Non-fiction

Author, Title, Year of Publication

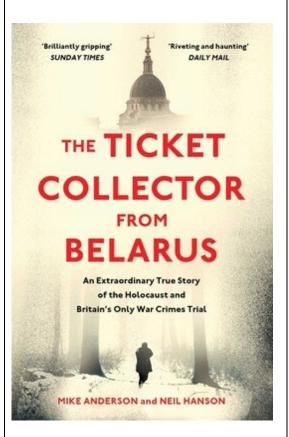
Picture of cover with link to publisher

Short synopsis

Anderson, Mike & Hanson, Neil

The Ticket Collector from Belarus: An Extraordinary True Story of the Holocaust and Britain's Only War Crimes Trial

2023

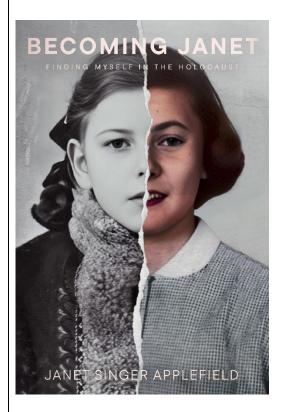


The UK's only war crimes trial took place in 1999 and had its origins in the horrors of the Holocaust, but only now can the full story be told. The remarkable story of two interwoven journeys. Ben-Zion Blustein and Andrei Sawoniuk were childhood friends in 1930s Domachevo, a holiday and health resort in what is now Belarus. During the events that followed the Nazi invasion in 1941, they became the bitterest of enemies. After the war, Ben-Zion made his way to Israel, and 'Andrusha the bastard' to England, where he found work as a British Rail ticket collector in London. They next confronted each other in the Old Bailey, over half a century later, where one was the principal prosecution witness, and the other charged with a fraction of the number of murders he was alleged to have committed.

Applefield, Janet Singer

Becoming Janet: Finding Myself in the Holocaust

2024



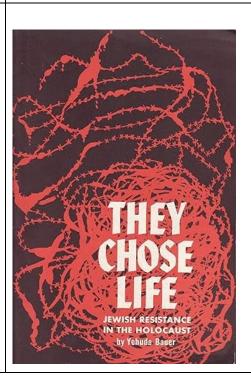
Arriving in America in 1947, 12-year-old Gustawa Singer carried the heaviness of the three-year wartime separation from her father. Desperate to piece together their stolen years, he sat her down and meticulously transcribed her memories in a seven-page handwritten record. They never spoke about their collective torture again. Hidden in a basement for 35 years, this forgotten testimony became the blueprint for Singer Applefield's journey of self-discovery.

Becoming Janet takes the reader on an authentic, emotional journey to Nazioccupied Poland, vividly depicting the broken, lonely, and tortured years of little Gustawa hiding in plain sight. She would quickly learn that resilience and secrecy were the difference between life and death.

Bauer, Yehuda

They Chose Life: Jewish Resistance in the Holocaust

1973

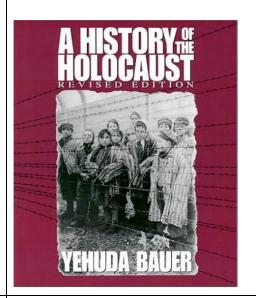


Examines Jewish resistance efforts during the Holocaust.

Bauer, Yehuda

A History of the Holocaust

1982

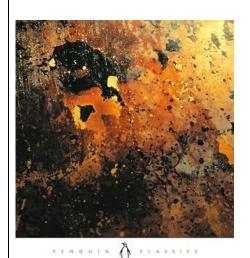


Provides a comprehensive depiction of the Holocaust, including how and why it happened and testimonies from survivors.

