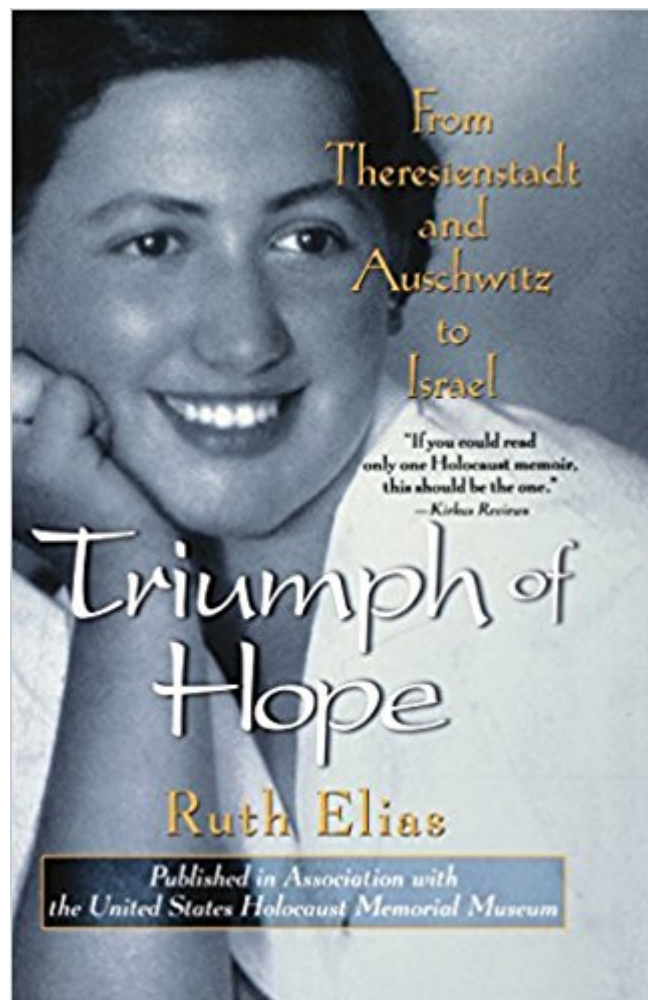




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# Triumph Of Hope : From Theresienstadt And Auschwitz To Israel



## Synopsis

Triumph of Hope From Theresienstadt and Auschwitz to Israel Now available in English, here is the award-winning and internationally acclaimed testament of a Jewish woman who was taken to Auschwitz while several months pregnant, where she was forced to confront perhaps the most agonizing choice ever imposed upon any woman, upon any human being . so that both she and her newborn infant should not die in a Nazi ""medical"" experiment personally conducted by the infamous Dr. Josef Mengele. And just as vividly, Ruth Elias recounts the aftermath of her imprisonment, and the difficult path to a new life in a new land: Israel, where new challenges, new obstacles awaited. ""One of the most powerful memoirs provided to us by a survivor."" --Indiana Jewish Post and Opinion ""Well-written . not only provides a remarkably honest picture of the unspeakable reality of living in ghettos and slave-labor and death camps, but also what it meant to be Jewish in Europe. in the 1920s and 1930s.. This is one of the best Holocaust memoirs I have read."" --Washington Jewish Week ""The understated tone of this memoir adds to the author's powerful re-creation of her life as a young Czechoslovak Jewish woman during the Holocaust."" --Publishers Weekly

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The understated tone of this memoir adds to the author's powerful re-creation of her life as a young Czechoslovak Jewish woman during the Holocaust. After the 1939 German occupation of her country, Elias, with her father and sister (her parents were divorced), lived undercover in a Czech village until 1942, when they were betrayed and removed to the Theresienstadt ghetto. To avoid

