is forced to work to exhaustion, subject to the whims of cruel Hungarian commanders and German overseers. For Ferenc, the only relief from his harsh reality is his company — an artistic and literary circle of men that includes the renowned poet Miklós Radnóti. As liberation inches closer and a fierce battle for power between Nazi collaborators and resisters rages on in the region, Ferenc faces decisions that will determine whether he lives or dies. Powerful, evocative and lyrical, *In the Hour of Fate and Danger* is the story of Ferenc's chilling and suspenseful journey through Nazi-occupied Serbia.

About the author

Ferenc Andai (1925–2013) was born in Budapest, Hungary. He arrived in Canada in 1957, where he obtained an MA in Slavic Studies and a teaching diploma, later earning his PhD in history. Ferenc was a high school history teacher and head of the social sciences department. In the Hour of Fate and Danger is the first English translation of Ferenc's Hungarian memoir, Mint tanu szólni: Bori történet (To Bear Witness: A Story of Bor), winner of the 2004 Miklós Radnóti Prize.



6×9 paperback
276 pages with photos
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A Promise of Sweet Tea

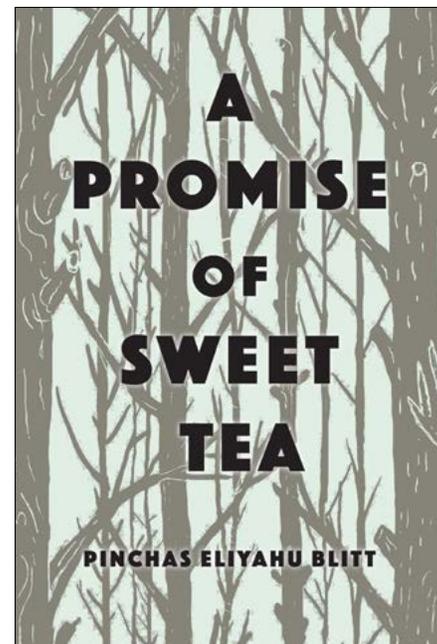
Pinchas Eliyahu Blitt

We were close enough to these soldiers to see their faces. In them we saw the end of our lives. But, somehow, we still did not give up hope and surrender.

A Jewish community in prewar Eastern Europe comes alive in this vividly told story of a childhood interrupted by the Holocaust. In his wry and evocative prose, Pinchas Blitt brings us to Kortelisy — a humble, vibrant village in the backwoods of western Ukraine. Young Pinchas lives in fear of Cossacks and wolves and the local antisemitic children, but he finds belonging in the rich texts and traditions of his ancestors. When the Soviets invade, Pinchas's life is infused with new meaning as he innocently devotes himself to Comrade Stalin. Then, the Nazis arrive, and Pinchas witnesses his beloved village being brutally attacked. As his family seeks safety in the marshes and forests, a precarious existence on the run brings Pinchas face to face with his own mortality and faith, and with a sense of dislocation that will accompany him throughout his life.

About the author

Pinchas Eliyahu Blitt was born in Kortelisy, Poland (now Ukraine) in 1931 or 1932. Pinchas and his family immigrated to Canada in 1948 and settled in Montreal, where he attended teacher's college and law school. In addition to a long career as a lawyer, Pinchas was involved in the Yiddish theatre community in Montreal for many years. Pinchas has three children. He lives in Montreal with his wife, Gisele.



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Passport to Reprieve

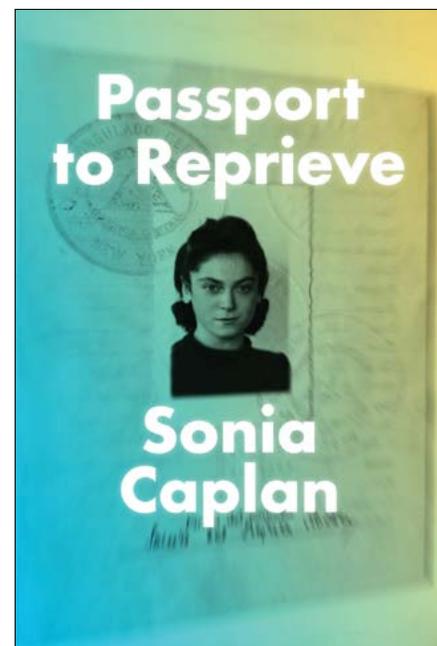
Sonia Caplan

Trembling with agitation and anxiety, I finally realized that there were just three possibilities for us: one was to get permission from the Gestapo, by some miracle, to be exempt again; the other to be shot; and the third to be deported.

As seventeen-year-old Sonia prepares to leave her childhood home in Tarnów, Poland, to study journalism in Paris, antisemitism is on the rise. It is 1939, and her father leaves for Canada to set up a new life there for his family. Stranded in Canada when war breaks out in Europe, he is frantic to reunite with his family. Sonia's father works feverishly from Canada to get them out to safety, even managing to become a citizen of neutral Nicaragua, sending Nicaraguan passports to his family. In Tarnów, Sonia faces the Gestapo again and again, armed with these documents as anti-Jewish laws escalate and the daily violence intensifies. As Sonia bravely tries to shield her family from the atrocities in the Tarnów ghetto, she feels torn between temporary triumphs and an agonizing sense of futility. In the face of deportation, Sonia's wait for a reprieve turns ominous. Will her determination and deception be enough to save her and her family?

About the author

Sonia Caplan (née Roskes) was born in Białystok, Poland, in 1922 and was raised in the city of Tarnów. After being confined in the Tarnów ghetto for more than two years and the Liebenau internment camp in Germany for another two years, Sonia was released to Switzerland with her mother and sister. They arrived in Canada in February 1945 and reunited with their family. After settling in Montreal, Sonia began courses at McGill University and then married and raised three children. Later in her life, she continued her studies in literature, her lifelong passion. Sonia Caplan passed away in 1987.



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A Cry in Unison

Judy Weissenberg Cohen

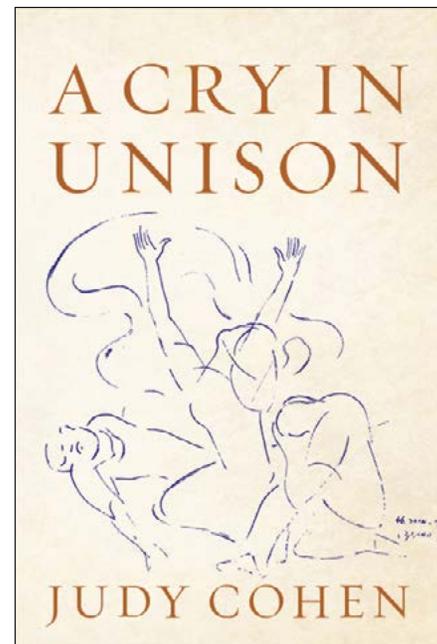
And yet, as long as we were together, four sisters, we felt fortunate.

Growing up, Judy Weissenberg is the mischievous and lively youngest child in a large family in Debrecen, Hungary. But as the Nazis rise to power in Europe and anti-Jewish laws tear her family and community apart, Judy's joyful youth becomes marred by fear and the hushed whispers of the adults around her. Then, in 1944, Germany occupies Hungary and Judy's world is shattered. One terrifying event follows another, and soon Judy is faced with the incomprehensible — Auschwitz-Birkenau. In the shadow of the gas chambers, she clings to her sisters and "camp sisters," who are her only hope of enduring the miseries that are to come.

In *A Cry in Unison*, Holocaust survivor, educator and human rights activist Judy Weissenberg Cohen weaves her riveting story of survival with descriptions of the political and social forces that upended her life. Her voice is a powerful call to honour the unique experiences of women in the Holocaust and to refuse to be silent in the face of injustice.

About the author

Judy Weissenberg Cohen was born in Debrecen, Hungary, in 1928. She immigrated to Montreal in 1948. Judy is an active speaker and Holocaust and human rights educator, and in 2001 she founded the website "Women and the Holocaust," which collects testimony, literature and scholarly material exploring the specific gender-based experiences of women in the Holocaust. Judy Cohen lives in Toronto.



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In Dreams Together: The Diary of Leslie Fazekas

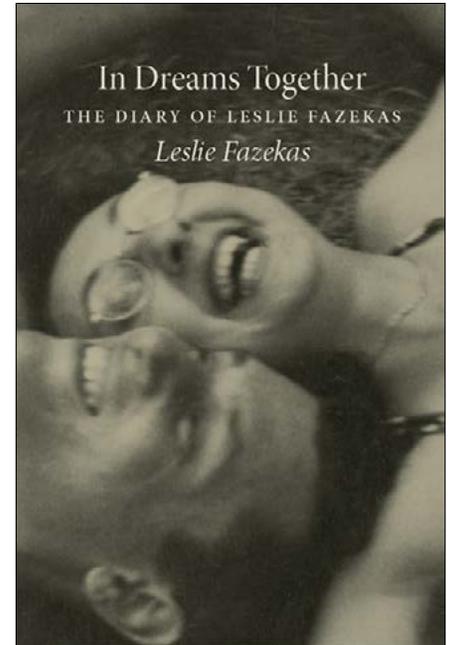
Leslie Fazekas

All it takes is a single bomb, dumb and random, to defeat all hope. But it would be a beautiful thing for us to meet again — a triumph of endurance, faith and love.

In the summer of 1944, eighteen-year-old Leslie Fazekas and his family are deported from their hometown of Debrecen, Hungary, to Vienna, Austria, as forced labourers. Fate and fortune have intervened to save their lives — after the war, they discover that nearly half of their Jewish community was sent to Auschwitz. During the devastating circumstances of his captivity, Leslie records his experiences in a diary and in letters to his girlfriend, Judit, from whom he was separated in Vienna. For eight months, Leslie's words alternate between hope and uncertainty in love letters that are also a testimony of his survival during a perilous time. *In Dreams Together* features Leslie's diary alongside his postwar memoir, a reflection on his childhood, the war and the love that shaped his life.

About the author

Leslie Fazekas was born in Debrecen, Hungary, in 1925. After the war, he reunited with Judit (Judy), and they married in Budapest in 1949. Leslie returned to school and earned his mechanical engineering diploma at the Technical University of Budapest. In 1956, Leslie and his family immigrated to Toronto, where Leslie attended the University of Toronto for computer programming, a field he worked in until his retirement. Leslie and Judy Fazekas live in Toronto.



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Daring to Hope

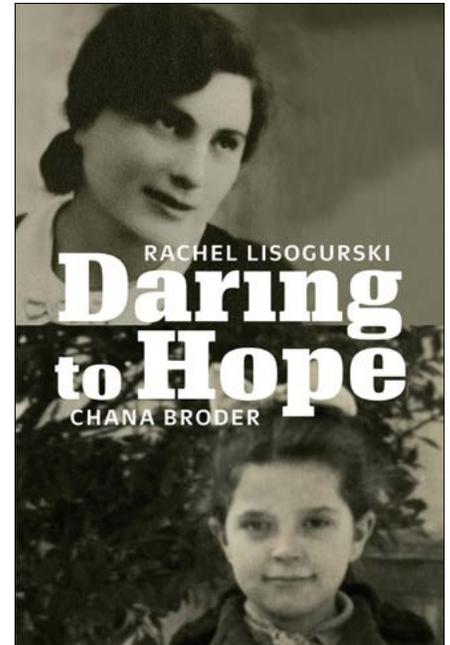
Rachel Lisogurski and Chana Broder

I often wonder now how I could even have thought of running away. Where did I get my faith in the future?

When Rachel and her husband, Avrumeh, escape from the Siemiatycze ghetto in Poland one cold winter night in 1942 with their four-year-old daughter, Chana, they are desperate for refuge. Turned away by their closest friends, they are forced to wander the countryside looking for places to hide and asking for help from strangers and acquaintances. For close to two years, every day is filled with uncertainty for them and for the courageous farmers who eventually hide them. Throughout, young Chana is fiercely protected by her parents, who teach her not to cry, not to even make a sound. After liberation, Chana's childhood truly begins, and decades later, she finally has the opportunity to honour those who rescued her family. Told from the perspective of both mother and daughter, *Daring to Hope* reflects on the darkness of wartime and the love that held a family together.

About the authors

Rachel Lisogurski (1911–1998) was born in Grodzisk, Poland; her daughter, Chana Broder, was born in Siemiatycze, Poland, in 1938. After the war, they lived in a displaced persons camp in Italy, immigrating to Montreal in 1948. Rachel first wrote her memoir in 1967 as a way to improve her English. In 1972, Chana and her family moved to Israel, where Chana became an ESL teacher. In 2013, she reunited with the descendants of her wartime rescuers and had them recognized as Righteous Among the Nations. Chana Broder lives in Israel.



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Escape from the Edge

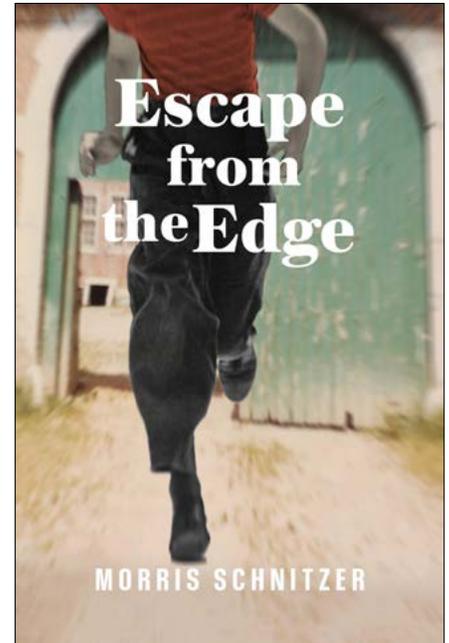
Morris Schnitzer

And there I was one evening at the end of December 1942, a free man in Brussels. A German Jew. Via the Netherlands. Via Switzerland. Via France. I was free in Brussels! I didn't know anyone. I had never lived in Belgium. A war was on. What was I supposed to do now?

Narrow escapes and bold decisions define the life of teenager Morris Schnitzer. Fleeing from Nazi Germany before the onset of World War II, Morris ends up in the Netherlands only to watch the country be invaded by the Nazis. With his father's warning to never set foot in a concentration camp echoing in his mind, Morris resolves to fight — and survive. As he assumes false identities and crosses endless borders in search of safety, Morris never acquiesces to the Nazi occupiers in Western Europe. In his epic journey to *Escape from the Edge*, Morris endures imprisonment and gruelling work as a farmhand, joins the resistance in Belgium and ultimately enlists in the American army, vowing to take revenge for all that he has lost.

About the author

Morris Schnitzer was born in Bochum, Germany, in 1922. In 1947, he immigrated to Montreal, where he earned both a BSc and MSc at McGill University, going on to earn his PhD in 1955. In Ottawa, Morris worked at the Canadian government's Department of Agriculture as a principal researcher in the chemistry of soil organic matter. He won the prestigious Wolf Prize in Agriculture in 1995 and wrote three books and more than 400 scientific papers over the course of his distinguished career. Morris Schnitzer passed away in 2020.



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A Light in the Clouds

Margalith Esterhuizen

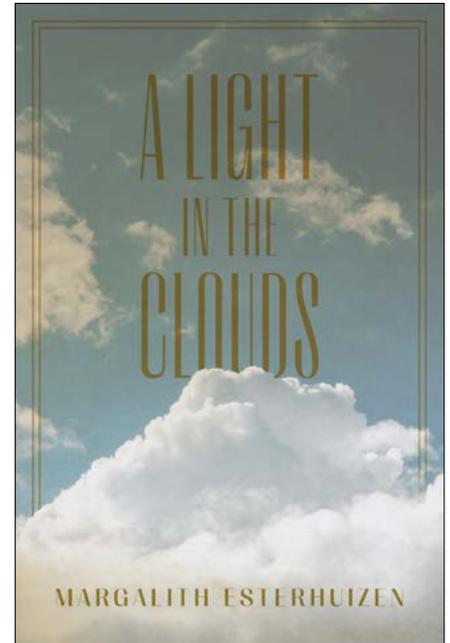
Dark, menacing clouds gathered in the sky that fateful day in August 1941. It was as if even the heavens were sad and angry on the day the officials in Edineți received orders for our evacuation.

Margalith and her older sister, Dorica, grow up in a warm, close-knit family in Romania, but at a young age, the girls tragically lose their mother. Just as they are readjusting to a new family life, their childhood abruptly comes to a brutal end — Romania aligns itself with Nazi Germany and antisemitism boils over in their community. In 1941, Romanian soldiers force Margalith and her family from their home and send them on a devastating deportation march to the unknown. Crossing a river takes Margalith into Transnistria, a wretched land between borders, an expanse of thousands of kilometres containing more than a hundred ghettos and camps. This area, controlled by Romania, is where Jews like Margalith and her family are abandoned, left to die in desolation. A ghetto in the town of Murafa provides a bleak shelter where Margalith and her family struggle to keep starvation at bay until help arrives unexpectedly before war's end. Her journey to freedom and a new homeland provides

both opportunity and heartache, and Margalith finds *A Light in the Clouds* as she endures the darkness of her past to search out the bright future ahead.