Borowski, Tadeusz

This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen

1992



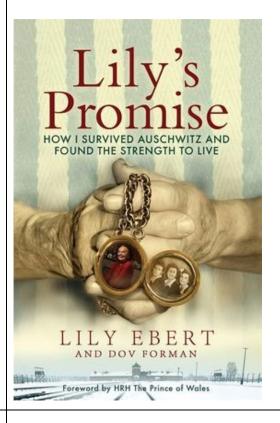
TADEUSZ BOROWSKI

THIS WAY FOR THE GAS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN Introduced to the American public in the early 1960s by Philip Roth, Borowski's spellbinding short story collection was based on the writer's two-year incarceration at Auschwitz as a political prisoner. Borowski, who was a non-Jewish Polish journalist, provides a perspective on camp life quite different from the more common survivor narratives.

Ebert, Lily (and Forman, Dov)

Lily's Promise

2021

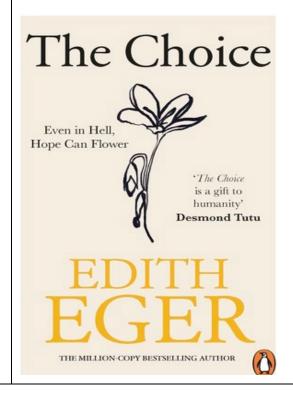


When Holocaust survivor Lily Ebert was liberated in 1945, a Jewish-American soldier gave her a banknote on which he'd written 'Good luck and happiness'. And when her greatgrandson, Dov, decided to use social media to track down the family of the GI, 96-year-old Lily found herself making headlines round the world. Lily had promised herself that if she survived Auschwitz she would tell everyone the truth about the camp. Now was her chance.

Eger, Dr Edith

The Choice

2024

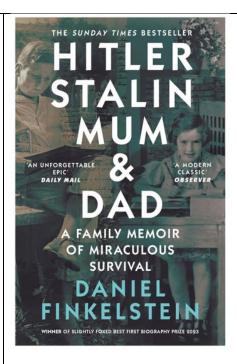


At the age of sixteen, Edith Eger, a trained ballet dancer and gymnast, was sent to Auschwitz. Hours after her parents were sent to the gas chamber, the "Angel of Death," Nazi officer Dr Josef Mengele, forced Edie to dance for his amusement – and her survival. He rewarded her with a loaf of bread that she shared with her fellow prisoners – an act of generosity that would later save her life.

Finkelstein, Daniel

Hitler, Stalin, Mum and Dad

2023

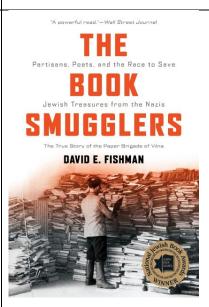


From longstanding political columnist and commentator Daniel Finkelstein, a powerful memoir exploring both his mother and his father's devastating experiences of persecution, resistance and survival during the Second World War. Hitler, Stalin, Mum and Dad is a deeply moving. personal and at times horrifying memoir about Finkelstein's parents' experiences at the hands of the two genocidal dictators of the twentieth century. It is a story of persecution; survival; and the consequences of totalitarianism told with the almost unimaginable bravery of two ordinary families shining through.

Fishman, David E.

The Book Smugglers: Partisans, Poets, and the Race to Save Jewish Treasures from the Nazis

2017

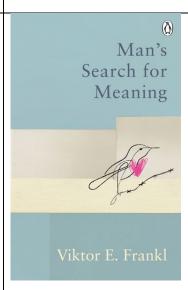


This is the nearly unbelievable story of ghetto residents who rescued thousands of rare books and manuscripts – first from the Nazis and then from the Soviets – by hiding them on their bodies, burying them in bunkers, and smuggling them across borders. It is a tale of heroism and resistance, of friendship and romance, and of unwavering devotion – including the readiness to risk one's life – to literature and art. And it is entirely true.

Frankl, Viktor E.

Man's Search for Meaning

1946

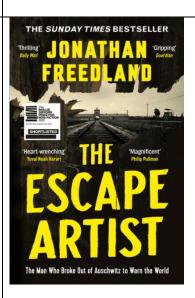


One of the outstanding classics to emerge from the Holocaust, *Man's Search for Meaning* is Viktor Frankl's story of his struggle for survival in Auschwitz and other Nazi concentration camps. Today, this remarkable tribute to hope offers us an avenue to finding greater meaning and purpose in our own lives.