deportation to a concentration camp, Elias married her boyfriend, Koni, a member of the Jewish ghetto police. But the two were eventually sent to Auschwitz, where she tried to hide her pregnancy. Horrifyingly, the author describes how camp doctor Joseph Mengele allowed her to give birth, then conducted an experiment to determine how long it would take her newborn son to starve to death. Another prisoner helped Elias inject the baby with morphine on the sixth day. Also detailed is Elias's harsh struggle to survive until the end of the war. She subsequently separated from Koni, remarried and emigrated to Israel. Photos. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Able translated, this is an extraordinary Holocaust memoir wherein a young Czech woman undergoes a dizzying variety of hellish experiences. Published in association with the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, this volume is a clinic on the varieties of torture that one could undergo as a Jew during the Nazi period. Young Ruth was steeled for loss early in life as a child of divorced parents. This girl who enjoyed music and skiing soon found herself in a long line of Jews delivering all valuables (especially money, jewelry, musical instruments, and radios) to the new Gestapo authorities. The family managed to hide out on a farm with gentiles for many months, but their resources ran out and the Gestapo closed in, forcing the family to the camp Theresienstadt, where conditions were occasionally livable thanks to periodic visits by the Red Cross. But inmates suffered all the more when their meager calorie allotment dropped back to starvation level. To her credit, young Ruth volunteered as a nurse, even though her duties required more removal of corpses than relieving anyone's suffering. While bedridden herself with fever, she married her ghetto policeman boyfriend. Elias, soon pregnant, was then transferred to Auschwitz, where pregnancy was a certain death sentence. Her attending physician turned out to be none other than the notorious Dr. Josef Mengele, who spared her life because he wanted to see how long an unfed baby could live. The most pathetic lines in this moving memoir are a soliloquy by this young mother who must kill her newborn for a chance of survival: "My child . . . you can't even whimper anymore." Elias is ultimately tapped for forced labor, allowing her to survive to see the Third Reich crumble and eventually begin a family in Palestine. Because of the variety of the author's experiences and the power of their expression here, if you could only read one Holocaust memoir this should be the one. (b&w photos, not seen) -- Copyright ©1998, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

When my husband and I were in Prague a couple of years ago, we went to Theresienstadt. It was

shocking experience for both of us. The place is a lesson in history. Neither my husband or I are old enough to remember World War II so we were doubly shocked by the place where the Germans used as a show place to convince organizations like the Red Cross that prisoners had a place to lead a respectable life. It was a horror for both of us. We were shocked there was a town around the concentration camp. There was still a crematorium. We could not understand how people can still live in this town where so much tragedy existed. I asked our local tour guide if there were many neutrals during the war, expecting a vague response. She said yes, and her grandparents were neutral. I couldn't believe her openness about such a controversial issue. Enough about what I thought of the "camp". The author does a good job of telling her experiences and the trauma and tragedy she experienced. I think it is different from any other book I used for research before I visited Theresienstadt. The horror is so noticeable there, but the effect on the prisoners is so much more personal. Read this book and help that nothing like this ever happens again. We must work together for this.

So much has been written about the Holocaust that an interested reader hardly knows where to begin. I suggest this book. The suffering, the cruelty, the bigotry are so difficult to believe, in spite of how much we already know. It is nearly impossible to fathom these events when we are confronted with such a deeply personal, tragic first-person account. I salute Ruth Elias for her skillful authorship, but mainly for her courage. It took remarkable courage even to take one breath after another and go on living through such pain. This book deserves to be read. And if you are an intelligent reader, you deserve to read it. Recommended most highly.

This was such a beautiful and emotional read. Very different from many of the popular stories of her time. This is a story of loss and perseverance, and I recommend it to anyone looking for a woman's perspective during WW2.

This is not an easy book to read. There were parts that were so tragic, so profoundly evil that I wanted to skip over them because they made me so uncomfortable. But I did not. Because facing these cruelties is an important part of preventing them from happening again. Overall Mrs. Elias does an amazing job of sharing her experiences.

The best story I've ever read about strength, hope, promise and a will to live regarding the Holocaust. There were some pages that I was crying so hard, I had to put the book down until I

could settle myself before I could continue reading. I felt as though I knew Ruth Elias personally by the end of the memoir. What an amazing woman as well as all the people she encountered throughout her ordeal who were willing to stand by her side.

I have, through the miracle of Google, just reconnected with my father's family. We always believed that they had all perished in the Holocaust. Ruth Elias was my first cousin. This book is the greatest gift I have ever been given. It tells the wonders of the life my family had before the war and the horror of the Nazis. My family lost everything to the Nazis. But there is a miracle in her survival. I cannot begin to comprehend how one would continue to wish to live. It is not just a triumph of hope but the triumph of the human spirit.

Ruth Elias beautifully presented a documentary of the horrible crimes committed in the war. Heartbreak & sadness filled my heart during the reading of this book. I pray for Israel in my daily prayers.

This is an inspirational true story of a survivor of the Holocaust in Europe. Ruth Elias triumphed over some of the most brutal and inhumane conditions imaginable and proceeded to marry, have children and live a productive life. A real heroine and example of the triumph of the human spirit.

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