About the author

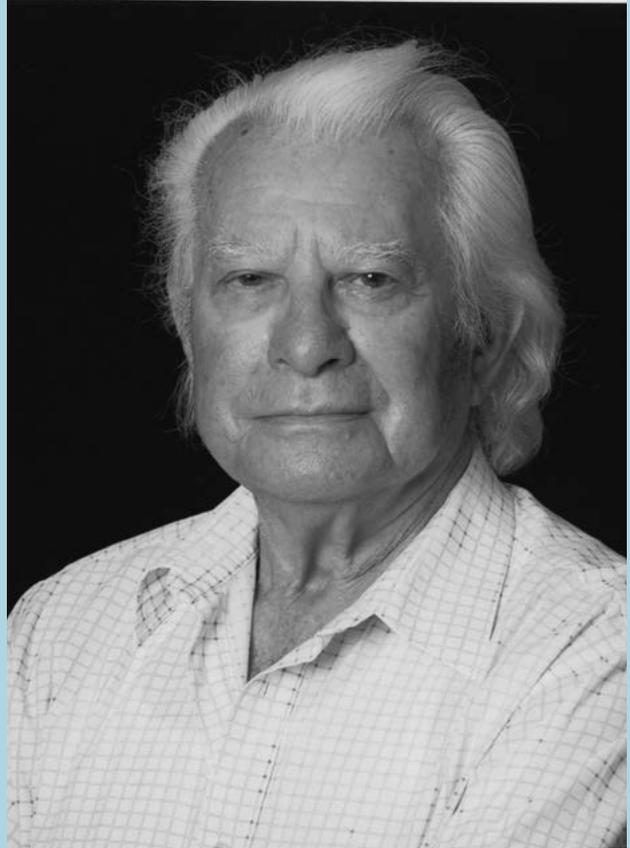
Margalith Esterhuizen was born in Rădăuți, Romania, in 1927. In early 1944, Margalith was released from a ghetto in Transnistria, and in May 1945, she arrived in British Mandate Palestine (now Israel). There, she attended college, worked, and married and started a family. In 1954, Margalith and her husband, Bill, moved to South Africa, where he had grown up, to continue raising their family. Margalith worked in real estate, a field she continued in when she and Bill immigrated to Canada in 1989 to join their children. Margalith lives in Caledon, Ontario.



6×9 paperback
128 pages with photos
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Anthologies



Top: László Láng in Budapest, Hungary, in 1942, while working as an apprentice; and László in Toronto, 2010. From the anthology *Confronting Devastation*.
Bottom: Irena Peritz (right) and her sister, Olga, in 1932; and Olga (left) and Irena in Montreal, 2016. From the anthology *Before All Memory Is Lost*.

At Great Risk: Memoirs of Rescue during the Holocaust

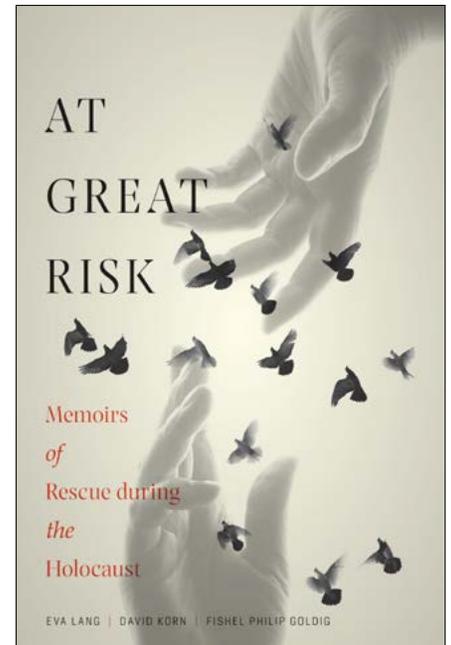
Eva Lang · David Korn · Fishel Goldig

Many rescuers often say they only did what any decent person would have done in their position, and yet we know that is not true. They did what so many others did not do.

In France, underground networks find refuge for eleven-year-old Eva Lang and her younger sisters, protecting them from internment camps. In an orphanage in Slovakia, a pastor shelters young David Korn and his older brother, saving them from deportation. In a village in Poland, a farmer hides nine-year-old Fishel Philip Goldig and his parents after they escape from a ghetto and certain death. During the Holocaust, when so many people stood by during anti-Jewish atrocities, others risked their lives to save their Jewish friends and neighbours, and often even strangers. The three feature memoirs in *At Great Risk* are accompanied by excerpted stories of rescue by thirteen previously published Azrieli Foundation authors, highlighting the diverse experiences of rescue during the Holocaust. Together, these stories emphasize not only the courage and moral strength of the rescuers but also the survivors' remembrances of and gratitude to their rescuers after the war.

About the authors

Eva Lang was born in Brussels, Belgium, in 1930. She immigrated to British Mandate Palestine in 1945 and to Canada in 1974, where she was an early childhood educator and an aesthetician. Eva Lang now lives in Netanya, Israel, where she paints and is very involved in Holocaust education. David Korn was born in Brno, Czechoslovakia (now Czech Republic), in 1937. In 1949, he immigrated to Israel, where he earned a degree in engineering. David came to Canada in 1965 and worked on building restorations in Montreal, Ottawa and Halifax. David Korn lives in Halifax, where he speaks often about his wartime experiences. Fishel Goldig was born in Mielnica, Poland (now Melnytsia-Podilska, Ukraine), in 1933. He immigrated to Montreal in 1948, where he established various businesses while also becoming a professional singer, cantor and theatre performer. Fishel Goldig lives in Montreal and is dedicated to Holocaust education.



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Confronting Devastation: Memoirs of Holocaust Survivors from Hungary

Ferenc Laczó (editor)

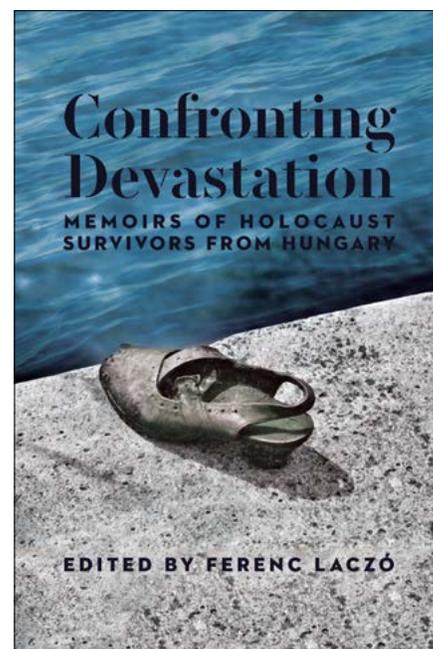
I feel someone has to speak for those who are dead. I think someone needs to remind those who try to forget. This is demanded by the cries of the dead echoing from their graves.

(Peter Vas)

An anthology of writing from Hungarian Holocaust survivors that examines the experiences and memories of the Holocaust in Hungary. Editor Ferenc Laczó frames excerpts from some twenty memoirs in their historical and political context, analyzing the events that led to the horrific “last chapter” of the Holocaust — the genocide of approximately 550,000 Jews in Hungary between 1944 and 1945.

About the editor

Ferenc Laczó is assistant professor in history at Maastricht University. He is the author of Hungarian Jews in the Age of Genocide: An Intellectual History, 1929–1948 (2016) and co-editor of Catastrophe and Utopia: Jewish Intellectuals in Central and Eastern Europe in the 1930s and 1940s (2017).



6×9 paperback · 488 pages with photos
ISBN 978 1 988065 68 7 · \$17.95



Before All Memory Is Lost: Women's Voices from the Holocaust

Myrna Goldenberg (editor)

We had a father, a mother, and in the blink of an eye, we lost them... From the root, let a branch remain. Let their memory live forever...

(Ifa Demon)

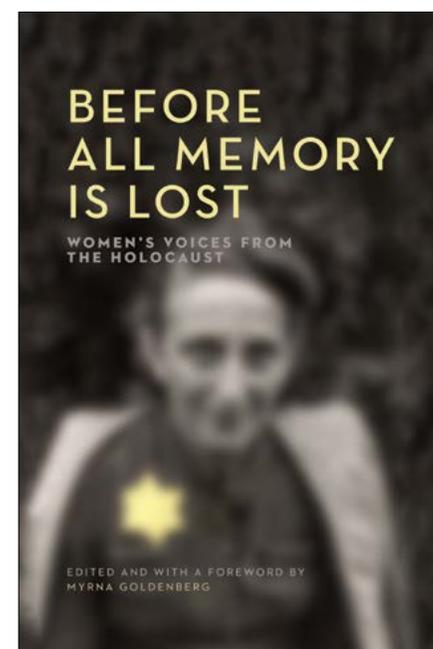
In this first Azrieli Foundation anthology, twenty women reflect on their experiences of survival — from the heart-stopping fears of hiding to the extreme risks of “passing” as non-Jews, and from the terrors of the Nazi camps to the treacheries of the Soviet Union. This powerful collection, woven together by the common thread of resistance, features a wide variety of narrative styles, including prose, poetry and diary excerpts.

About the editor

Myrna Goldenberg is the co-editor of Different Horrors, Same Hell: Gender and the Holocaust (2013) and Experience and Expression: Women, the Nazis, and the Holocaust (2003), as well as a number of other publications.

2018 INDEPENDENT PUBLISHER
GOLD MEDAL

2017 CANADIAN JEWISH BOOK AWARD AND
FINALIST FOR NATIONAL JEWISH BOOK
AWARD



6×9 paperback · 616 pages with photos
ISBN 978 1 988065 11 3 · \$18.95



Diaries and Wartime Memoirs

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A stamta
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Buried Words: The Diary of Molly Applebaum

Molly Applebaum

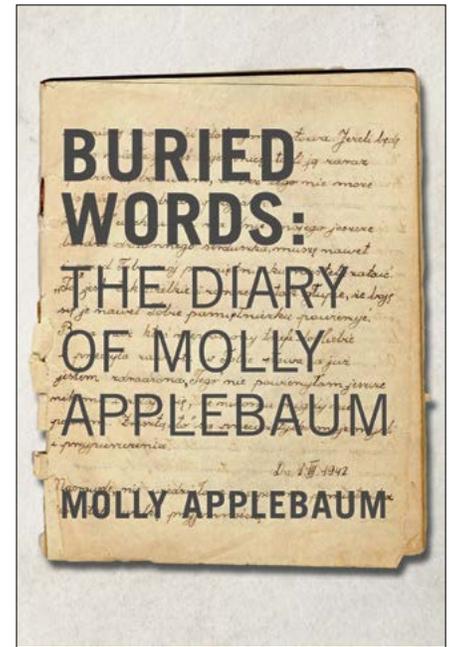
When I looked at the world with the eyes of a child it appeared so rose-coloured...and now? I am happy when I survive another day and I await the next in fear. When is it going to end? Are we even going to live until the end?

Hidden away underground, in a box, twelve-year-old Molly has only her older cousin and her diary to keep her company. For two years, she writes of her confinement “in a grave”: the cold, dark space, the unbearable suffering from insufficient food, and the complicated reliance on the two farmers who are risking their own lives to save her. *Buried Words* is a stark confession of Molly’s

fears, despair and secrets and, above all, her fervent wish to stay alive.

About the author

Molly Applebaum was born in Krakow, Poland, in 1930. After the war, she spent three years in displaced persons camps in Europe before immigrating to Canada as a war orphan. Buried Words is the first English translation of the diary Molly wrote in Polish from 1942–1945, accompanied by the memoir she wrote in the 1990s. Molly Applebaum lives in Toronto.



6×9 paperback · 184 pages with photos
ISBN 978 1 988065 12 0 · \$14.95



Too Many Goodbyes: The Diaries of Susan Garfield

Susan Garfield

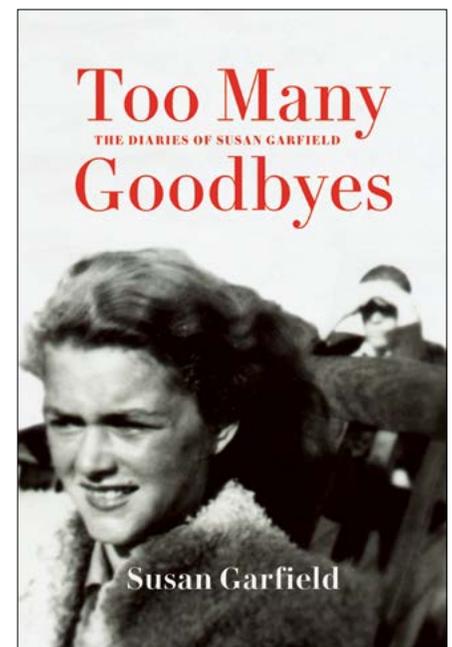
My mother tried to set my mind at ease, telling me not to worry, but she failed to reassure me. My fears were well-founded, as we soon found out.

In 1944, as Budapest’s Jews begin to suffer under German occupation, eleven-year-old Zsuzsi (Susie) takes to her diary to write about her friends and family as she copes with what it means to be persecuted. Precocious and charming, Susie records the mundane along with the poignant as she describes her daily life in Budapest against the backdrop of the war. After the war, uncertain whether she made the right decision to emigrate, Susie writes all her feelings down in a

new diary, the only place where she feels she truly belongs.

About the author

Born Zsuzsanna Löffler in Budapest in 1933, Susan Garfield immigrated to Canada as a war orphan in 1948 and lived in Vegreville, Alberta, before moving to Winnipeg, Manitoba, where she still lives. Her English translation of her Hungarian wartime diary was published in Voices of Winnipeg Holocaust Survivors (2010), and her story as a new immigrant to Canada was told in Holocaust Survivors in Canada: Exclusion, Inclusion, Transformation, 1947–1955 (2015).



6×9 paperback · 256 pages with photos
ISBN 978 1 988065 55 7 · \$14.95



As the Lilacs Bloomed

Anna Molnár Hegedűs

Six months have passed since I arrived home. Six months full of hope, waiting, heart-gripping anxiety and dark despair.

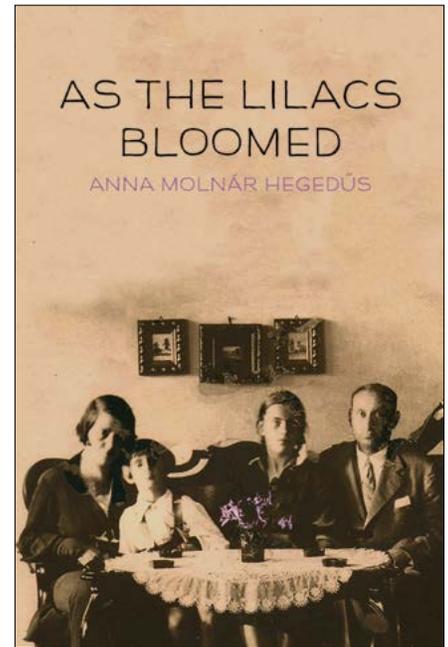
In the spring of 1944, as Germany occupies her native Hungary, Anna Hegedűs barely has time to notice the flowers blooming around her. One year later, as the lilacs blossom once again, she returns to her hometown and sets her memories, raw and vivid, to paper. Her unflinching words convey the bitter details of the Szatmár ghetto, Auschwitz and a perilous death march. Anna has survived a lifetime of trauma, and as she writes, she waits, desperately hoping her family will return.

About the author

Anna Molnár Hegedűs (1897–1979) was born in Szatmár, Hungary (now Satu Mare, Romania). She immigrated to Israel from Romania in 1949 and to Canada in 1952, where she became a devoted neonatal nurse. Anna Hegedűs wrote her memoir, Miért? (Why?), in Hungarian in 1945 and it was published in Romania in 1946. As the Lilacs Bloomed is its first English translation.

2015 INDEPENDENT PUBLISHER
GOLD MEDAL

2015 LITERARY TRANSLATORS'
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA JOHN GLASSCO PRIZE



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The Vale of Tears

Rabbi Pinchas Hirschprung

My tears, like the words of the prayer, fell like fresh dew: pure, delicate, unadulterated, honest words, and pure, delicate, unadulterated, honest tears.