Freedland, Jonathan

The Escape Artist: The Man Who Broke Out of Auschwitz to Warn the World

2023

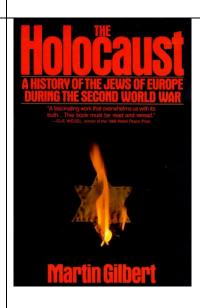


April 1944. Nineteen-year-old Rudolf Vrba and fellow inmate Fred Wetzler became two of the very first Jews to successfully escape Auschwitz. Evading the thousands of SS men hunting them. Vrba and Wetzler made the perilous journey on foot across Nazi-occupied Poland. Their mission: to reveal to the world the truth of the Holocaust. Vrba's unique testimony would save some 200,000 lives. But he kept on running - from his past, from his home country, his adopted country, even from his own name. Now, at last, Rudolf Vrba's heroism can be known.

Gilbert, Martin

The Holocaust: A
History of the Jews of
Europe During the
Second World War

1987

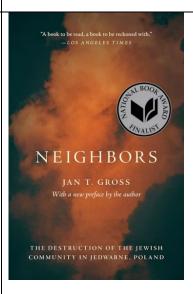


Intertwines survivors' stories and historical research to tell the history of the Holocaust.

Gross, Jan T.

Neighbours: The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland

2022



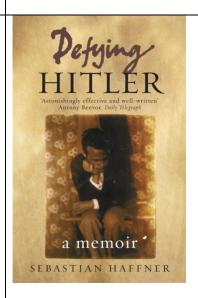
On July 10, 1941, in Nazioccupied Poland, half of the town of Jedwabne brutally murdered the other half: 1,600 men, women, and children – all but seven of the town's Jews. In this shocking and compelling classic of Holocaust history, Jan T. Gross reveals how Jedwabne's Jews were murdered not by faceless Nazis but by people who knew them well – their non-Jewish Polish neighbours. A previously untold story of the complicity of non-Germans in the extermination of the Jews, Neighbours shows how people victimised by the

Nazis could at the same time victimise their Jewish fellow citizens. In a new preface, Gross reflects on the book's explosive international impact and the backlash it continues to provoke from right-wing Polish nationalists who still deny their ancestors' role in the destruction of the Jews.

Haffner, Sebastian

Defying Hitler: A Memoir

2011

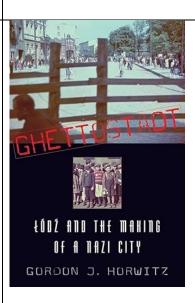


Written in 1939 and unpublished until 2000, Sebastian Haffner's memoir of the rise of Nazism in Germany offers a unique portrait of the lives of ordinary German citizens between the wars. Covering 1907 to 1933, his eyewitness account provides a portrait of a country in constant flux. This fascinating personal history elucidates how the average German grappled with a rapidly changing society, while chronicling day-to-day changes in attitudes, beliefs, politics, and prejudices.

Horwitz, Gordon J.

Ghettostadt: Łódź and the Making of a Nazi City

2010

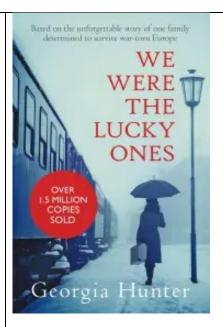


Under the Third Reich, Nazi Germany undertook an unprecedented effort to refashion the city of Łódź. Home to pre-war Poland's second most populous Jewish community, this was to become a German city of enchantment. Exploring ghetto life in its broadest context, this work examines the Jewish ghetto's place in the Nazi worldview.

Hunter, Georgia

We Were the Lucky Ones

2017

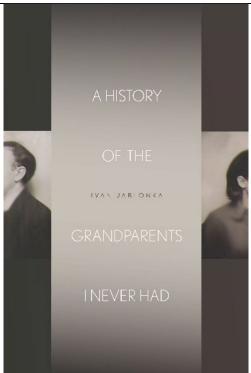


The Kurc family shouldn't have survived the Holocaust. In the spring of 1939 three generations are living relatively normal lives in Poland, despite the hardships Jews face. When war breaks out and the family is cast to the wind, the five Kurc siblings do everything they can to find their way through a devastated continent to freedom.

