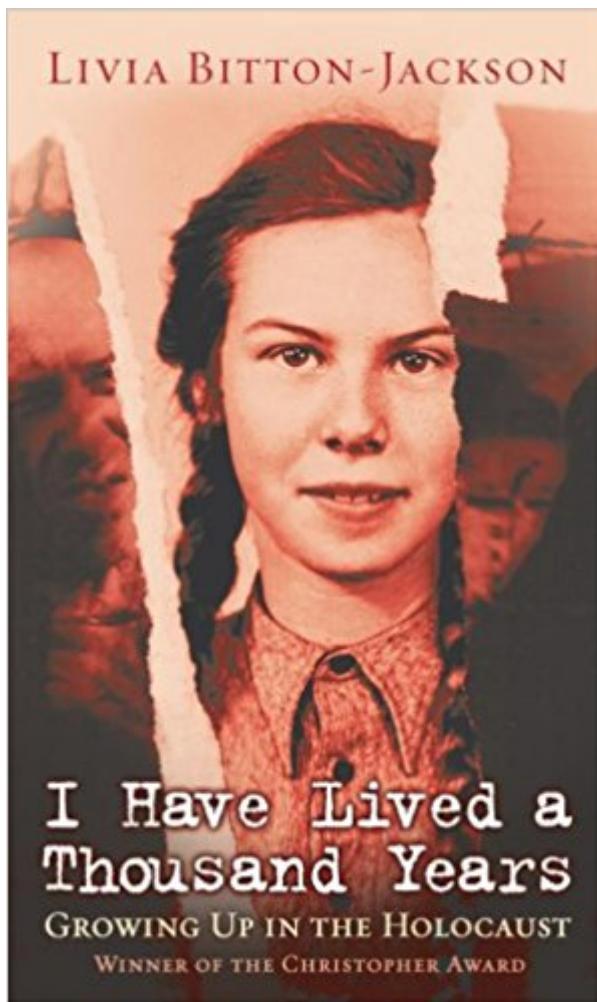


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I Have Lived A Thousand Years: Growing Up In The Holocaust



Synopsis

The author was 13 when the Nazis invaded Hungary. In intimate and excruciating detail, Livia Bitton-Jackson describes how her young life was transformed by her experiences, from suspension from school to surviving the horrors of Auschwitz.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

PW's starred review called this memoir, of a 13-year-old Hungarian Jewish girl's incarceration in Auschwitz, "an exceptional story, exceptionally well told." Ages 12-up. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Gr. 8^12. In a graphic present-tense narrative, this Holocaust memoir describes what happens to a Jewish girl who is 13 when the Nazis invade Hungary in 1944. She tells of a year of roundups, transports, selections, camps, torture, forced labor, and shootings, then of liberation and the return of a few. For those who have read Leitner's stark *The Big Lie* (1992), this is a much more detailed account, with the same authority of a personal witness. Horrifying as her experience is, she doesn't dwell on the atrocities. There is hope here. Unlike many adult survivor stories, this does not show the victims losing their humanity. The teenager and her mother help each other survive; they save each other from the gas chambers. Even in the slaughter of the cattle trucks strafed by machine-gun fire, "words of comfort emerge from every corner." The occasional overwriting about "drowning in a morass of pain and helplessness" is unfortunate. The facts need no rhetoric. On every page they express her intimate experience. After the war, the teenager finds her brother, hears how her father