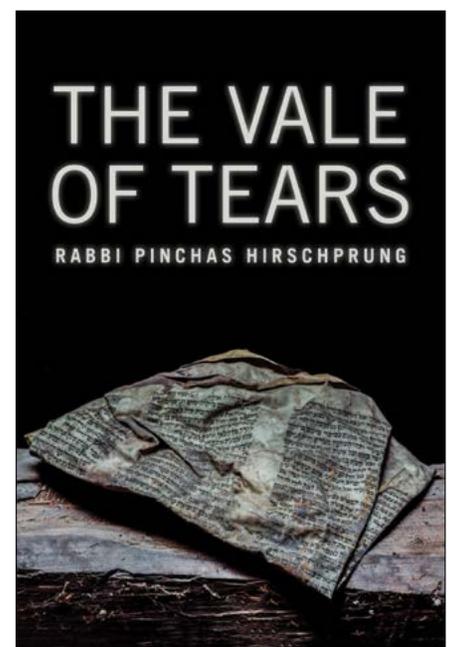
An epic journey across borders, *The Vale of Tears* chronicles close to two years in the life of Rabbi Pinchas Hirschprung as he seeks an escape route from Nazi-occupied Europe. In this rare, near day-by-day account, Rabbi Hirschprung illuminates what life was like for an Orthodox rabbi fleeing persecution, finding inspiration and hope in Jewish scripture and psalms as he navigates the darkness of wartime to a safe harbour in Kobe, Japan.

About the author

*Rabbi Pinchas Hirschprung was born in Dukla, Poland, in 1912. A world-renowned Torah and Talmudic scholar, Hirschprung became the chief rabbi of Montreal in 1969 and led its Jewish community until his death in 1998. Rabbi Hirschprung's Yiddish-language memoir was published in 1944 and translated into Hebrew in 1948; *The Vale of Tears* is its first English translation.*

2018 INDEPENDENT PUBLISHER
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2018 J.I. SEGAL TRANSLATION AWARD



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Hiding



Clockwise from top left: 1. Judy Abrams with the Mother Superior of the Ursuline convent, where Judy was in hiding during the war. Pinchely, Hungary, 1944. From *Tenuous Threads*. 2. Claire Baum (left) with her sister, Ollie, and Tante Nel, who gave them refuge during the war. Rotterdam, the Netherlands, circa 1944. From *The Hidden Package*. 3. Anita Ekstein (front, centre) with Father Michal (centre, with glasses) and members of the parish in Liczkowce, where she lived under a false identity during the war. Liczkowce, Poland, 1943–1944. From *Always Remember Who You Are*.

Tenuous Threads

Judy Abrams

One of the Lucky Ones

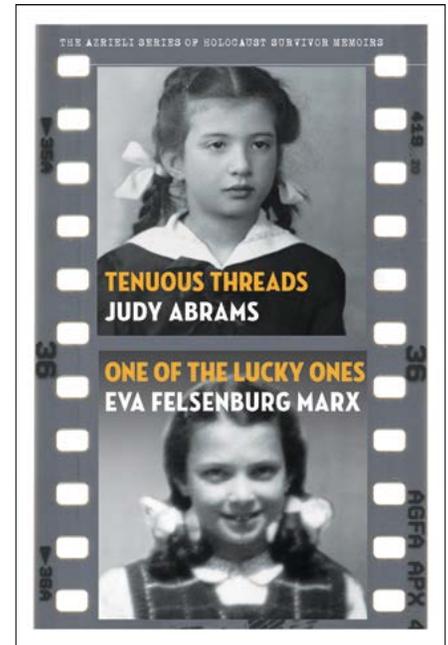
Eva Felsenburg Marx

I had always liked to play make-believe, but somehow they made me understand that this game was real. I never gave away my secret.

Two Jewish girls born six months apart — Judit Grünfeld in Hungary and Eva Felsenburg in Czechoslovakia — are separated from their parents and forced to “pass” as Christian children. Theirs are the amazingly parallel but unique stories of two children who were able to survive when so many others perished.

About the authors

Judy Abrams, born in Budapest, Hungary, in 1937, immigrated to Montreal in 1949 and later taught French at the UN International School in New York City. Judy Abrams lives in Montreal. Eva Marx, born in Brno, Czechoslovakia (now Czech Republic) in 1937, also immigrated to Montreal in 1949, and also became a teacher. Eva Marx lives in Montreal.



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The Hidden Package

Claire Baum

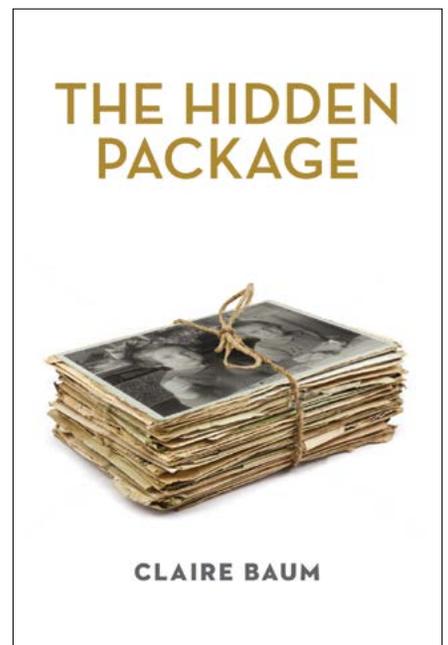
When I opened the parcel, I was confronted with the past, memories long forgotten. The letters and drawings described happy as well as sad moments while Ollie and I were in hiding and separated from Mam and Pap.

Almost forty years after the end of the war, Claire Baum opens a package from a stranger in Rotterdam, unleashing a flood of repressed memories from her childhood. As Claire delves into her past, she uncovers the personal sacrifice and bravery of her parents, the Dutch resistance and the families that selflessly gave shelter to her and her sister, Ollie.

About the author

Claire Baum was born in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, in 1936. She arrived in Canada with her family in 1951 and married Seymour Baum in 1956. Claire raised a family and helped build a successful business, and she has been a Holocaust educator since 1984. Claire Baum lives in Toronto.

MOONBEAM CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD
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Always Remember Who You Are

Anita Ekstein

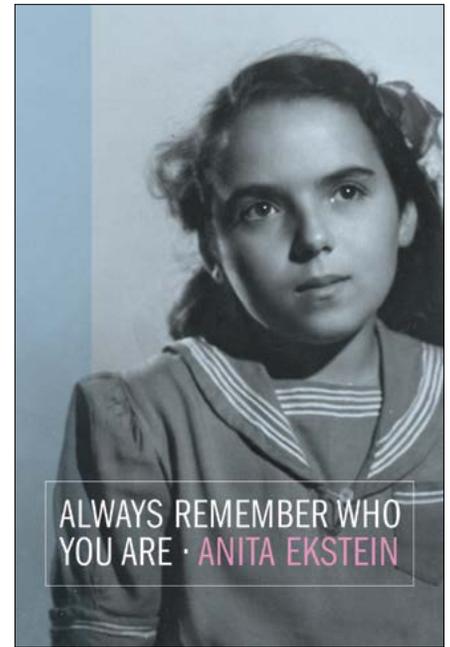
I understood from my year in the ghetto how dangerous it was to be outwardly Jewish, and trusted that practising Catholicism would protect me until the war ended.

As the Nazis invade eastern Poland in 1941, seven-year-old Anita discovers that being Jewish is dangerous. Her parents no longer have time to dote on her — they are occupied with trying to save her life. When the Nazis deport Anita's mother, her father, devastated, immediately enlists the help of a Catholic man, Josef Matusiewicz, who courageously smuggles Anita out of the Skole ghetto and gives her shelter. Anita must do whatever it takes to survive

— be quiet, stay in the house — and become a Catholic.

About the author

Anita Helfgott Ekstein was born in Lwów, Poland (now Lviv, Ukraine), in 1934. An orphan after the war, she and her aunt immigrated to Paris in 1946 and to Toronto in 1948. Anita married in 1955 and raised a family. A Holocaust educator since 1989, Anita founded a group for child survivors and hidden children in Toronto, has chaired the March of the Living three times and has been a survivor participant eighteen times. Anita Ekstein lives in Toronto.



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A Childhood Adrift

René Goldman

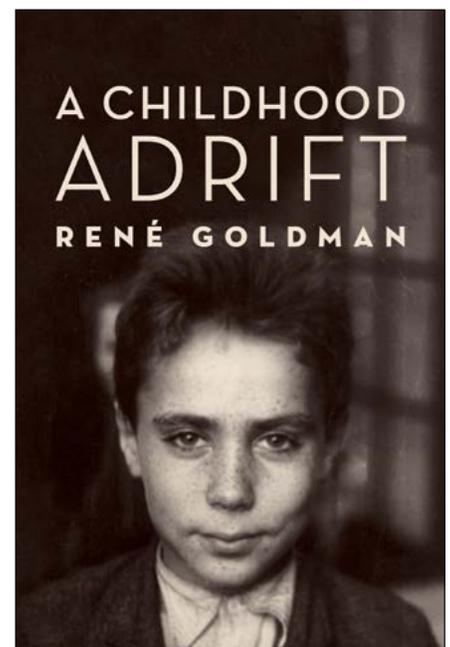
Holding me kicking and screaming, that brute ran toward the awaiting train, past Mama, whom I saw being dragged over the floor struggling and crying. The entire station was a scene of bedlam....

René Goldman grows up entranced with the theatre, music, languages and geography. Surrounded by his parents' love and protection, he wanders the streets of Luxembourg and then Brussels, carefree and prone to mischief. But in 1942, his family flees to France and eight-year-old René is separated from his parents and shunted between children's homes and convents, where he must hide both his Jewish identity and his

mounting anxiety. As René waits for his parents to return, even liberation day does not feel like freedom.

About the author

René Goldman was born in Luxembourg in 1934. After the war, he lived in children's homes in Paris and then pursued his education in Poland. In 1953, René left for Beijing, where he studied Chinese language, literature and history. He graduated from Columbia University and then joined the faculty of the University of British Columbia, where he taught courses in Chinese history. René Goldman lives in Summerland, British Columbia.



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A Part of Me

Bronia Jablon

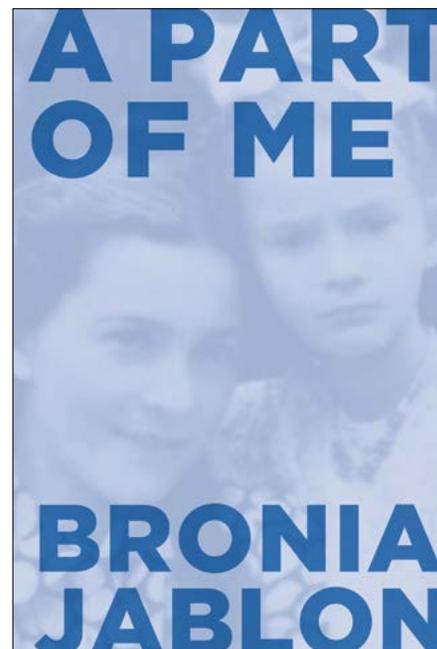
My young daughter and I were now totally alone, relying on my own strength and the caprice of fate. My beloved Lucy depended on me for solace, comfort and protection. I hoped that God would not desert us.

Separated from her family, Bronia and her three-year-old daughter, Lucy, wonder how they will survive each day. It is 1942, the height of Nazi persecution in Poland, and Bronia's friends and neighbours are either collaborating with the Nazis or too terrified for their own lives to offer assistance. When they finally find help, a cold, dark cellar becomes both their haven and prison. *A Part*

of Me is the harrowing story of how a mother and daughter make it through the war, one pivotal decision at a time.

About the author

Bronia Jablon was born in Dubno, Poland (now Ukraine), in 1918. After the war, she completed her nursing degree in the Soviet Union and had a successful career. She lived in the Soviet Union, Poland and Israel before immigrating to Canada to be with her daughter and grandchildren in 1967. Bronia Jablon passed away in Toronto in 1994.



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Under the Yellow & Red Stars

Alex Levin

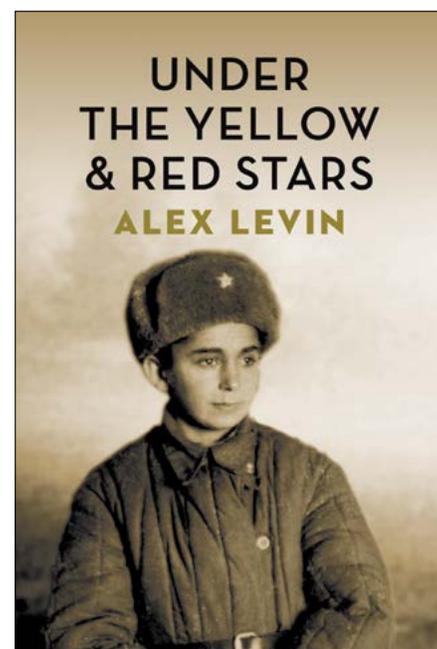
I feel my brother's hand, trembling but strong, grab onto mine. I hear his words, urging me to run, take hold of my body and move my legs. We run, his hand holding mine ... to me it feels like freedom.

Alex Levin was only ten when he ran deep into the forest after the Germans invaded his hometown of Rokitno, Poland, and only twelve when he emerged from hiding to find that he had neither parents nor a community to return to.

About the author

Alex Levin was born in Rokitno, Poland (now Ukraine), in 1932. After the war, he was sent to the USSR and enrolled in cadet school, remaining in the Soviet army until forced out for being Jewish. Alex came to Canada in 1975 and lived in Toronto, where he spoke to many students about his experiences in the Holocaust. Alex Levin passed away in 2016.

PEARSON PRIZE TEEN CHOICE AWARD



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Where Courage Lives

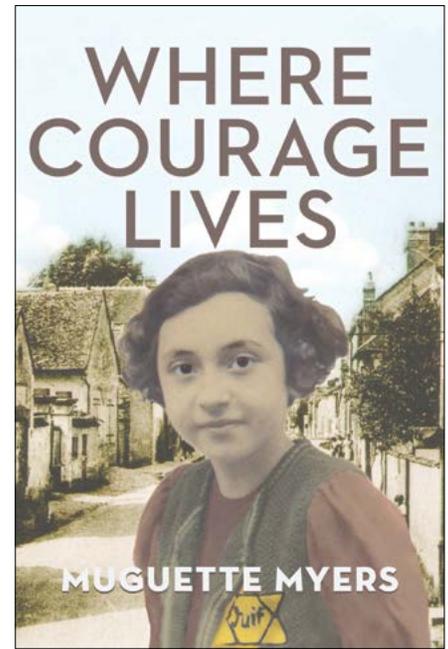
Muguette Myers

Everyone in Champlost had a hand in hiding us.

From the bustling city of Paris to the quaint, countryside village of Champlost, France, *Where Courage Lives* follows ten-year-old Muguette Szpajzer and her family as they seek refuge from the war. Written in vignettes with child-like charm and innocence, Muguette's memoir provides rich insight into rural life during wartime upheaval, honouring both her indomitable mother and the courage of the people of Champlost.

About the author

Muguette Szpajzer-Myers was born in Paris, France, in 1931. In 1947, Muguette immigrated to Montreal, where she worked as a translator. Muguette returned to Champlost in 2005 for a ceremony to honour four members of the community as Righteous Among the Nations for hiding her and her family during the war. Muguette Myers lives in Montreal.



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In Hiding

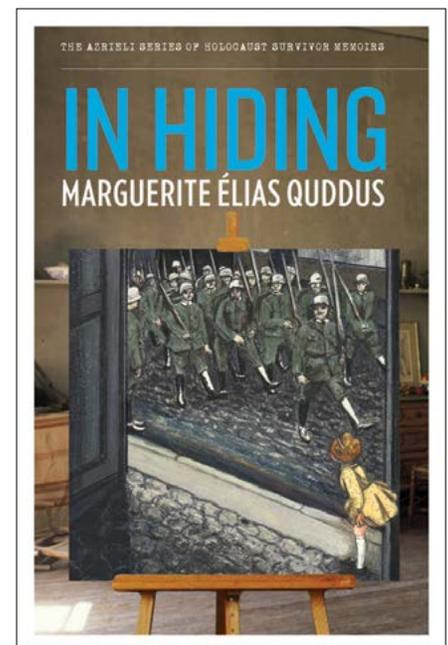
Marguerite Élias Quddus

I'm ready, but I'm overcome with sadness. Mama hugs us and kisses us: "Goodbye, children! Go, and don't look back..."

With these last words from their mother, two little girls, Marguerite and her older sister, Henriette, start on a wandering journey that lasts three years. Taken from farms to convents, they learn how to remain silent, to pretend, to lie in order to survive. This story is beautifully illustrated by the author.

About the author

Marguerite Élias Quddus was born in Paris, France, in 1936. She and her husband, Abdul Quddus, married in 1965 and moved to Canada, first to Vancouver and then to Quebec. Marguerite was a volunteer teacher's aide and spoke to students frequently about her wartime experiences. Marguerite Quddus lives near Montreal.