Jablonka, Ivan; Kuntz, Jane (translator)

A History of the Grandparents I Never Had

2016

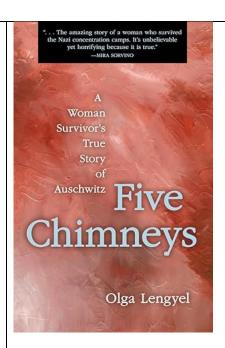


Ivan Jablonka's grandparents' lives ended long before his began: although Matès and Idesa Jablonka were his family, they were perfect strangers. When he set out to uncover their story, Jablonka had little to work with. Neither of them was the least bit famous, and they left little behind except their two orphaned children, a handful of letters, and a passport. Persecuted as communists in Poland, as refugees in France, and then as Jews under the Vichy regime, Matès and Idesa lived their short lives underground. They were overcome by the tragedies of the twentieth century: Stalinism, the mounting dangers in Europe during the 1930s, the Second World War, and the destruction of European Jews.

Lengyel, Olga

Five Chimneys: A Woman Survivor's True Story of Auschwitz

1946

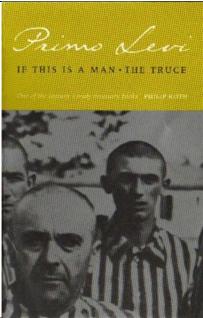


Lengyel was a surgical assistant in Transylvania when she was deported to Auschwitz; she was able to secure work in an infirmary, a job that ultimately saved her life. This 1946 memoir is an unflinching account of her time in that area, her interactions with Dr Josef Mengele and her observations of the medical experiments performed on inmates. A deeply uncomfortable read, Lengyel's memoir is a necessary living, breathing document.

Levi, Primo

If This is a Man

1947

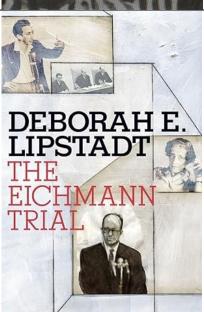


If This is a Man is a memoir by Jewish Italian writer Primo Levi, first published in 1947. It describes his arrest as a member of the Italian anti-fascist resistance during the Second World War, and his incarceration in the Auschwitz concentration camp (Monowitz) from February 1944 until the camp was liberated on 27 January 1945.

Lipstadt, Deborah E.

The Eichmann Trial

2011

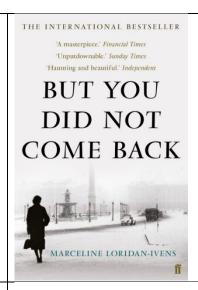


The award-winning historian gives us an overview of the trial of SS Lieutenant Colonel Adolf Eichmann and analyses the dramatic effect that the survivors' courtroom testimony had on a world that had until then regularly commemorated the Holocaust but never fully understood what the millions who died and the hundreds of thousands who managed to survive had actually experienced.

Loridan-Ivens, Marceline

But You Did Not Come Back: A Memoir

2016

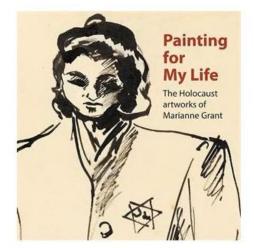


Marceline writes back to her father, a letter to the man she would never know as an adult, to the person whose death overshadowed her whole life. Although her grief never diminished in its intensity, Marceline ultimately found a calling, working on behalf of many disenfranchised groups, both as an activist for Algerian independence and a documentary filmmaker.

Meacock, Dr Joanna

Painting for My Life: The Holocaust Artworks of Marianne Grant

2021

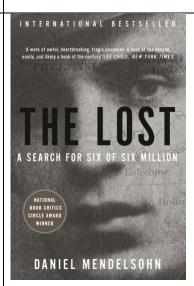


The story and artwork of an artist who tells of her experiences of WWII and imprisonment in Theresienstadt, Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen concentration camps.