died. She wonders whether she dare enjoy the luxury of being a girl, of "having hair." A final brief chronology of the Holocaust adds to the value of this title for curriculum use with older readers. Hazel Rochman --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Fascinating. I more fully understand now that at least a lot of the slave labor- i.e. those who did not go immediately to the gas- must have been mainly just a means of torturing these Jews by those that hated them. Having a starved 13 year old girl and her starved, debilitated mother- and thousands more like her- working with a shovel on a hill side in Poland must have cost much more than the Reich benefited. The building and guarding and maintenance of the camps, the running of the trains, how much could any of this have aided the war effort? I think rather quite the opposite. The other thing I have come to realize more than in the past is how much of this evil was accomplished not just by the Nazis, but by other countries that fully supported the extermination of the Jews. Think about it: the persecution starts in her home town (in Hungary?) years before the Nazis invade. Many of the crudest camp guards were Hungarian, Lithuanian, Latvian and other non-Germans. This is also confirmed in another book I am reading, "The Good Old Days". The record is very clear: many, if not most, of the Jews who were beaten to death or shot after digging their own graves were murdered by the people of the nations(such as Lithuania) Germany had just invaded, while the Germans just watched. And as the various town's citizens watched and cheered. It wasn't just the Germans. They had a lot of help with the slaughter of the Jews from the nations they invaded. But, this is a helpful book in educating about what happened.

I don't think any of us can fully understand what the Jews in Nazi Germany went through. This book tells the horrors of what Ellie Friedman's family went through during the last year of WWII. I was aware of these atrocities, but I was not aware of what they went through after they were liberated. It was like the world had come to an end during their imprisonment, and terrible things kept happening after they were freed. The attitudes of some of their so-called "good neighbors" who would not give them back their possessions when they got back to their devastated house. Windows were taken away from the houses, including the hinges. Human excrement piled on the floor in each room. Not all of the Germans were hateful to them on their return. Some brought food and clothing to share with them...those were the truly good Germans who were appalled at the treatment and murders of the Jews. I would absolutely recommend this book. It is always good to know the truth, and stories written by those who lived it are real eye-openers, and a warning that these things should never happen again.

I read this book following a PBS special about a survivor of the Nazi Death Camps who had not only written a book about her horrific experience, but had also gone out to speak to high school students regarding her experiences. After the program, I knew I wanted to read her book. I also found myself wanting to read books by other survivors as I had an uncle who left Hungary before Hitler came into power and tried to get as many of his relatives as possible out before it was too late. This woman was Hungarian, which held special meaning to me because of my uncle. As familiar as I thought I was about the Holocaust, I am always surprised by the stories of the survivors of the different death camps, of the atrocities they were witness to and grateful that they will not be silenced, least history repeat itself or be forgotten, and we must never forget. I found myself unable to put her book down, wanting to know how she managed from day to day to survive when so many around her were dying. It tears at my heart, knowing that so many people in power knew of the different death camps yet chose to do nothing about them until they bombed some of the crematoriums in 1945. I also wanted to know how she was able to adjust to any semblance of a normal life, having lived through what she had experienced. It is one of three books she has written, I believe, and it is well written, hard to put down, although I had to step away from it at times, due to the intensity. I will be reading her other works. I have journaled for 40 years as a way to work through past issues and keep track of my reality. I believe she is doing the same to help her to heal and I hope it does help her to heal, God bless her. If I had been taken to one of the death camps I wonder if I would have survived. I'm grateful I will never have to find out. I recommend this book for people who want to know more about what really happened during the Holocaust and are prepared to deal with the truth of what occurred.

This book has an amazing story to tell. It is well-written and easy to read. In my opinion, this is a book that everyone should read to get a deeper understanding of the Holocaust. Read it. Have your children read it. Then talk about it.

This book is one of the finest renditions of the utter horrible and terrible abuses that the German people perpetrated on a group of defenseless folks who did not deserve this treatment and the Germans will never live this done. How anyone survived is a mystery

An amazing story told by the victims themselves and a miracle of a mother, daughter and some of their cousins escaping death in auswitzMy belief in religion faded away because of the holocaust

because one thinks how God let this horrific things happen, I was surprised and at the same time did not know how to even react when I read that the main character and others went through so much as to eating 2 mini meals a day which included a soup with live worms in it and 2 small pieces of bread for the whole day, not to mention the hard labor the brutal beating, the witnessing of horrific crime in front of them and still the characters mother was lighting shabbath candles and followed jewish faith and holidays inside the camp.

I have read many books on the holocaust but this is the first book I have read that was written by a survivor. What this woman went through as a child was very very sad. I cannot even wrap My mind around the memories and night mares She must have. This is a must read for any student of this awful time in history. May it never happen again. To anyone!

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