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Behind the Red Curtain

Maya Rakitova

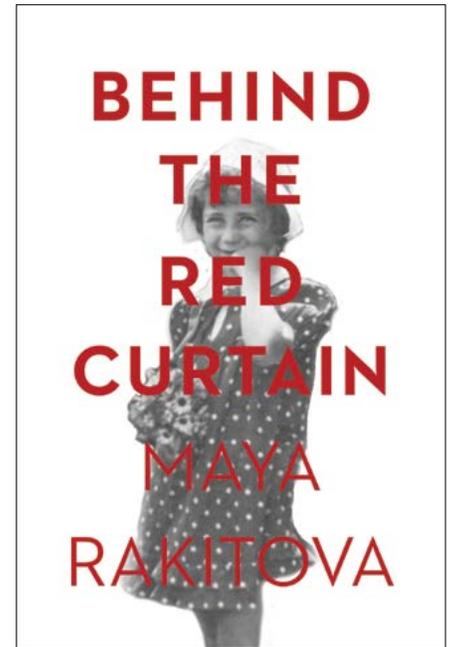
As I looked at the postcard with a view of my native town, I recognized the exact place where I had been standing late at night, sixty years earlier, sobbing violently in fear and despair because I had nowhere to go.

Maya Rakitova's family has already faced innumerable obstacles and hardships together, having lived through the Communist Party purges that culminated in the disappearance of Maya's father. But when the Nazis occupy their hometown of Vinnitsa, Ukraine, in 1941, new and terrifying threats surround them. Nine-year-old Maya quickly learns to hide her Jewish identity as her mother, with "uncommon courage,"

fights to protect her, relying on the kindness of friends and strangers.

About the author

Maya Rakitova was born in Smolensk, Russia, in 1931. In 1954, she graduated from Leningrad's Faculty of Radio and Television. Maya, her husband and their youngest daughter immigrated to Montreal in 1981. There, Maya worked at the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) for seventeen years.



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The Violin

Rachel Shtibel

A Child's Testimony

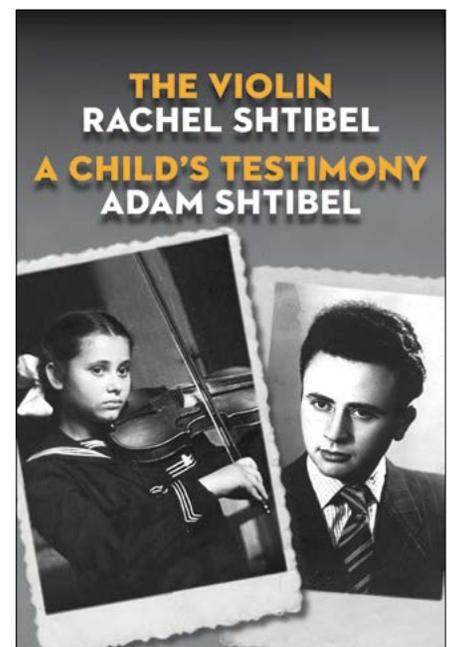
Adam Shtibel

Two children, Rachel Milbauer and Adam Shtibel, elude almost certain death in Nazi-occupied Poland: Rachel, a vivacious music lover, lies hidden and silent in an underground bunker for nearly two years. Adam quietly "passes" as a non-Jew, forced every day to dodge the people who are intent on killing him. Saved by a combination of inner strength, luck and the help of courageous friends and strangers, Rachel and Adam meet and fall in love after the war and begin to build a new life together.

About the authors

Rachel Milbauer was born in 1935 in Eastern Galicia and Adam Shtibel was born in 1928 in Komarów, Poland. In the mid-1950s, the Shtibels moved to Israel, where Rachel obtained an MA in microbiology and Adam worked in the aircraft industry. In 1968, the family moved to Toronto, where they still live.

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Memories from the Abyss

William Tannenzapf

But I Had a Happy Childhood

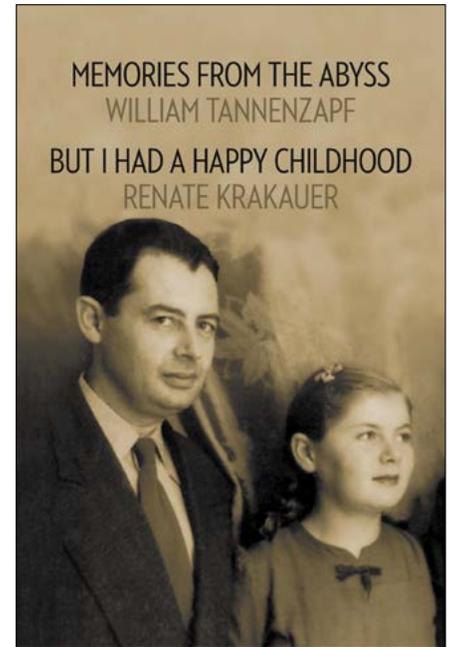
Renate Krakauer

The long shadow of the Holocaust touched my life and even reached into the lives of my children...

William Tannenzapf entrusts his baby daughter to a Polish family to save her from the evil gripping his hometown of Stanisławów. Renate Krakauer was a "miracle baby," born as the world descended into war. Later reunited and thrown into refugee and immigrant life, Krakauer's thoughtful observations provide fascinating insight into the perceptions and feelings of a child survivor and offer a counterpoint to her father's adult reflections on the same events.

About the authors

William Tannenzapf was born in Stanisławów, Poland (now Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine) in 1911 and his daughter, Renate, was born in March 1941, during the Nazi occupation. The family immigrated to Canada in 1948, first settling in Montreal. William worked at Westinghouse Electric in Hamilton, where he had a successful career as an electrical engineer. William Tannenzapf passed away in 2011. Renate Krakauer made her home in Toronto, where she worked in pharmacy, adult education and human resources. She has written and published one book, and numerous short stories and essays.



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From Generation to Generation

Agnes Tomasov

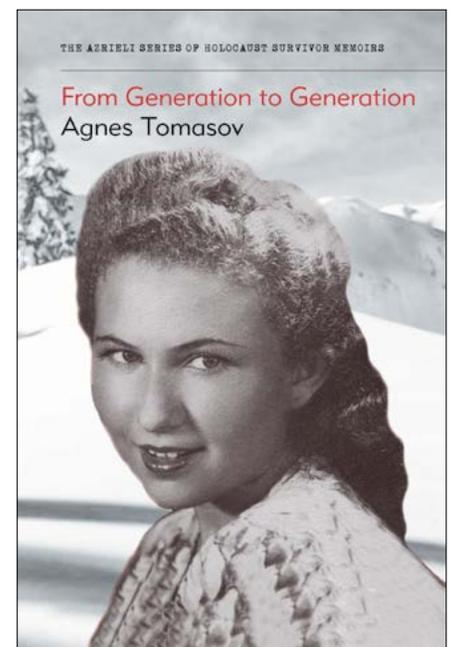
The mountains were almost 3,000 metres high... We had to climb to the peaks, where it was frozen and slippery. One single misstep could mean certain death.

Hiding from the Nazis in Slovakia's Low Tatra Mountains, fourteen-year-old Agnes Grossmann's family makes the daring decision to escape along treacherous ice-covered mountain peaks to safety. Twenty-four years later, Agnes finds herself on the run from Czechoslovakia's Communist regime, carrying only what the family can fit in two suitcases.

About the author

Agnes Tomasov was born in the small town of Bardejov, Czechoslovakia (now Slovakia), in 1930. In 1968, following the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, she immigrated to Canada with her husband, Joseph, and their two children. Agnes Tomasov lives in Toronto.

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Escape



Betty Rich (left), with her friends Hela (centre) and Feiga (right) in the Soviet labour camp. Arkhangelsk, USSR, 1941. From *Little Girl Lost*.

If Home Is Not Here

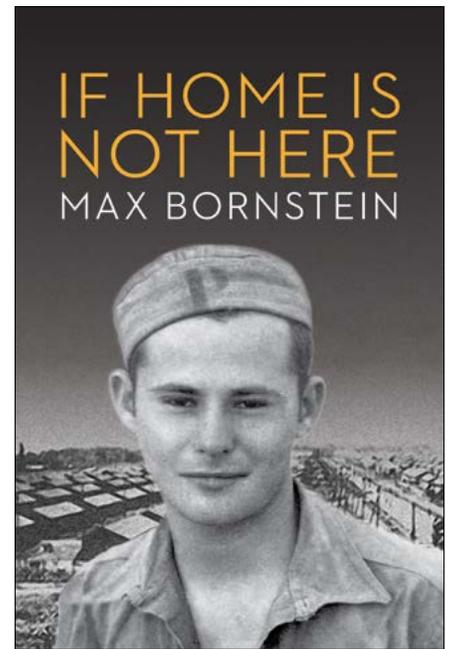
Max Bornstein

I dove into the frigid river, the sudden shock leaving me gasping.... Somehow, I managed to reach the shore — the unoccupied zone of France and my entry into freedom.

Not quite two when he immigrates to Canada, Max Bornstein returns to Europe in 1933, the year that Adolf Hitler came to power. Barely surviving as a stateless refugee in 1930s Paris, he escapes France when it falls to the Nazis only to be interned in a Spanish concentration camp.

About the author

Max Bornstein was born in Warsaw, Poland, in 1921. After living in Canada as a child, he arrived back on Canadian soil in 1947. In Toronto, Max worked in the garment industry, married and raised two children. He maintained an avid interest in quantum physics, international politics and in Judaism and Israel. Max Bornstein passed away in 2015.



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Getting Out Alive

Tommy Dick

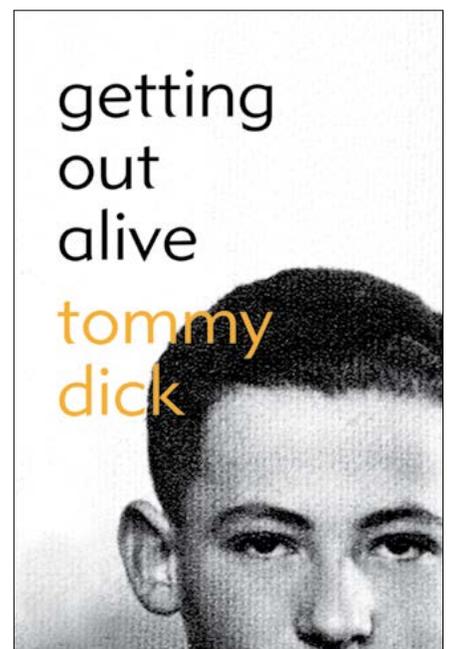
He pointed his gun and bayonet at me and ordered me to stop, my jaw was bleeding, hanging down. I could not speak and I was shivering.

Nineteen-year-old Tommy Dick is killed, only to resurface. Born into a Hungarian family who had converted from Judaism, Tommy soon finds out that in the eyes of the Nazis, he's still a Jew, still a target for murder. On the run and in disguise, Tommy is chased by death as much as he is by luck.

About the author

Tommy Dick was born in Budapest, Hungary, in 1925. In 1948, he immigrated to Canada and eventually settled in Calgary. At the age of 36, Tommy enrolled in law school and practiced law in Calgary for 30 years. Tommy Dick passed away in 1999.

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A Drastic Turn of Destiny

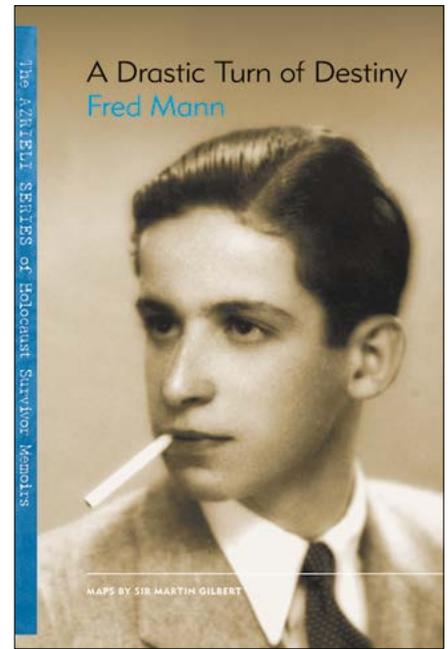
Fred Mann

In Germany I was "Jewboy"; in Brussels I was "boche"; in France I was "undesirable"; in Portugal I was a "refugee"; and in Jamaica I was simply a non-entity.... I was a pariah in an exploding world.

Fred Mann's incredible story traces his family's long journey of exile from Germany through Belgium, France, Spain, Portugal, Jamaica and finally to a new home in Canada. *A Drastic Turn of Destiny* is also a lament for a brave boy who had to grow up far too fast.

About the author

Fred Mann was born in Leipzig, Germany, in 1926. During his travels after the war, he met and married his wife in Salzburg, Austria, and the family immigrated to Toronto in 1952, where he had a long career as an international financier. Fred Mann passed away in 2008.



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Little Girl Lost

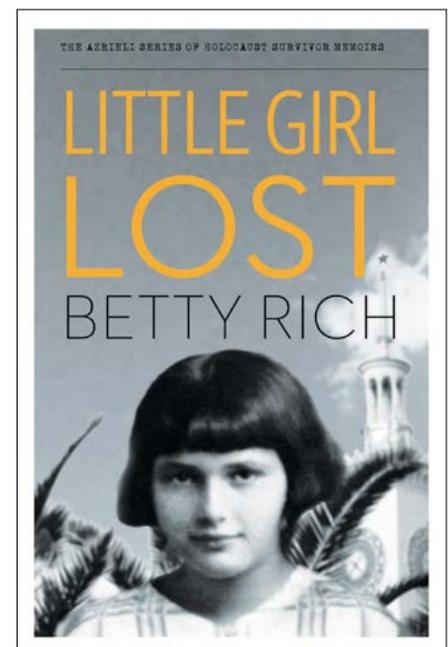
Betty Rich

The more we felt the Germans' heavy boots in our lives, the more I knew that I had to leave...but I was scared. Where was I going to go? What would I live on?

Sixteen-year-old Basia Kohn (now Betty Rich) escapes the invasion of her small hometown in Poland in 1939 and crosses into Soviet-occupied Poland, beginning a journey that takes her thousands of kilometres from a forced labour camp in subarctic Russia to subtropical Soviet Georgia.

About the author

Betty Rich was born Basia Kohn in Zduńska Wola, Poland, in 1923. After the war, Betty lived in Lodz. She and her new husband fled the Polish Communist regime in 1949 and arrived in Toronto later that year. Betty worked in mortgages and investments until her retirement. Betty Rich passed away in 2017.



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Survival Kit

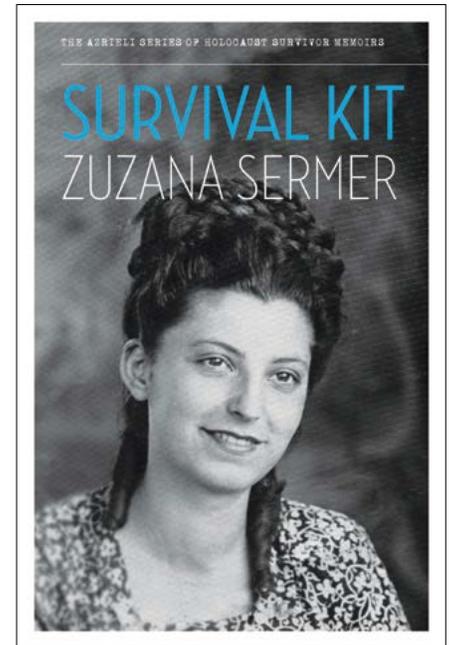
Zuzana Sermer

For the second time, I found myself about to be interrogated.... How could I die now, after all we had managed to get through?

Fifteen-year-old Zuzana Sermer tries to protect her father and ailing mother when the Nazis set up a fascist regime in her native Slovakia in 1939. Four years later, fleeing to the supposed safety of Budapest, Zuzana and her fiancé must instead navigate one treacherous situation after another when Germany occupies Hungary in March 1944.

About the author

Zuzana Sermer was born in Humenné, Czechoslovakia (now Slovakia), in 1924. She married Arthur Sermer in 1945 and lived in Communist Czechoslovakia for the next 23 years, fleeing to Canada when the Soviets occupied the country in August 1968. Zuzana Sermer passed away in 2021.



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Silent Refuge

Margrit Rosenberg Stenge

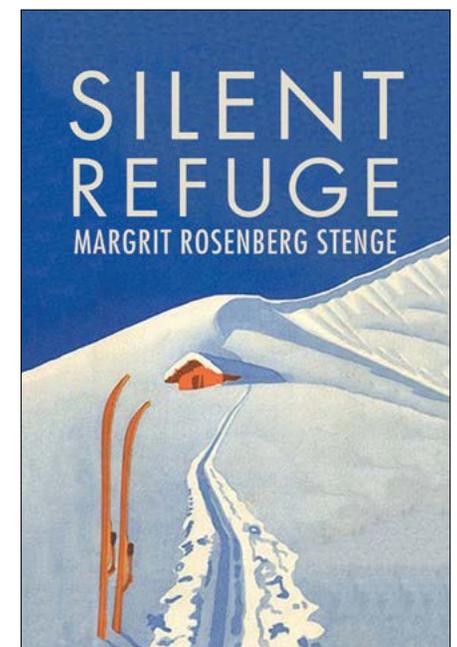
News travels fast in the countryside, and when I started school many of the villagers knew that we were Jewish, although they really did not know what that meant.