Mendelsohn, Daniel

The Lost: A Search for Six of Six Million

2006

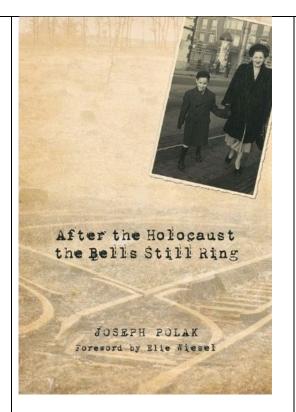


That this gripping story of memory and tragedy won both the 2006 National Jewish Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle award should clue you in to how extraordinary this book is. What begins, familiarly, as the story of a young boy learning about the tragic but mysterious fate of his relatives in the Holocaust, ends in a continent-spanning labyrinth, a sad and seductive tale of near mythic proportions.

Polak, Joseph

After the Holocaust the Bells Still Ring

2015

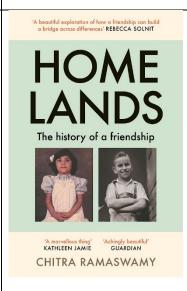


This memoir is a fascinating portrait of a mother and child who miraculously survive two concentration camps, then, after the war, battle demons of the past, societal rejection, disbelief, and invalidation as they struggle to re-enter the world of the living. It is the tale of how one newly takes on the world, having lived in the midst of corpses strewn about in the scores of thousands, and how one can possibly resume life in the aftermath of such experiences. It is the story of the child who decides, upon growing up, that the only career that makes sense for him in light of these years of horror is to become someone sensitive to the deepest flaws of humanity, a teacher of God's role in history amidst the traditions that attempt to understand it - and to become a rabbi.

Ramaswamy, Chitra

Homelands: The History of a Friendship

2022



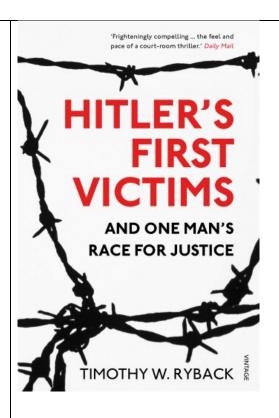
This book is about two unlikely friends. One (the author) born in 1970s Britain to Indian immigrant parents, the other (Henry Wuga) arrived from Nazi Germany in 1939, fleeing persecution.

This is a story of migration, racism, family, belonging, grief and resilience. It is about the state we're in now and the ways in which we carry our pasts into our futures.

Ryback, Timothy W.

Hitler's First Victims: And One Man's Race for Justice

2016



At 9am on 13 April 1933 deputy prosecutor Josef Hartinger received a telephone call summoning him to the newly established concentration camp of Dachau, where four prisoners had been shot.

The SS guards claimed the men had been trying to escape. But what Hartinger found convinced him that something was terribly wrong. Hitler had been appointed Chancellor only ten weeks previously but the Nazi party was rapidly infiltrating every level of state power. In the weeks that followed, Hartinger was repeatedly called back to Dachau, where with every new corpse the gruesome reality of the camp became clearer.

Fiction

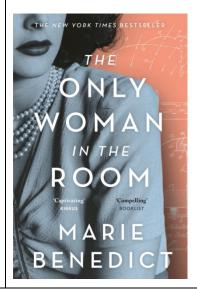
Author (alphabetical)

Benedict, Marie

The Only Woman in the Room

2019

Picture of cover with link to publisher



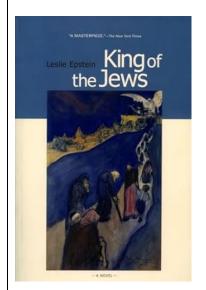
Short synopsis

She possessed a stunning beauty. She also possessed a stunning mind. A fictional recount based on the life of Hedy Lemarr, screen star. But she was also a scientist. And she knew a few secrets about the enemy. She had an idea that might help the country fight the Nazis... if anyone would listen to her.

