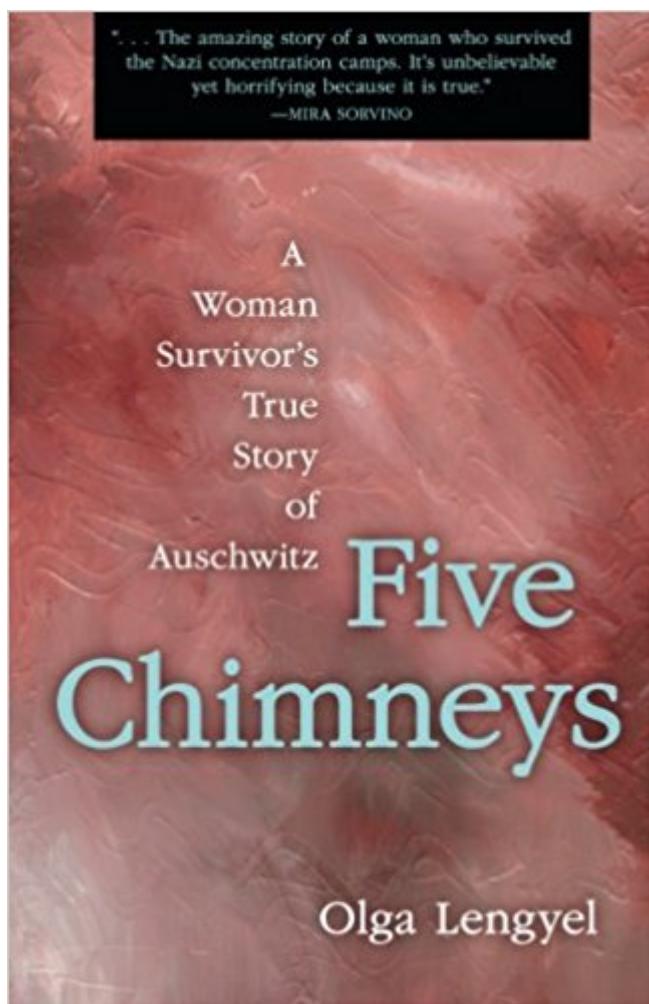


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# Five Chimneys: A Woman Survivor's True Story Of Auschwitz



## Synopsis

Olga Lengyel tells, frankly and without compromise, one of the most horrifying stories of all time. This true, documented chronicle is the intimate, day-to-day record of a beautiful woman who survived the nightmare of Auschwitz and Birchenau. This book is a necessary reminder of one of the ugliest chapters in the history of human civilization. It was a shocking experience. It is a shocking book.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"You have done a real service by letting the ones who are now silent and most forgotten speak."  
• Albert Einstein "This book is more moving than earlier descriptions of the death camps because it is vividly articulated, not by a sympathetic observer, but by one of the few who survived the horror." • San Francisco Chronicle "It is a picture of utter hell." • Saturday Review of Literature

Text: English, French (translation) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is a scary and disturbing book. I am a middle aged woman, and have read my share of Holocaust books- and this one gave me nightmares. There's been a lot written about life in concentration and death camps, but what makes this book unique is that the author is not Jewish. She wasn't taken from her home or even forced to go- she went because her husband was sent. So

she willingly went along, with her children and parents as well so the family could at least be together. The smiling authorities assured them of their safety. All would be well, they wouldn't be separated, the war would be over soon and everyone would go back to their happy lives. Of course that couldn't be further from the reality.... the author was the only survivor and her guilt is palpable. More than Ann Frank's diary, this is the book that should be given to high school students who would have a hard time understanding how normal, every day people were placed in almost unbelievable positions of master and slave. How many of us would have gone along with the Nazi regime, and followed orders? On the other hand, how many of us could survive the unspeakable conditions of the camps. The absolutely arbitrary chance of surviving is difficult to wrap your head around, there was no such thing as a predictable way to survive. And to survive and have your life but nothing else- no family, no home, nothing at all. Perhaps the most poignant moment was when the author finally found her way to the family home, the neighborhood she lived in with everything and everyone she knew gone forever. Unimaginable. Humanity at its absolute worst in this book, with very little in the way of redemption, yet highly readable and very critical that future generations never forget what happened and how easily it can happen again -and indeed, has.

The presentation of the brutality that these people suffered, the descriptors of the human indignity and the courage of the writer to put to words her inhumane treatment lend to the historical documentation that one in 2017 would not believe.

One of the better accounts of the Holocaust written by an actual survivor. The writing is rich with facts and feelings, making this book a reliable reference for both the historical and psychological impact of this horrific time. Four stars because the last chapter veered sharply away from the prior rhythm of the book. It felt rushed and possibly written by a different author in that the events described felt insincere and possibly contrived. However, up to that point this book is a winner and worth reading more than once.

We are used to imagining the Holocaust in mind numbing numbers. The story of one woman in this hell gives a different perspective. This is a deeply personal, detailed look at what it was like to live through horrors unimaginable to those of us spared this experience. Instead of trying to imagine the Holocaust in huge numbers, this is a view from under a microscope, a day to day detailed description of what those huge numbers actually suffered.

I've read many books on the Holocaust but this one was so well written, one can imagine what it was like. Hell on earth! The courage and determination it took to live through that horror is something few people have. This accounting included descriptions of all aspects of life for the inmates and how the Germans lived inside the camp and their cruelty toward inmates. I was stunned by the photos, a picture is worth a thousand words!

A true historical book on Germany's atrocities to the Jews during World War II-The author Olga Lengyel is a miraculous survivor and it is amazing that she was able to write a book after she survived all her time in the Nazi extermination camps Auschwitz and Birkenau, when the war ended. She and her husband were physicians and the family was highly respected in their home country, before they were taken by the Nazis to their camps of pure Hell. How hard it would have been for someone like them to go through what they did, to survive! Even though imprisoned, she still gave of herself in attempting to treating the sick medically! How honorable! Reading a book like this is astonishing, in the realization that humanity could perpetrate what the Germans did to even women, the elderly and children ! !

It is just emotionally possible to read Olga Lengyel's account of her experience in Birkenau because of her generally cool and somewhat detached style. This makes it possible to enter the terrible world she describes. In spite of that, there are still absolutely heartbreaking events that describes that make it very hard to read, at times. I would recommend her book to anyone who wants to read a first-hand account of a survivor of a Nazi death camp.

This is an account of a woman's experiences at Auschwitz written soon after her escape as the camp was being liberated by the Russian Army. As such it no doubt contains details and descriptions that might have been lost if it were written years later as many accounts were. This, however, leads to its weakness which is a lack of editing making it harder to read; some situations are not fully explained and some accounts are incomplete. Nevertheless it is a powerful and gripping account if one the world's worst times. It is a 'must read' for those interested in the history of WW II.

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