In the remote village of Rogne, Norway, eleven-year-old Margrit and her parents have finally found the safety that has eluded them since fleeing from Germany. But after war breaks out in Norway, they must hide in an even more secluded refuge — a rudimentary cabin in the mountains. The isolation offers relative security until the Nazis begin to deport the Jews of Oslo. The Rosenbergs then

make a fateful decision to trust the Resistance and escape from Nazi-occupied Norway to neutral Sweden.

About the author

Margrit Rosenberg Stenge was born in Cologne, Germany, in 1928. Margrit lived in Oslo in 1945, married in 1949 and immigrated to Canada, settling in Montreal, in 1951. She worked in administration for forty years, after which she translated six books from Norwegian to English. Margrit Stenge passed away in 2021.



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Album of My Life

Ann Szedlecki

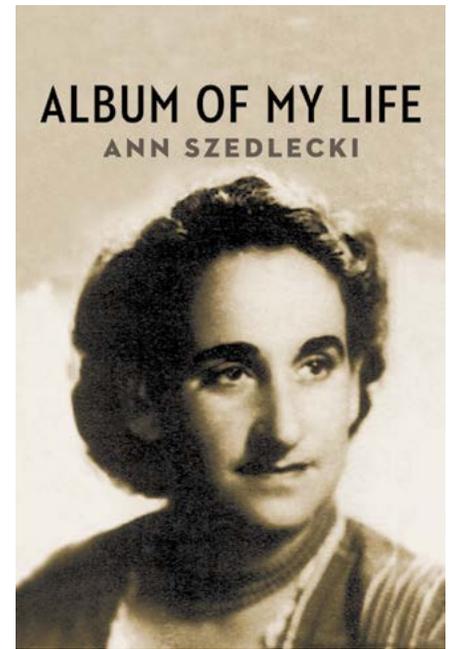
I am the daughter of nobody. I have no sisters. I am nobody's granddaughter or daughter-in-law, aunt or cousin. Who am I? My past is all gone. It disappeared....

Ann Szedlecki was a Hollywood-film-loving fourteen-year-old when the Nazis invaded Poland in 1939 and she fled to the Soviet Union with her older brother. Her beautifully written story is compelling in its candour about her experiences as a young woman in the Soviet Union during World War II.

MOONBEAM CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD
GOLD MEDAL

About the author

Ann Szedlecki was born Chana Frajlich in Lodz, Poland, in 1925. After the war, she returned to Lodz to find that every member of her family had perished. In 1950, she married and immigrated to Israel and then, in 1953, to Toronto. Ann Szedlecki passed away in 2005.



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Knocking on Every Door

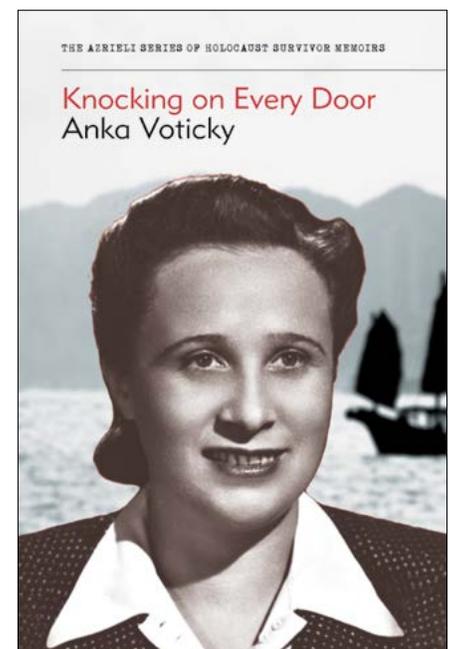
Anka Voticky

There was a feeling of imminent danger.... we were all subject to the mad and ever-changing rules of Hitler's Germany. We were desperate to find a safe haven.

As Hitler's army invades Czechoslovakia in 1940, Anka Voticky and her family flee to an unlikely refuge halfway around the world — the Chinese port of Shanghai. Global in scope, Anka Voticky's memoir provides a rare glimpse of the far-reaching impact of World War II.

About the author

Anka Voticky was born in the small town of Brandýs nad Labem in the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1913 and moved to Prague, Czechoslovakia (now Czech Republic), in 1918. In 1948 she and her family fled the Communist regime in Czechoslovakia and settled in Montreal. Anka Voticky passed away in Montreal in 2014.



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False Identity & Resistance

ÉTAT FRANÇAIS
CARTE D'IDENTITÉ

Série 1943 N° 6932

Nom SARLAT

Prénoms Joseph Jean

Nationalité Française

Profession Pap. Menuisier

Né le 17 juin 1926

à Amiens Dép. Somme

et de Jean-Mario et de Hélène Sautier

92 Cours Charlemagne (Lyon)

SIGNALEMENT

Cheveux noirs Dimension moyenne

Moustache — Visage Ovale

Yeux noirs Teint Bronze

Signes particuliers —

Le Titulaire J. Sautier

12 AVRIL 1943

Le Commissaire de Police

Joseph Schwarzberg's forged identity card, issued in Lyon on April 12, 1943, in the name of Joseph-Jean Sarlat. Courtesy of Yad Vashem. From *Dangerous Measures*.

Unsung Heroes

Tibor Benyovits

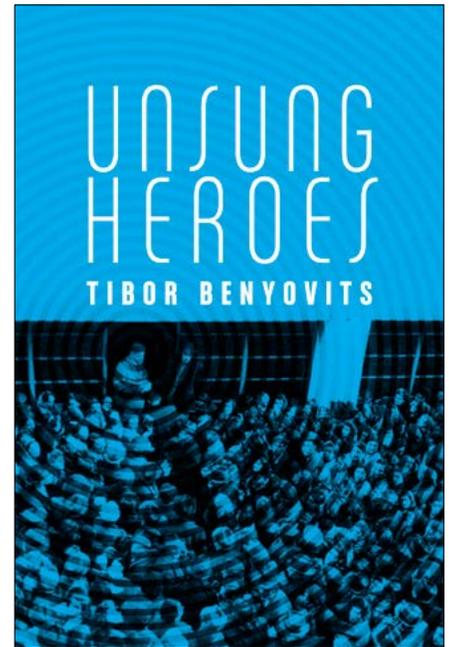
As the war continued and the restrictions became more severe, we began to prepare for the time when we would be required to move totally underground and equip ourselves with false identity papers, secure hiding places, alternative supply routes and safe forms of communication.

In 1944, after German forces invade Hungary, the Zionist youth organization that twelve-year-old Tibor belongs to goes underground to avoid detection. When Tibor is separated from his family, he must rely on the support of his network, a courageous group under immense pressure to save as many Jews as possible in Budapest. Inspired by

these *Unsung Heroes*, Tibor joins the resistance effort and bravely acts as a courier for the group, delivering false identity documents and protective papers to Jews in danger.

About the author

Tibor (Ted) Benyovits was born in Budapest, Hungary, in 1932. He immigrated to Israel in 1949, where he met his wife, Miriam; they moved to Canada in 1962, and Ted established a machine shop in Toronto. Ted Benyovits passed away in 2020.



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Fleeing from the Hunter

Marian Domanski

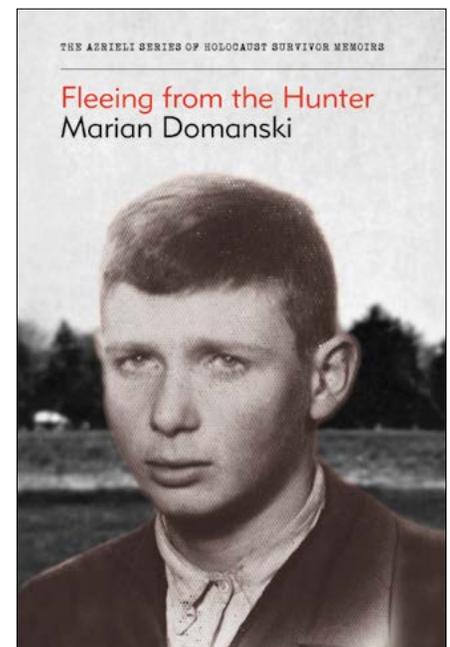
I asked myself, Am I a criminal doomed for execution? I was determined to run away ... that thought never left my mind.

On the run in Nazi-occupied Poland, thirteen-year-old orphan Marian Finkelman — later Domanski — is forced to grow up much too early. When he finally escapes the ghetto in his hometown, Marian's perfect Polish and fair complexion help him narrowly escape death as he travels alone through the Polish countryside.

About the author

Marian (Finkelman) Domanski was born in Otwock, Poland, in 1928. He joined the Polish air force after the war and worked as a photographer before moving to Denmark in 1968. He immigrated to Canada two years later and was very active in Toronto's Polish-Jewish community until his death in 2012.

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If, By Miracle

Michael Kutz

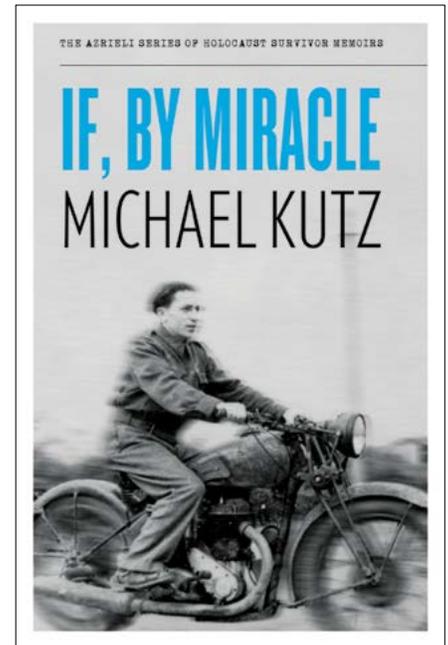
I didn't see anyone outside the pit, so I jumped out.... I had the feeling that my mother was running beside me and calling out to me, "Michael, run faster and don't look back!"

Nearly buried alive, ten-year-old Michael Kutz narrowly escapes the Nazi death squad that has killed 4,000 Jews, including his own family, in his hometown of Nieśwież. Guided by his mother's last words and determined to survive, he becomes the youngest member of a partisan resistance group in the dense Belorussian forest, taking part in daring operations against the Nazis and their collaborators.

About the author

Michael Kutz was born in Nieśwież, Poland (now Niasviž, Belarus), in 1930. He arrived in Canada as a war orphan in 1948 and lived in Winnipeg before settling in Montreal, where he joined various charitable organizations dedicated to helping disadvantaged youth, the elderly and war veterans. Michael Kutz passed away in 2020.

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A Tapestry of Survival

Leslie Mezei with Magda Mezei Schwarz,
Klara Mezei Noy and Annie Wasserman Mezei

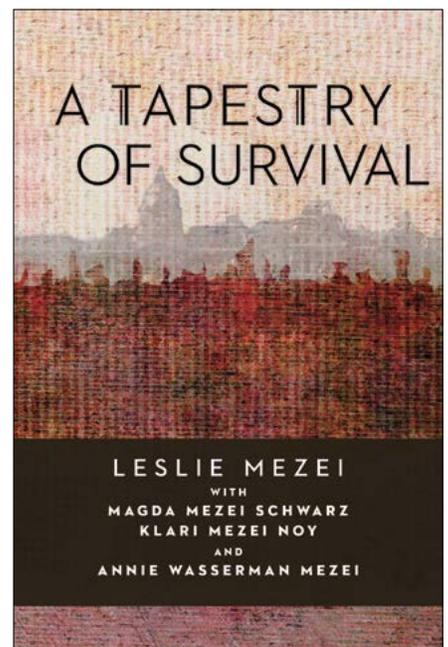
There were many close calls, and I think it took quick thinking and miraculous escapes to survive those times, as well as a strong will to live.

Twelve-year-old Leslie Mezei, a lively, curious boy, doesn't realize how precarious his life is as a Jew in German-occupied Hungary in 1944. His older sister Magda, aware of the growing danger from Nazis and Hungarian fascists, takes charge and bravely tries to direct the family's survival, while his sister Klari, tough and determined, faces a brutal ordeal of her own. After the war, in Montreal, Leslie meets his wife, Annie, who has a survival story of her own. In *A Tap-*

estry of Survival the voices of Leslie, Magda, Klari and Annie are woven together to reveal a larger tale of courage, resilience and the search for healing.

About the author

Leslie Mezei was born in Gödöllő, Hungary, in 1931. In 1948 Leslie arrived in Canada, where he furthered his education and became a professor of computer science at the University of Toronto. An early pioneer in the field of computer art, Leslie also developed two new graphic programming languages. Leslie Mezei lives in Toronto, where he is very involved in an interfaith and interspiritual movement.



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W Hour

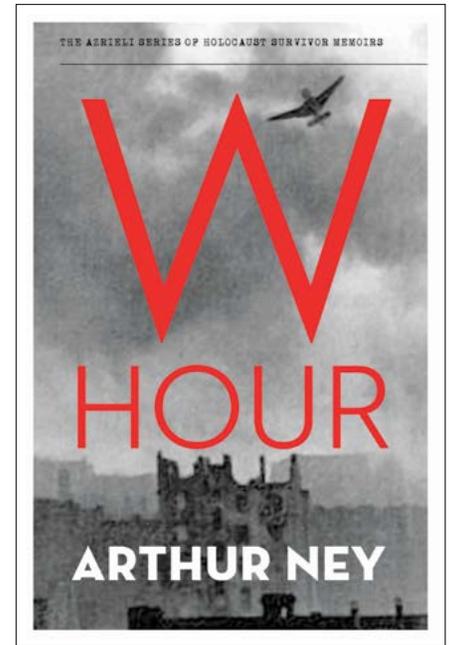
Arthur Ney

Two close calls in one day were enough for me. I realized that the uprising was not like the games I played with Józek before the war. This was a very real battle, in which people were being killed and wounded.

As the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising begins in spring 1943, twelve-year-old Arthur Ney is hiding outside the walls. Realizing that his family is gone, he finds refuge in a Catholic orphanage, struggling with loneliness, guilt and fear while living under a false identity. When the Warsaw Uprising — codenamed *W Hour* — begins in 1944, Arthur Ney joins the barricades and fights for liberation.

About the author

Arthur Ney was born in Warsaw, Poland, in 1930. He came to Canada in 1948 and settled in Montreal, where he raised a family. Arthur was dedicated to Holocaust education and frequently spoke to students about his wartime experiences. Arthur Ney passed away in 2016.



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Dangerous Measures

Joseph Schwarzberg

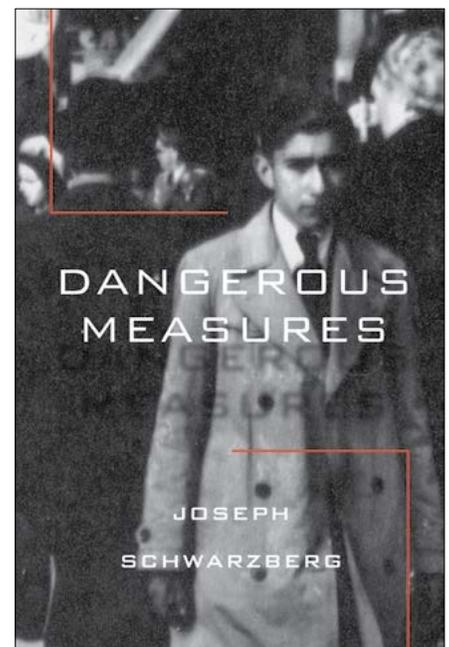
The officer inspecting my papers addressed me in German and in response I convincingly faked my lack of understanding. I was relieved that I was able to calmly withstand my first test in the art of deception, as many more tests of my nerves were yet to follow.

Under threat since fleeing from Germany after the violent attacks during Kristallnacht in 1938, Joseph and his family resolve to get as far from the Nazis as possible. After years in hiding and on the run, Joseph assumes the non-Jewish identity of nineteen-year-old Joseph-Jean Sarlat and bravely joins the underground resistance in France, fighting the Germans and sabotaging their war

effort. Narrowly avoiding roundups of Jews and escaping from arrests and interrogations, Joseph lives with the daily dread of being discovered.

About the author

Joseph Schwarzberg was born in Leipzig, Germany, in 1926. In 1945, Joseph and his family were part of the earliest legal Jewish immigrants to pre-state Israel. Joseph immigrated to Toronto in 1968, where he established his own business, Adina J. Fashions, in the garment industry. Joseph Schwarzberg lives in Toronto.