Epstein, Leslie

King of the Jews

1979



This 1979 book gives a fictional account of Chaim Rumkowski, the Polish Jew appointed by the Nazis as the head of the Council of Elders (known as the Judenrat) in the Łódź Ghetto during the occupation of Poland. Rumkowski was seen as a villain, famous for his role in delivering children to the Nazis for extermination.

Hannah, Kristin

The Nightingale

2022

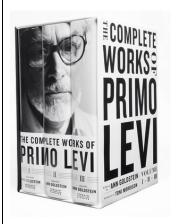


The book tells the stories of two sisters, separated by years and experience, by ideals, passion and circumstance, each embarking on her own dangerous path toward survival, love, and freedom in German-occupied, war-torn France – a heartbreakingly beautiful novel that celebrates the resilience of the human spirit and the durability of women.

Levi, Primo (Goldstein, Ann (ed.))

The Complete Works of Primo Levi

2015

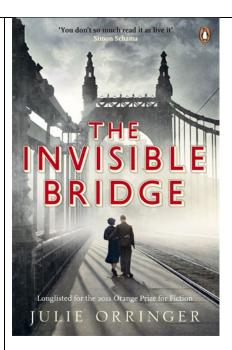


Primo Levi has long been admired for his harrowing account of suffering in Auschwitz, *If This Is a Man*. Among the thousands of survivors who have written about their experiences, Levi's work stands out for its understanding of the human condition and philosophical exploration of the polarities of good and evil. Highlights of the collection besides *If This Is a Man* include: *The Periodic Table*, *The Drowned* and *The Saved*.

Orringer, Julie

The Invisible Bridge

2011

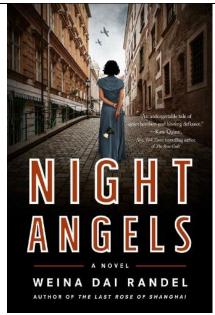


Paris, 1937. Andras Lévi, an architecture student, has arrived from Budapest with a scholarship, a single suitcase, and a mysterious letter he has promised to deliver to Clara Morgenstern, a young widow living in the city. When Andras meets Clara he is drawn deeply into her extraordinary and secret life, just as Europe's unfolding tragedy sends them both into a state of terrifying uncertainty.

Randel, Weina Dai

Night Angels

2023

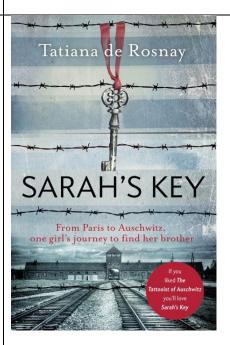


Based on the true story of a Chinese diplomat who helped Viennese Jews escape the Nazis.

Rosnay, Tatiana de

Sarah's Key

2008



Paris, July 1942. Sarah, a tenyear-old Jewish girl, is arrested by the French police in the middle of the night, along with her mother and father. Desperate to protect her younger brother, she locks him in a cupboard and promises to come back for him as soon as she can. Paris, May 2002. Julia Jarmond, an American journalist, is asked to write about the 60th anniversary of the Vel' d'Hiv' roundup - the infamous day in 1942 when French police rounded up thousands of Jewish men, women and children, in order to send them to concentration camps. Sarah's

Key is the poignant story of two families, forever linked and haunted by one of the darkest days in France's past. Rosner, Jennifer JENNIFER ROSNER 'Prepare to have your heart broken' In Poland in 1941, Róza and her The Yellow Bird Sings five-year-old daughter Shira spend their days and nights 2021 hiding in a farmer's barn after escaping being rounded up with the other Jews in their town. Róza tells her daughter stories of a yellow bird, the only one Poland, 1941. A mother. A child. who can sing the melodies Shira An impossible choice. composes in her head. Róza

would do anything to keep her daughter safe, but eventually, she is faced with an impossible choice – keep her close, or let her go and give her a chance to

survive.