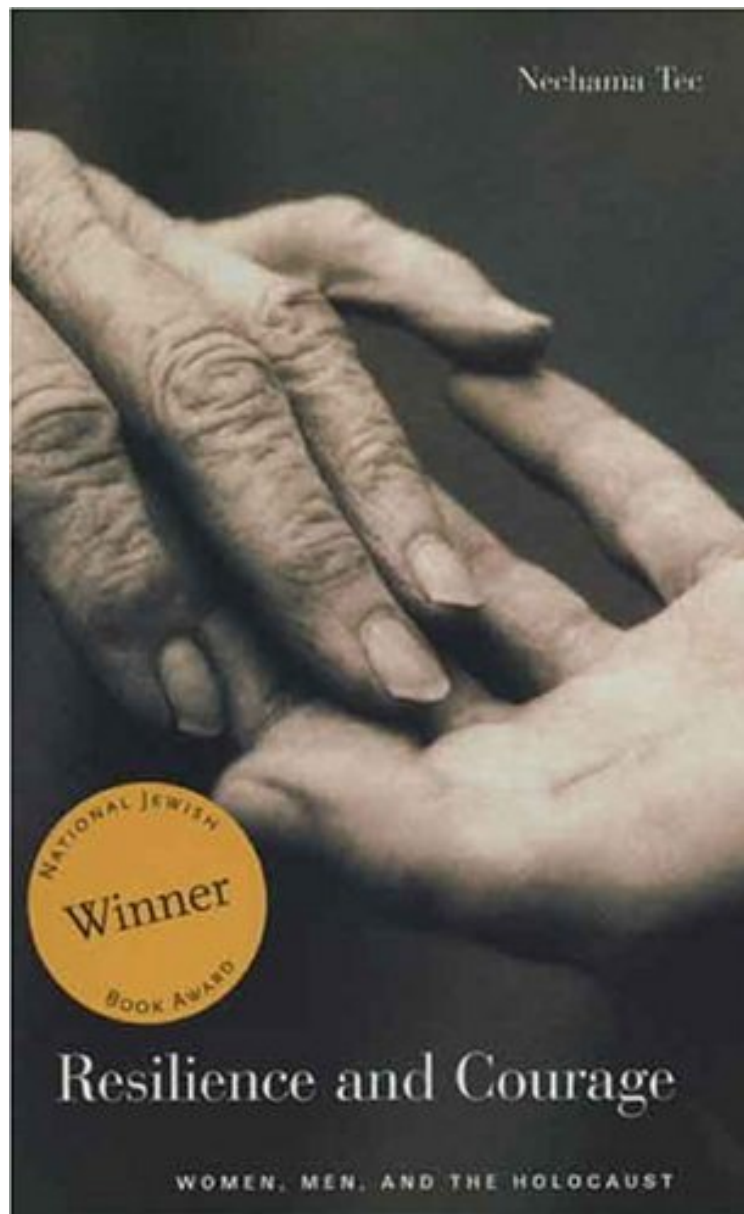


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Resilience and Courage: Women, Men and the Holocaust

Nechama Tec

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Nechama Tec : Resilience and Courage: Women, Men and the Holocaust before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Resilience and Courage: Women, Men and the Holocaust:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Resilience and Courage By Nancy De Napoli Excellent. I have read two of Ms Tec;s books and this is of the same high caliber. 15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Hidden

history made visible: a stunning book
By Anne Mini
What can I say about Resilience and Courage that the nominating committees for the Pulitzer and National Book Award have not already said? This is an amazing book -- and perhaps its most astonishing achievement is to show inherently depressing historical incidents through a series of admittedly small, but powerfully meaningful, everyday acts of resistance. Ultimately, Tec's most impressive achievement within this elegantly written and extensively researched book is that she manages to weave literally hundreds of first-person accounts of individual suffering into a book that feels empowering to read. The courage of the women (and men as well) whose stories Tec tells is so beautifully human, even under the worst possible circumstances. Tec's undeniable skill as a storyteller (and as a researcher -- the extent of the background research here is vast) draw the reader into her subjects' lives, in an intimate manner that leaves an indelible impression upon the reader. This is not a book you will soon forget, if ever. Some readers may find the introductory chapter's description of research methodology a bit dry (it would have perhaps been better placed into an appendix), but once the case studies begin, the pace is swift and the stories devastating. A bravura performance by one of the world's leading Holocaust scholars!
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Marvelous; Holocaust educators: use it in your classes!
By Tom M
Tec has produced many very valuable texts in her long career. This is perhaps her finest work, and it puts attention on issues that are still under-researched (gender in particular). The book is highly readable, and I've used it in under-grad classes and gotten good feedback from my students. Tec integrates interview excerpts with her own observations, so the human element strongly emerges, and makes the 300+ pages go by fairly quickly. We still need more work on gender/women the Holocaust... Kaplan, Bergen, and Koonz are also very good. Vera Laska wrote an excellent study of Jewish women and resistance, but it's a bit dated now.

In this riveting book Nechama Tec offers insights into the differences between the experiences of Jewish women and men during the Holocaust. Her research draws on a variety of sources: wartime diaries, postwar memoirs, a range of archival materials, and most important, direct interviews with Holocaust survivors. Tec reveals how women and men on the road to annihilation developed distinct coping strategies and how mutual cooperation and compassion operated across gender lines. Tec is able to paint a more nuanced picture of the realities of Jewish resistance than previous historians. . . . A remarkable and important book. Tikkun "Tec offers compelling evidence that gender-related analyses add significantly to our understanding of Jewish experiences during the Holocaust. Jewish Book World While this is a work of powerful emotionality, it is also a groundbreaking study of how gender is inexplicably bound to history and experience. Publishers Weekly (starred review)

From Publishers Weekly "I remember once she got hold of some mildewed flour. Mother baked rolls out of it. Everyone got one roll. And after I finished, I asked her, 'Mom, maybe I could have another roll?' And she just started crying." It is details like this that make Tec's book both historically vital and emotionally unsettling. Drawing upon dozens of interviews with Holocaust survivors, Tec (who won a Christopher Award for her 1991 *The Lion's Den: The Life of Oswald Rufeisen*) has attempted to understand how gender influenced the experience of the Holocaust—a topic rarely treated in comprehensively before. This alone makes Tec's book almost unique, but her amazing skill as an interviewer and accomplished ability to analyze this raw material in a historical context makes this a significant addition to the field. Tec organizes a tremendous amount of personal and historical material succinctly—in such chapters as "Life in the Ghetto," "Leaving the Ghetto," "The Concentration Camps"—while making nuanced connections. She notes, for instance, that, in the early stages of Nazi control, the self-esteem of Jewish men was damaged by new laws forbidding them to work; in the camps men were "more affected by their prewar social standing than women." Often she comes up with surprising data, observing, for instance, that while women frequently and easily took on the "male role" when needed, when Jewish men did have more power (as among partisans in the forests), women were expected to return to their roles as caregivers and sexual partners. While this is a work of powerful emotionality, it is also a groundbreaking study of how gender is inexplicably bound to history and experience. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. In this riveting and poignant book Nechama Tec offers groundbreaking insights into the differences between the experiences of Jewish women and men during the Holocaust. Drawing on the personal stories of numerous survivors and rescuers, Tec reveals how the coping strategies and ultimate fate of men and women differed and how mutual cooperation and compassion operated across gender lines.