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Vanished Boyhood

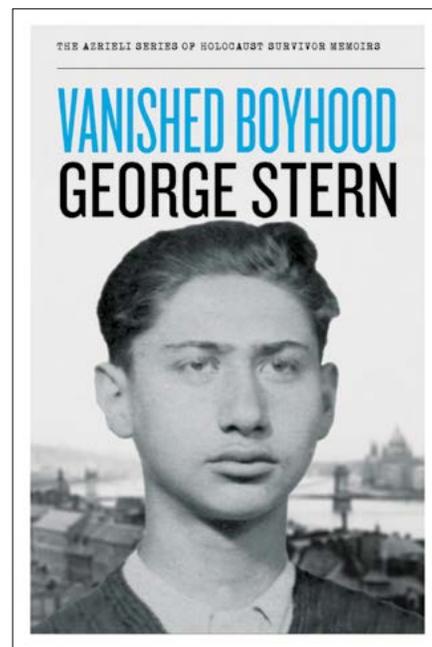
George Stern

As soon as I heard the airplane engines I ran upstairs to watch the bombers approaching. It was dangerous, but I wasn't scared. I prayed to God that those American planes would destroy the Nazis and the factories so we all could be free again.

A month before George Stern's thirteenth birthday, Germany invades his native Hungary, anti-Jewish edicts are passed and a ghetto is established. A rebel even then, George refuses to wear the Jewish star. "Passing" as a Christian boy, he survives the siege of Budapest as the Soviet Red Army presses closer, strafing the city while the fascist Arrow Cross continues to hunt for Jews.

About the author

George Stern was born in Újpest, Hungary, in 1931. After the war, he immigrated to Israel and fought in the War of Independence. In 1960, George and his wife, Judit, left Israel for São Paulo, Brazil; they immigrated to Canada in 1970. George Stern passed away in 2017.



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If Only It Were Fiction

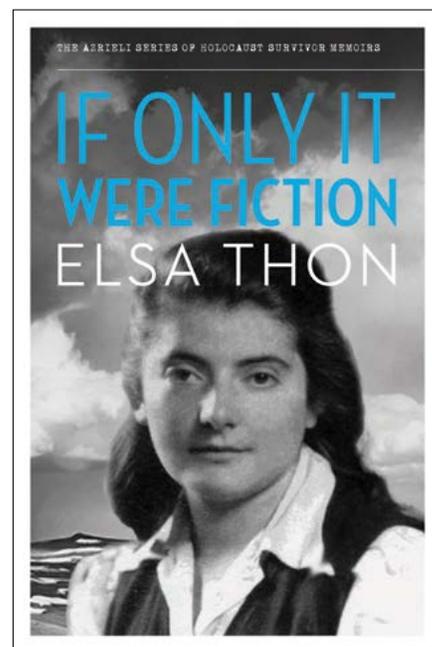
Elsa Thon

Only a miracle could save me now. What God would accept my prayers? I was a fraud. I carried forged documents. I lied all the time. I wasn't who I said I was. But I wanted to live.

Elsa Thon was a 16-year-old photographer's apprentice when the Nazis occupied her town of Pruszków, Poland. When her family is sent to the Warsaw ghetto, Elsa joins a community farm and is recruited by the Underground. Despite her deep belief in destiny, Elsa refuses to bow to her fate as a Jew in war-torn Poland.

About the author

Elsa Thon was born in Pruszków, Poland, in 1923. After the war, she married Mayer Thon, and they moved to Israel in 1948. In 1955, they immigrated to Argentina, where Elsa worked in a photography studio and raised a family. In 1980, Elsa and Mayer moved to Toronto to be closer to their family. Elsa's memoir has also been published in Spanish and Polish. Elsa Thon passed away in 2019.



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From Loss to Liberation

Joseph Tomasov

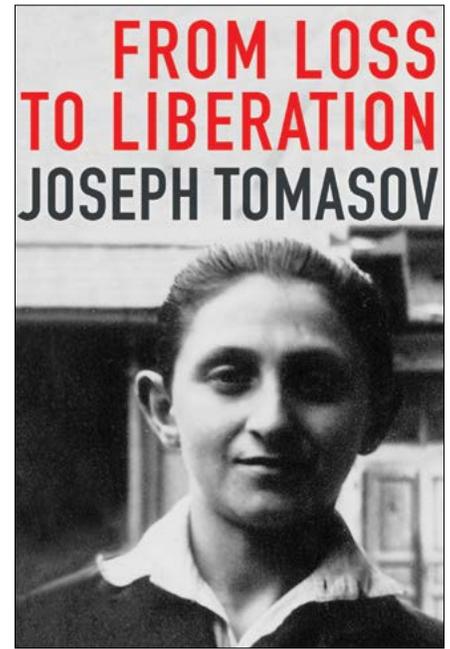
At first we weren't sure what was happening, but by looking through a small ventilation pipe we soon found out. We saw the Germans, who had followed our footsteps in the snow. There was no way out.

In the fall of 1944, the Slovak National Uprising both endangers and saves Joseph Tomasov's life. At twenty-two years old and Jewish, Joseph has been a constant target of the Nazis and their Slovak allies. Joining the resistance movement is his only way out, even though life on the run is steeped in peril. After the war, Joseph's liberation is short-lived — imprisoned by the communist regime, he faces a twenty-five year-

sentence. Joseph's journey *From Loss to Liberation* is the story of a young man who never gives up and who, ultimately, fulfills his hopes and dreams in Canada.

About the author

Joseph Tomasov was born in Trstená, Czechoslovakia (now Slovakia), in 1920. After the war, he graduated from Prague's Charles University with a degree in engineering. In November 1968, after the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, Joseph immigrated to Canada with his wife, Agnes, and their two children. Joseph Tomasov passed away in 2019.



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Alone in the Storm

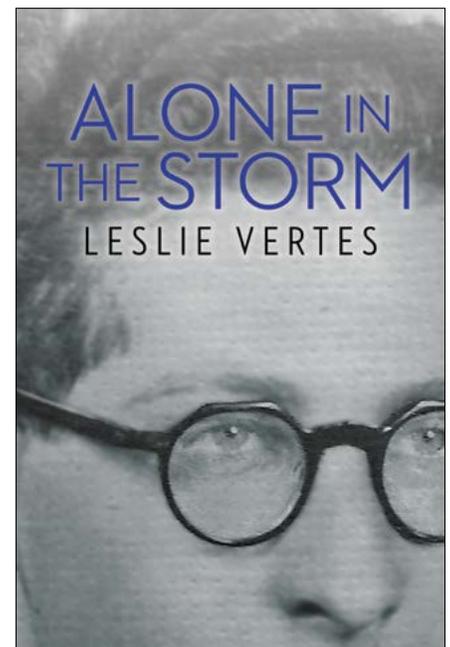
Leslie Vertes

Writing opened the lid of my box of buried memories. Looking back at my long life's journey, I am dizzy contemplating the rough road and the distance I have travelled.

In 1944, twenty-year-old Leslie Vertes escapes from a forced labour detail in Budapest and miraculously survives by assuming a false identity. About to taste freedom as the end of the war nears, his liberation is short-lived when he is caught by the new Soviet regime and sent for two years of back-breaking labour and captivity. Years later, when he and his family flee to Canada, Leslie finally finds true freedom.

About the author

Leslie Vertes was born in Ajak, Hungary, in 1924. He immigrated to Canada with his family in 1957. Leslie has been actively involved in Holocaust education and has volunteered for various organizations. In 2015, he received Quebec's YMCA Peace Medal and the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award in recognition of his volunteerism and contributions to the community. Leslie Vertes lives in Montreal.



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Ghettos & Camps



A remnant of Felix Opatowski's prison uniform from Auschwitz-Birkenau, showing his prisoner number. From *Gatehouse to Hell*.

Six Lost Years

Amek Adler

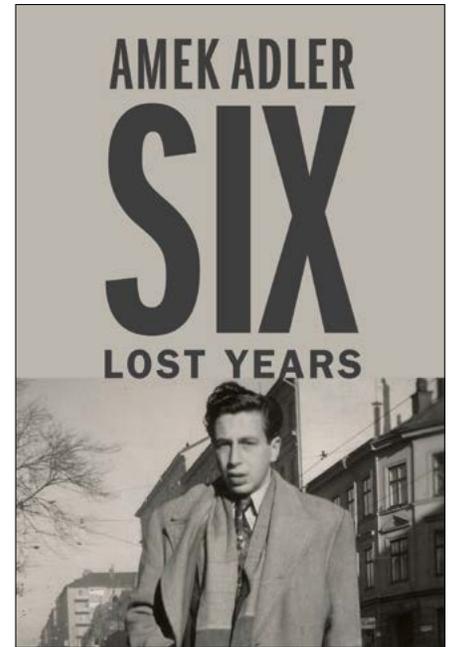
I had watched my family being torn apart and degraded, and I had feared for my life. I was heartbroken, but I had been hardened, and I had learned not to cry.

“How much longer could we last?” sixteen-year-old Amek Adler laments, after arriving at another concentration camp in the spring of 1945. From the Lodz and Warsaw ghettos to the Radom forced labour camp, and from Natzweiler to Dachau, Amek has witnessed too much destruction and tragedy to bear any more suffering. To hold onto hope for his survival, he dreams of the life he had with his parents

and three brothers, and he dreams of the future.

About the author

Abram (Amek) Adler was born in Lublin, Poland, in 1928. After the war, Amek lived in Italy and Sweden before immigrating to Canada in 1954 with his wife, Ruth. In Toronto, Amek succeeded in both the fur industry and the jewellery business. He spoke to numerous audiences about his experiences during the Holocaust and was actively involved with the Jewish War Veterans of Canada. Amek Adler passed away in 2017.



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Joy Runs Deeper

Bronia and Joseph Beker

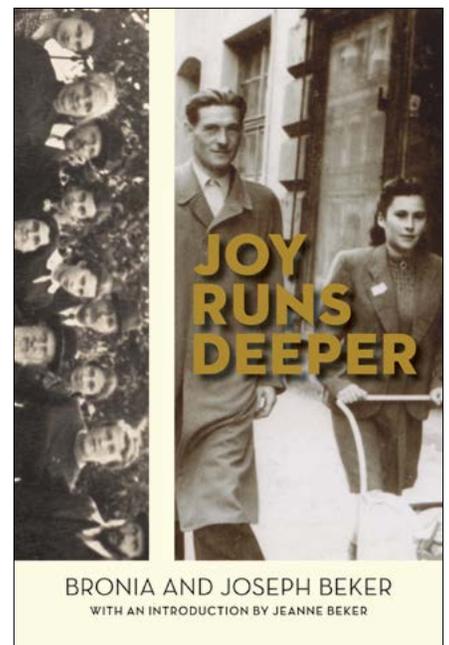
When Josio came into my room he was stunned. I will never forget the look on his face – he could not believe that I was alive. I couldn't understand it myself. I believe it was fate.

INTRODUCTION BY JEANNE BEKER

Bronia and Josio (Joseph) grow up in Kozowa, a shtetl filled with lively culture, eccentric characters and extended family. When Bronia meets Josio, she is charmed by his confidence and fearlessness. Separated when Josio is drafted into the army, reunited amid the chaos of the war, their connection endures as their persecution intensifies. When everything they hold dear is lost, together they build a new future.

About the authors

Bronia Beker was born in Kozowa, Poland (now Kozova, Ukraine), in 1920; Joseph Beker was born in the same town in 1913. They married in 1945 and came to Canada in 1948, where they raised their two daughters, Marilyn and Jeanne. Joseph Beker passed away in 1988; Bronia Beker passed away in 2015.



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Across the Rivers of Memory

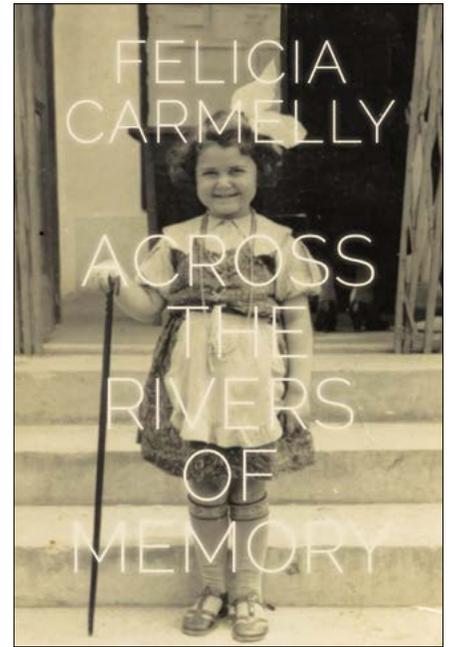
Felicia Carmelly

Everybody I knew seemed to be whispering all of the time. I was scared, but no one would talk to me about anything.

Ten-year-old Felicia Steigman is confused by the sudden disruption to her life when she is expelled from school and forced to wear a yellow star. But she is completely unprepared for what happens next — the forced abandonment of her home and a gruelling journey, overseen by cruel Romanian Nazi collaborators, to Transnistria, a squalid place that doesn't even exist on a map.

About the author

Felicia Carmelly was born in Vatra Dornei, Romania, in 1931. In 1959, Felicia and her family emigrated from Communist Romania to Israel, immigrating to Canada three years later. Felicia founded Toronto's Transnistria Survivors' Association in 1994 and published the anthology Shattered! 50 Years of Silence: History and Voices of the Tragedy in Romania and Transnistria in 1997. Felicia Carmelly passed away in 2018.



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Spring's End

John Freund

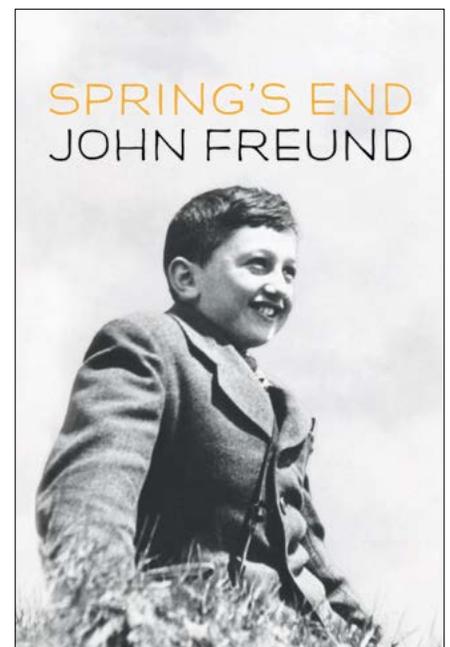
*Into a new world I was brought by a dream
Never to see blood spilled again
But can I really throw away
The dreams that soiled my youth?*

A young boy who loved soccer as much as he loved to write, John Freund's joyful childhood is shattered by the German invasion of Czechoslovakia. John's family suffers through the systematic erosion of their rights only to be deported to Theresienstadt — en route to the Auschwitz death camp.

About the author

John Freund was born in České Budějovice, Czechoslovakia (now Czech Republic) in 1930. He was liberated by American troops in 1945. After the war, as a war orphan, John qualified to immigrate to Canada, and he arrived in 1948. John Freund lives in Toronto.

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Flights of Spirit

Elly Gotz

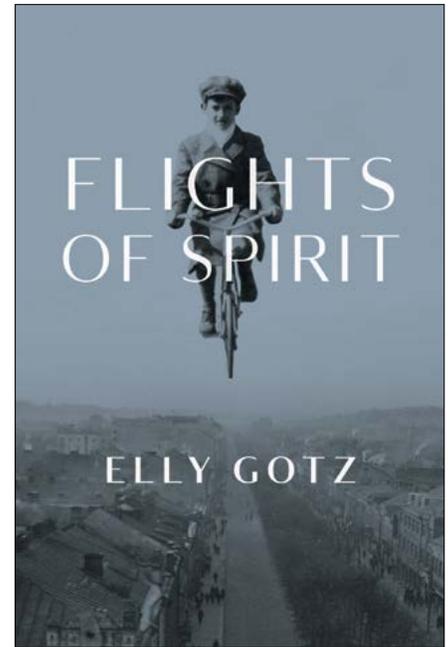
I had a lot of time to think and I had many questions: How does it feel to die? My mother was a strong woman and I trusted her, but would she have the strength to give me, her only child, the first injection?

Sixteen-year-old Elly Gotz hides with his family in an underground bunker in the Kovno ghetto in Lithuania, prepared to die rather than be found by the Nazis. But there is no escape from the ghetto's liquidation, and Elly and his father are taken to the Kaufering concentration camp. After the war, Elly fights to regain his lost youth and education. His motivation and enterprising spirit give him the

determination to succeed and to, ultimately, find strength in flight.

About the author

Elly Gotz was born in Kovno (Kaunas), Lithuania, in 1928. In 1947, Elly and his parents immigrated to Norway and then to Zimbabwe. Elly immigrated to Toronto in 1964, where he established various businesses and achieved his lifelong dream of becoming a pilot. At age eighty-nine, he fulfilled another aeronautical dream by going skydiving. Elly Gotz lives in Toronto.



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Stronger Together

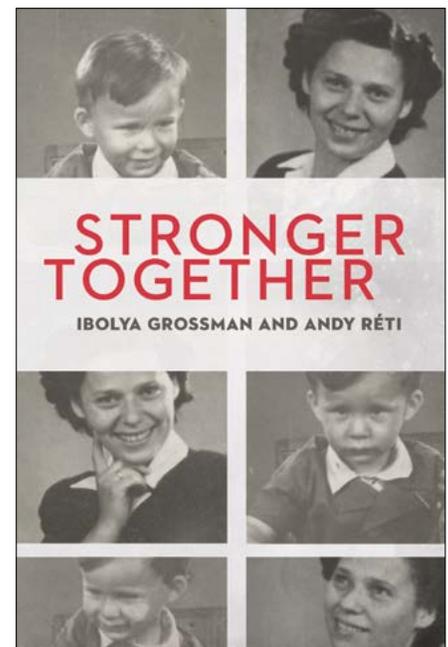
Ibolya Grossman and Andy Réti

"Don't cry darling. We need this baby. You will see."

With these words from her husband, Zoltán, Ibolya Rechnitzer's fear of being pregnant during the uncertainty of wartime is somewhat eased. When Andy is born, Ibi realizes her husband was right — Andy gives her a reason to go on during the worst of times in the Budapest ghetto, and to persevere in their escape from Hungary after the war. Ibi's story is a tribute to her son, and Andy's memoir is a tribute to her legacy.

About the authors

Ibolya Grossman was born in Pécs, Hungary, in 1916; she passed away in Toronto in 2005. Andy Réti was born in Budapest, Hungary, in 1942. Andy has been a volunteer at Toronto's Holocaust Education Centre since 1998, and joined his mother on many of her events as a survivor speaker. Andy Réti lives in Toronto, where he continues to tell their stories to numerous audiences.



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Memories in Focus

Pinchas Gutter

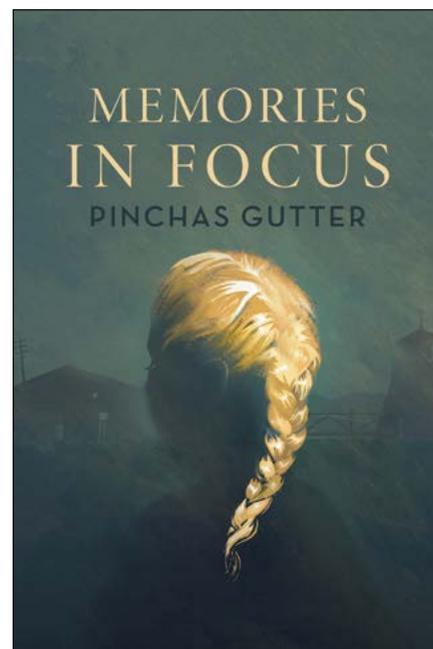
I think my mind just went blank. I had disengaged myself from what was happening around me. It was as if my eyes were cameras and my brain was the screen.

As ten-year-old Pinchas is deported from the Warsaw ghetto to the killing site of Majdanek and then to a series of concentration camps, he shuts himself off to the terrors surrounding him and tries his best to become almost invisible. But after liberation, his photographic memory won't let his past fade away, and Pinchas struggles to deal with nightmares and flashbacks while raising a family and healing. A poignant reflection on suffering, injustice and

trauma, *Memories in Focus* also offers hope and faith in the future.

About the author

Pinchas Gutter was born in Lodz, Poland, in 1932. He was the only member of his immediate family to survive the Holocaust. In 1945, he was liberated and taken to Britain with other children orphaned by the war. Pinchas lived in France, Israel, Brazil and South Africa before immigrating to Canada in 1985. He is the first Holocaust survivor to have his storytelling and his likeness immortalized in an interactive three-dimensional projection in the USC Shoah Foundation's Dimensions in Testimony. Pinchas Gutter lives in Toronto.



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We Sang in Hushed Voices

Helena Jockel

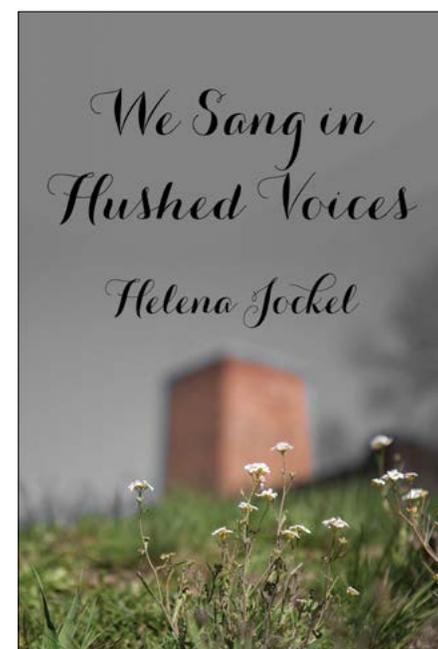
In Auschwitz I was told that in two hours they could kill two thousand people....

When the Nazis invade Hungary on March 19, 1944, elementary school teacher Helena Jockel can only think about how to save “her” children as she accompanies them all the way to Auschwitz. Her account of living and surviving in the camp is clear-eyed and poignant, sometimes recording the too-brief moments of beauty and kindness that accompany the unremitting cruelty.

About the author

Helena Jockel (née Kahan) was born in Mukačevo, Czechoslovakia (now Mukachevo, Ukraine), in 1919. After the war, she returned to Czechoslovakia and in 1948 married her widowed brother-in-law, Emil Jockel. They remained in Czechoslovakia until Helena retired from teaching and then moved to Canada in 1988 to join their family. Helena Jockel passed away in 2016.

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Inside the Walls

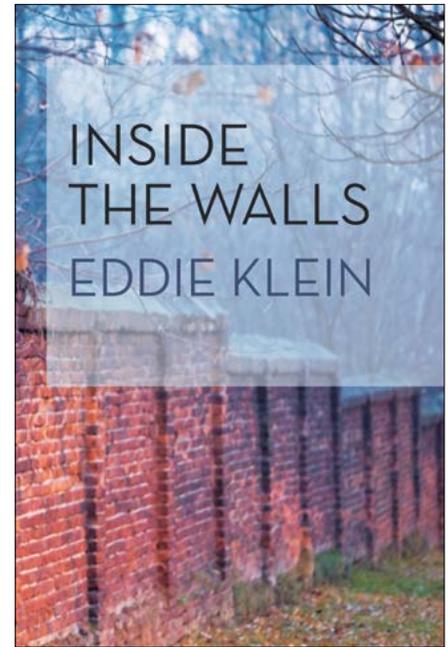
Eddie Klein

Rumkowski remains shrouded in mystery, and though my own view may be biased, I am convinced that he cared deeply about the Jews in the ghetto.

An idealist and a dreamer, orphaned Eddie Klein comes under the protective wing of those in charge of the Lodz ghetto, including the powerful Mordechai Rumkowski. In a flash, Eddie's life takes a decidedly different path, giving him a bird's-eye view of a house of privilege and a polarizing, controversial figure. But in August 1944, Eddie's fate changes when he is transported from the ghetto and forced to face, alone, each precarious moment.

About the author

Eddie Klein was born in Sieradz, Poland, in 1927. He immigrated to British Mandate Palestine in 1945, where he worked for the Palmach and later the Air Force. Eddie married his wife, Miriam, in Tel Aviv in 1955; they immigrated to Montreal in 1956, where Eddie lived until moving to Israel to be with family in 2019. Eddie Klein passed away in 2020.



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The Weight of Freedom

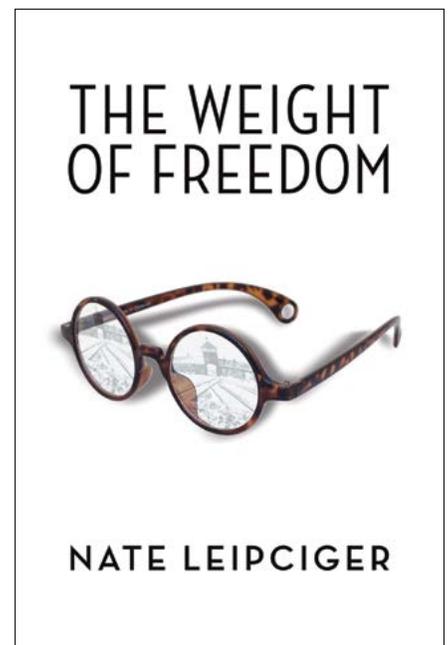
Nate Leipziger

To avoid thinking I repeated the words "after the war." The words stuck in my mind like a mantra. After the war. The words blended into the clang of the wheels. Would there ever be an end to the war?

Nate Leipziger, a thoughtful, shy eleven-year-old boy, is plunged into an incomprehensible web of ghettos, concentration and death camps during the German occupation of Poland. As he struggles to survive, he forges a new, unbreakable bond with his father and yearns for a free future. Introspective and raw, yet ever hopeful, *The Weight of Freedom* is Nate's vivid journey through a past that can never be left behind.

About the author

Nate Leipziger was born in Chorzów, Poland, in 1928. He immigrated to Toronto in 1948, where he eventually obtained a university degree in engineering. Nate was a member of the International Council of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum for fifteen years and has been an educator on March of the Living for twenty years. Nate Leipziger lives in Toronto.



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A Name Unbroken

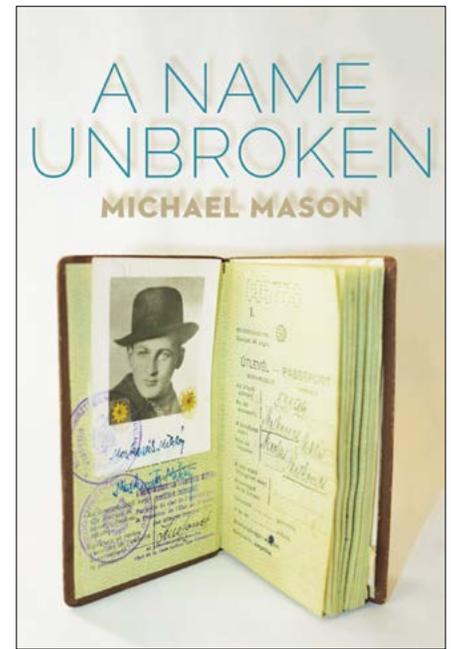
Michael Mason

I was skin and bones. The person who looked back at me in the mirror was a scared-looking skinny little boy, not the person I thought I was.

When Germany occupies Hungary in 1944, fifteen-year-old Miklos Friedman must draw on his wits to survive. Recruited into forced labour, sent to a ghetto and, ultimately, to the Nazi camps of Auschwitz and Mühldorf, Miklos never stops fighting to change his fate. After the war, he risks everything in order to leave his past behind. Decades later, a chance meeting in Toronto leads Miklos, now Michael Mason, to discover the power of his new name.

About the author

Michael Mason was born as Miklos Friedman in Beregszász, Hungary (now Berehove, Ukraine), in 1928. In 1949, he immigrated to Canada, working in a wide variety of business ventures in Hamilton before moving to Toronto, where he opened his own dental laboratory and became a denturist. Michael Mason lives in Toronto.



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Suddenly the Shadow Fell

Leslie Meisels with Eva Meisels

I didn't know then, and I still don't know now, what made me defy my mother, but it was the first miracle of my survival.

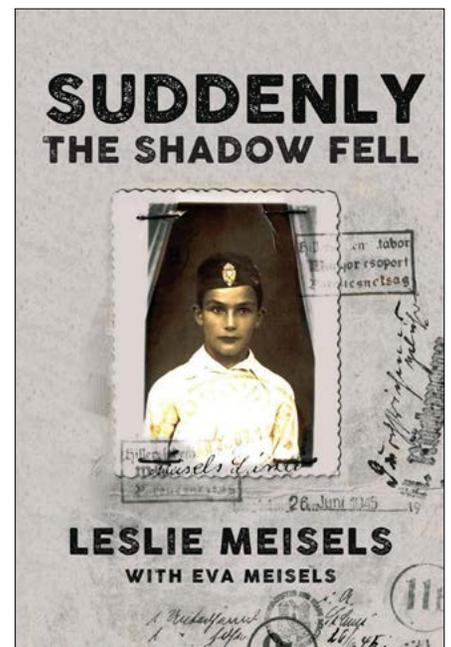
INTRODUCTION BY ANNA PORTER

All 17-year-old Leslie Meisels knows in June 1944 is that he must get his family out of the terrible conditions in the ghetto in Debrecen, Hungary. His decision to push their way on to a transport could have sent them all to a death camp. Instead they join the roughly 20,000 “Jews on ice” whose lives are saved — temporarily — in Austria. After the war, when Leslie is finally starting a new life in freedom in North America, he meets Eva, who is also a Holocaust survivor

from Hungary, and together they face their pasts and look forward to the future.

About the authors

Leslie Meisels was born in Nádudvar, Hungary, in 1927; Eva (née Silber) Meisels was born in Budapest, Hungary, in 1939. Leslie and Eva both left Hungary after the Hungarian Revolution and later met in Canada. They married in 1961 and lived in Toronto, where both were dedicated to Holocaust education. Leslie Meisels passed away in 2018; Eva Meisels lives in Toronto.



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Hope's Reprise

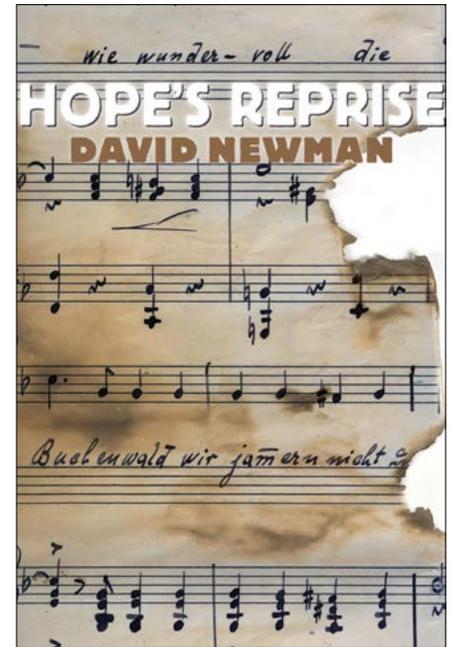
David Newman

The more we endured, the stronger our will to live became. This was our resistance against the degradation.

Torn from his family in Poland and deported for forced labour at Skarzysko-Kamienna, David battles desperation and the mounting death toll by writing songs, poems and satires about life in the camp. Later, in the infamous Buchenwald camp, the resistance recruits him for a clandestine initiative to protect the Jewish children there. With his soulful songs and his lessons for the children, David is able to rouse a chorus of hope, both in himself and those around him.

About the author

David Newman was born in Chmielnik, Poland, in 1919. He immigrated to Paris with his wife, Anna, and son, Jack, in 1946. In 1951, the Newman family immigrated to Canada. David was a performer in Yiddish theatre productions, taught Yiddish to countless students and co-founded the Kol Yisroel congregation at the Borochov Centre. David Newman passed away in 2002.



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Gatehouse to Hell

Felix Opatowski

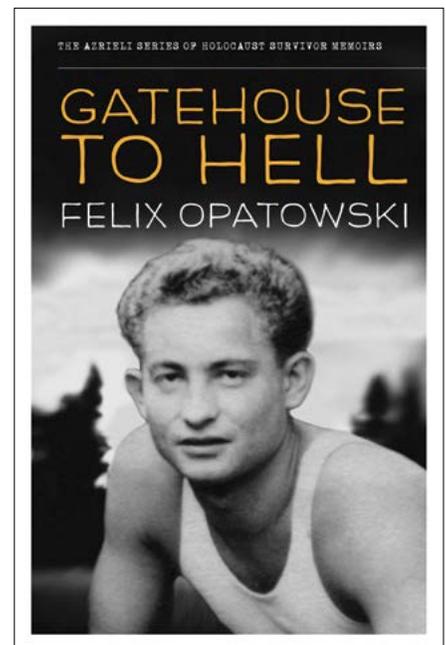
I was stubborn. I didn't want to stay in Auschwitz. I didn't want to go to the gas chambers.... I didn't want to die there, and I kept pushing back.

At 15, Felix Opatowski begins smuggling goods out of the Lodz ghetto in exchange for food. In 1943 he is deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau, where he is recruited as a runner for the Polish Underground and implicated in the plot to blow up the crematoria.

About the author

Felix Opatowski was born in Lodz, Poland, in 1924. He was liberated in Austria by the US army on May 9, 1945 and worked at a US army base where he married his wife, Regina, in 1947. Felix and Regina arrived in Toronto in 1949; they were married for 69 years. Regina passed away in 2016; Felix Opatowski passed away in 2017.

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Bits and Pieces

Henia Reinhartz

My family and I were in hiding. Suddenly I heard someone panting on the stairs ... we didn't breathe. Who was coming now?

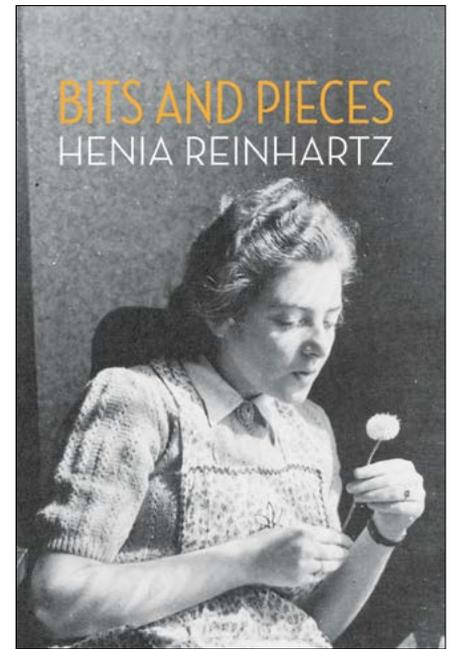
Lodz, Poland, 1944. Teenaged Henia Rosenfarb sits with her family in a small, secret room, hiding from the Nazi soldiers who are looking for them. Little can the fiery redhead imagine the path her life would take, from wartime Poland to Canada.

About the author

Born in Lodz, Poland, in 1926, Henia Reinhartz endured the Lodz ghetto and survived Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen. After the war, she moved to Paris where she graduated as a Yiddish and Hebrew teacher and met her husband. Henia immigrated to Canada in 1951 and moved to Toronto in 1952. Henia Reinhartz passed away in 2021.

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E/96: Fate Undecided

Paul-Henri Rips

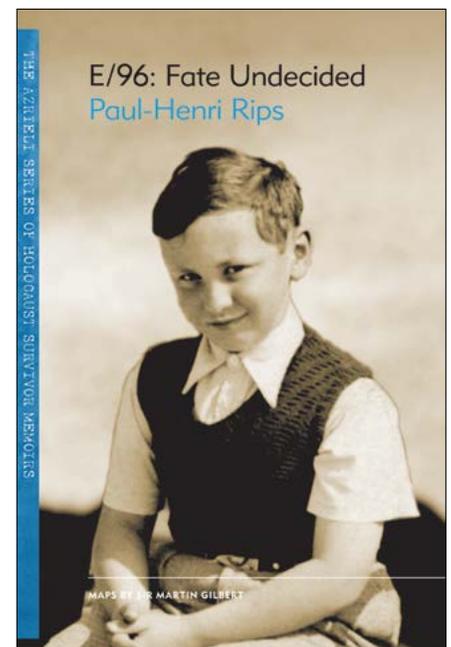
"Don't move. Don't open the door." My knees had turned to jelly and I was trembling uncontrollably.... Sina grabbed her raincoat and declared, "I'm leaving. They'll be back and I don't want to end up in a camp."

The son of an Antwerp diamond merchant, Paul-Henri Rips was ten when the Nazis invaded Belgium and ended his "golden childhood" forever. Guided by his father's admonition to "Sei a mensch" (Be a decent person), Rips manages to hold onto his humanity in the face of unfathomable inhumanity.

About the author

Paul-Henri Rips was born in Antwerp, Belgium, in 1929. He left Antwerp in 1950 and moved to the Belgian Congo and then to South Africa, where he married his wife, Lily. In 1997, the couple immigrated to Toronto to join their children and grandchildren, where they still live.

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Traces of What Was

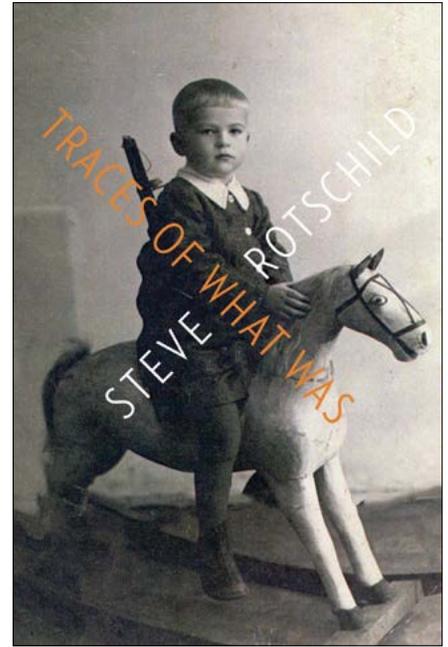
Steve Rotschild

It was at the end of March 1944, on a cool, bright and sunny day, the beginning of spring, the time of renewal of life, that the SS came to take the children.

Ten-year-old Steve Rotschild learns to hide, to be silent, to be still — and to wait. He knows the sound of the Nazis' boots and knows to hold his breath until their footsteps recede. Rotschild eloquently juxtaposes his past, furtive walks outside the Vilna ghetto with his long, liberating walks through Toronto after the war. This captivating story of survival and a mother's tenacious love leaves the reader indelibly marked by *Traces of What Was*.

About the author

Steve Rotschild was born in Vilna, Lithuania, in 1933. After the war, his mother remarried, and their new family immigrated to Israel. In 1956, Steve married Lillian in Montreal, where their two daughters were born. Steve wrote several short stories and painted wilderness scenes throughout his lifetime. Steve Rotschild passed away in 2020.



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Dignity Endures

Judith Rubinstein

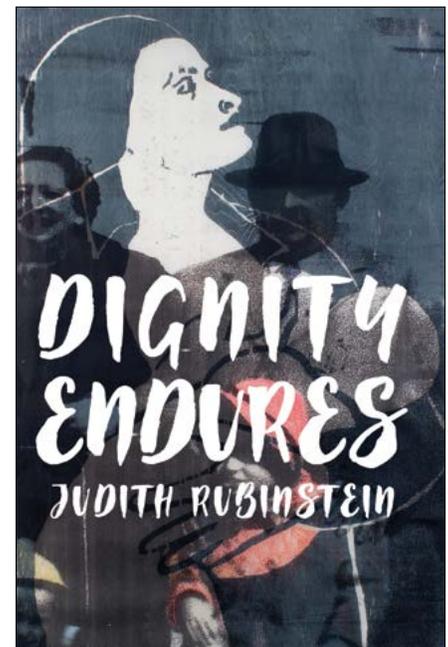
What they told us was a lie. After several days of travelling under the most degrading conditions, broken in spirit, hungry and dying of thirst, stripped of our human dignity, we finally arrived in Auschwitz-Birkenau, a place we had never heard of before.

The train from Hungary to Auschwitz brings Judith face-to-face with Dr. Mengele, the Angel of Death, who decides her fate. Her mother's quick actions are all that stand between her and certain death. At twenty-four years old, she struggles to stay alive after being separated from her family as they pass from the ghettos of

Hungary to the Nazi labour and concentration camps. Judith endures the destruction of her family, yet rebuilds her life and dignity.

About the author

Judith Rubinstein was born in Mezőcsát, Hungary, in 1920. In 1948, Judith immigrated to Canada with her husband and new baby. In Toronto, Judith was surrounded by a large family. She wrote short stories and was a speaker at Toronto's Holocaust Education Centre. Judith Rubinstein passed away in 2013.



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In Search of Light

Martha Salcudean

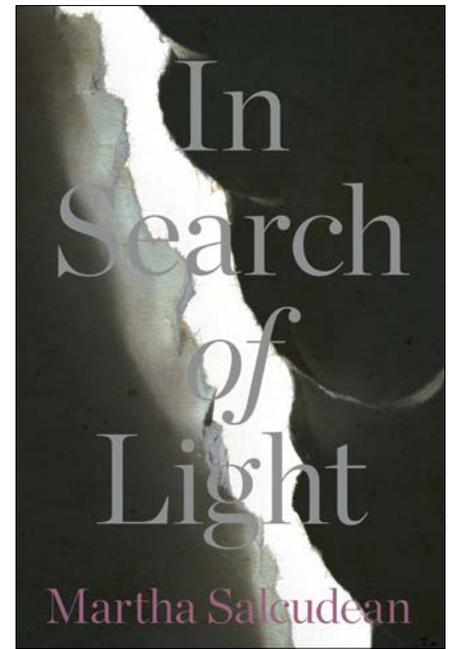
I understood that we were different, that we were considered as aliens — more correctly, enemy aliens — and that there was a different set of rules for us.

Martha Salcudean grows up in Romania before the area she lives in abruptly becomes ruled by Hungary and then, in 1944, by Germany. As Martha is forced into ghettos, she experiences such cruelty and hatred that at ten years old, she no longer feels like a child. But Martha's fate changes in an instant when she becomes one of those destined to be saved by Rudolf Kasztner, who is riskily negotiating with the Nazis. After the war, Martha returns to Romania,

but when the communist dictatorship takes hold, Martha again finds herself living in fear, and she is determined to escape with her new family to freedom.

About the author

Dr. Martha Salcudean was born in 1934 in Cluj, Romania, and immigrated to Canada in 1976. She was a professor at the University of Ottawa and head of mechanical engineering at the University of British Columbia. She received three honorary doctorates and a number of prestigious awards and honours in her lifetime. Martha Salcudean passed away in 2019.



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Never Far Apart

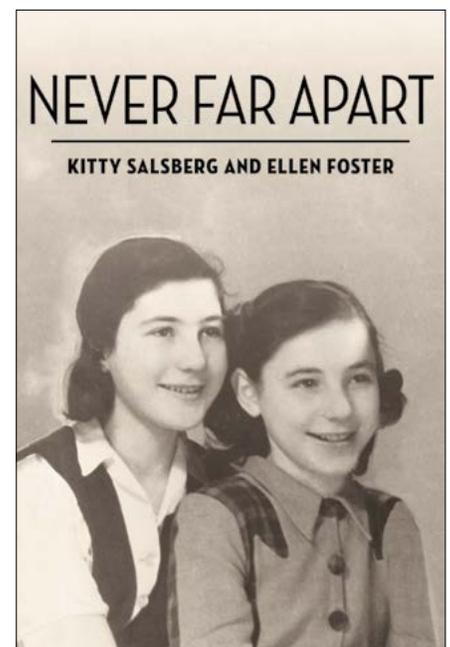
Kitty Salsberg and Ellen Foster

After all those terrible years when I so fiercely protected her and she clung to me for love and security, those “wise” social workers separated us, leaving us each to manage on our own in a strange environment.

Kati and her younger sister, Ilonka, arrive in Canada as orphans, with painful memories from the Holocaust. Their harrowing time alone in the Budapest ghetto is fresh in their minds, as are their fragile hopes to be adopted. But their lives in Toronto are far from what they expected, and full of broken promises.

About the authors

Kitty Salsberg and Ellen Foster were born in Budapest, Hungary, in 1932 and 1935, respectively. They immigrated to Canada in 1948, where Kitty enjoyed a long and fulfilling career as a teacher. Ellen moved to Los Angeles in 1952, where she worked and raised a family. Ellen Foster still lives in LA; Kitty Salsberg lives in Toronto.



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My Heart Is At Ease

Gerta Solan

We played a game of nostalgia, recalling memories of the past to forget, for a while, the terrible present....

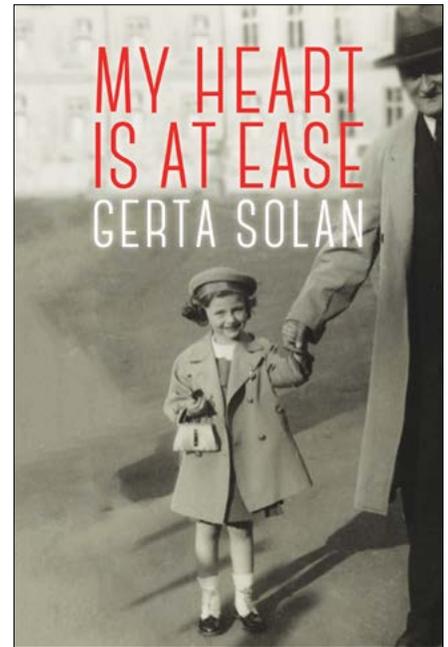
The siren at 5:00 a.m. woke us to the morning reality of roll call. We each wondered if we were going to be given another day of life.

In June 1942, when twelve-year-old Gerta is deported with her parents to the Theresienstadt ghetto — the Nazis' deceptive "model Jewish settlement" — her family helps her cope with the surrounding devastation. Later, alone in Auschwitz, Gerta is determined to survive the unbearable. Her intrepid spirit and keen observation guides her anew through

post-war communism to freedom in Canada.

About the author

Gerta Solan was born in Prague, Czechoslovakia (now Czech Republic), in 1929. After liberation, she returned to Prague and in 1949 she married Paul Seidner (Solan). They lived in Prague until the Soviet invasion in 1968. In Toronto, Gerta worked for the Red Cross, tracing and reuniting families after disasters, until her retirement in 1995. Gerta Solan lives in Israel.



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In Fragile Moments

Zsuzsanna Fischer Spiro

The Last Time

Eva Shainblum

I am no longer who I used to be....

All I have left is hope.

Born two hundred kilometres away from each other and two years apart, the lives of both Zsuzsanna Fischer and Eva Steinberger are thrown into chaos when Germany occupies Hungary and destroys their peaceful childhoods. In the spring of 1944, sent into ghettos and then to Auschwitz, they each take refuge in the one constant in their lives — their older sisters. A glimpse into the fierceness of a sister's love, these two stories mirror the remarkable differences in similar paths of survival.

About the authors

Zsuzsanna Fischer was born in Tornospálca, Hungary, in 1925. After the war, she lived in Budapest until the 1956 Hungarian Uprising, immigrating with her family to Canada in 1957. Zsuzsanna Spiro passed away in August 2016. Eva Shainblum was born in Nagyvárad, Hungary (now Oradea, Romania), in 1927. She immigrated to Canada in 1948, settling in Montreal, where she still lives.



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The Shadows Behind Me

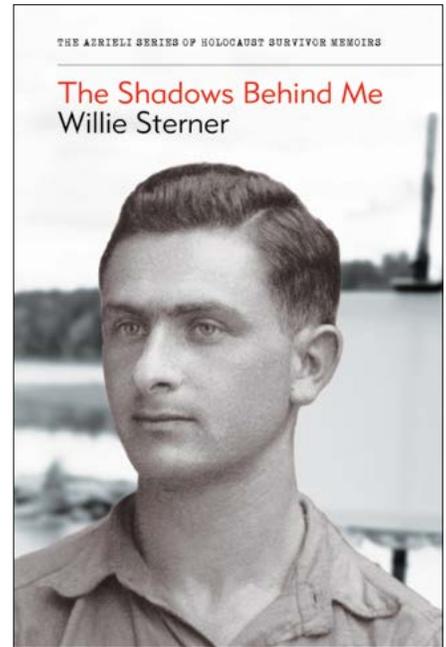
Willie Sterner

I was surprised that Oskar Schindler, a German industrialist, would talk to me not as a Jew but as a normal person.... I thought that I must be having a nice dream.

For six desperate years, Willie Sterner's skill as a painter saves him from death at the hands of the Nazis. In a rare piece of luck, Sterner finds himself transferred to Oskar Schindler's Emalia factory, where he becomes the famed German businessman's personal art restorer.

About the author

Willie Sterner was born in Wolbrom, Poland, in 1919. The eldest of seven children, he was the only one to survive the Holocaust. After the war, he lived in displaced persons camps in Austria, where he became chief of the Jewish police. He and his wife, Eva, immigrated to Canada in 1948 and settled in Montreal. Willie Sterner passed away in 2011.



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Carry the Torch

Sam Weisberg

A Lasting Legacy

Johnny Jablon

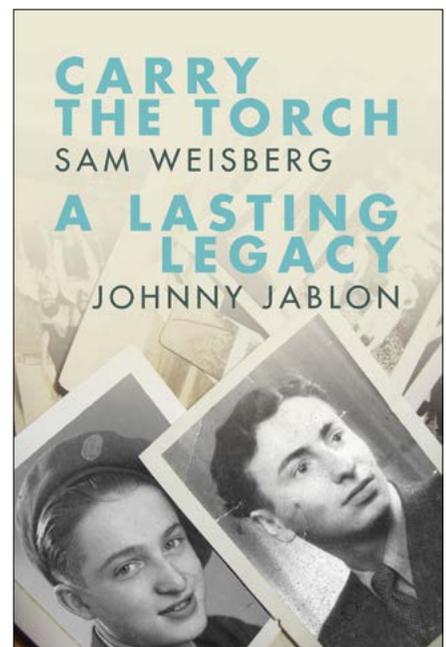
Commandant Göth singled out a man from the line and shot him for no apparent reason at all.

In the Plaszow forced labour camp, both Johnny and Sam quickly learn of the brutality of the new commandant, Amon Göth. At sixteen years old, both feel like they are walking a tightrope, where one wrong move can make them the target of Göth's unpredictable volatility. *Carry the Torch* and *A Lasting Legacy* are the different yet parallel stories of two men who must find their own way after the war and decide whether to keep their histories in the past.

About the authors

Sam Weisberg was born in Chorzów, Poland, in 1927. After liberation, Sam lived in the Bergen-Belsen displaced persons (DP) camp, where he met his wife, Rosa. They immigrated to Canton, Ohio, in 1948 and to Toronto in 1959. Sam Weisberg passed away in 2019.

Johnny (Ephroim) Jablon was born in Krakow, Poland, in 1927. After the war, Johnny lived in the Bindermichl DP camp in Austria. In 1948, as a war orphan, he immigrated to Montreal, where he still lives.



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