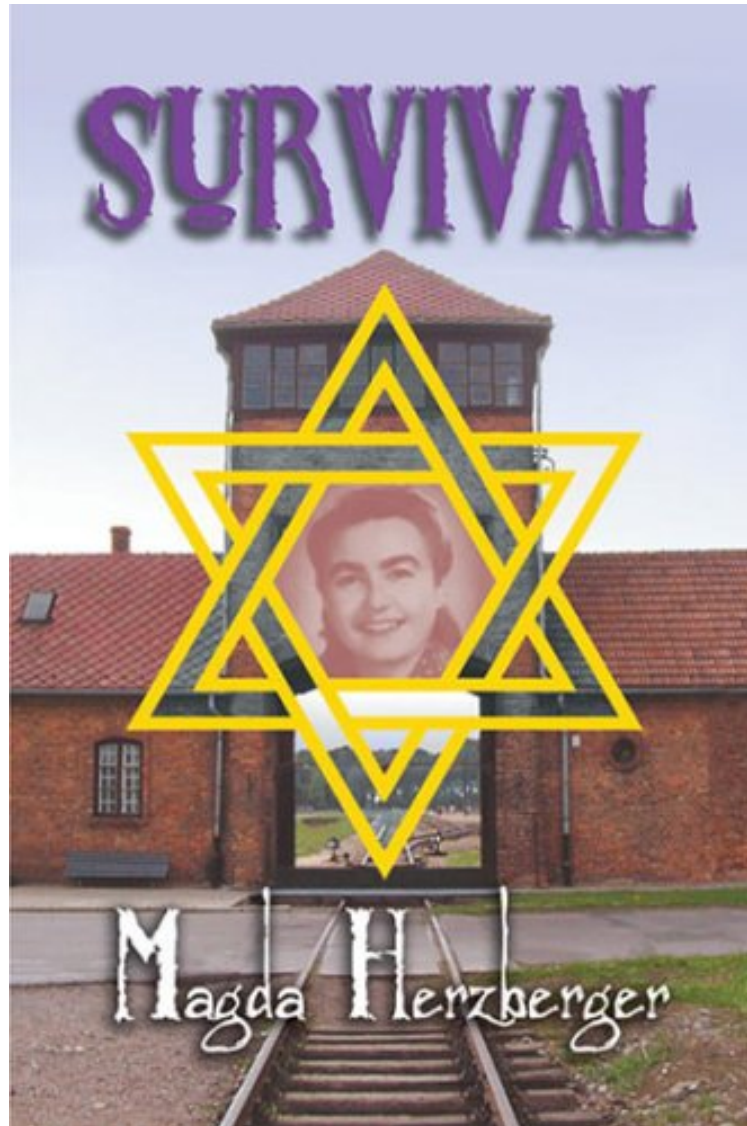


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## Survival

*Magda Herzberger*

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**Magda Herzberger : Survival** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Survival:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This book is just like talking to her By Pati Spielmann I met Magda in middle school and her husband performed brain surgery on my dad in the 80s, they are incredible loving people full of wisdom. This book is just like talking to her! Not only do you experience the history of her story, it is brimming with life lessons for any age. Parents you must buy this and keep it on your shelf, it helps your kids to understand the

Holocaust and they will learn so many inspiring lessons from Magda. She's a physically and mentally strong lady who demonstrates the value of family bonds, physical fitness, being a good scholar, and caring for others with all your heart no matter what. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic story of remembrance and hope, wrapped in a shell of exuberant, passionate writing

By CustomerSurvivalThis is not just another Holocaust book. Magda's story is a slap in the face to the "historians" and racists who deny that the Holocaust ever took place. But this book is so much more than a historical document; it is the story about one woman's courageous life, and a life that has been lived to the full. I had the pleasure of hearing Magda share her story at our Messianic Congregation. Magda is willing to share her story with both Christians and Messianic Jews because she loves God and loves people. She is a bundle of energy, and if you ever get the chance to see her in person, I would highly recommend that you do so. The book seems to fly by as we see the life of Magda transition from a happy, athletic child to a left-for-dead survivor, to her development into vibrant adulthood. The part where she is re-united with her mother is priceless; Magda's mother saved a change of clothes and some chocolates in case her daughter would ever return, and Baruch HaShem she did. Magda is also a poet, and she has many poems mixed in; one that stuck me in particular was one she recited when she thought she would die near the camps. The poem is a chilling reminder of the powerful emotions one would feel at that time when normal words cannot adequately explain our emotions. What I really loved about her work, oral and written, is that she has a wonderful balance of remembrance and hope. She does not forget or ignore the past, but neither does she let it impede her. We remember the horror, but we also get to hear about how after the war she went to medical college, found the love of her life (recently celebrating 60 years of marriage), and became a poet and an inspirational speaker. This book is important for both Jews and Christians to read. Both will walk away blessed. But also to those who feel that there is no hope in the world, this is a great example to demonstrate the opposite. Don't miss an opportunity to see what one woman did who was described as "saved by God." It will warm your heart.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A very good read

By TerriMy book club had this book recommended to us. I'm very glad to have read it. It was insightful, informative and very well written.

The Autobiography of a Young Woman Who Survived the Horrors of the Nazi Death Camps. Survival is an autobiography in which the author relates her experiences and her struggle to survive during her captivity as a young, 18-year-old girl in the three German concentration camps: Auschwitz, Bremen, and Bergen Belsen. Being of Jewish descent she had been deported with her family and in the camps encountered the danger and the probability of being killed one way or another on a daily basis. She also depicts the senseless deaths of her fellow prisoners. The book gives an insight into the author's childhood and adolescent years, where the concept of anything like this happening was beyond belief. The reader finds out about her family background and the historical events that took place in her native city in Romania during that time. The political changes which occurred during World War II played a crucial role in her destiny and the fate of the Jewish people. Magda also conveys how she coped with the grief and pain of losing so many members of her family, including her father, in the Holocaust. Then she speaks about her gradual recovery from the wounds of the Holocaust and her ultimate reunion with her mother. Magda's poetry is included in the book.

From the PublisherWe're a small publisher in Austin, Texas that has been blessed by this book. We believe that "Survival" is the finest personal story ever written of life at three of the Nazi death camps: Auschwitz, Bremen, and Bergen Belsen. Magda came to us two and a half years ago wanting to do a book on surviving difficult times. When we read the stories and poems that she had written to support her concept, we knew immediately that she needed to write her autobiography. This is "Survival," her autobiography of the time from her birth to her liberation from Bergen-Belsen by the British. This book speaks to us and our time as few others do. When you're finished reading it, you will want to pass it on ... or, purchase additional copies for friends and relatives. We need you! We're too small to get this book the visibility that it truly deserves; please, if you agree that this book is worthy of national attention, tell others, especially those who might have influence. We are dependent on word-of-mouth advertising ... please help.

About the AuthorMagda Herzberger was born and raised in the city of Cluj, Romania. Being of Jewish faith, she and her family were deported to the German concentration camps in 1944 when the Nazi's occupied her native city. She is a survivor of three death camps: Auschwitz, Bremen, and Bergen Belsen. Most of her family members were killed by the Nazis. Her mother survived until 1994, passing away at the age of 93. Magda is a poet, lecturer, and composer. She is also the author of four previously published books: The Waltz of the Shadows (an autobiography in poetry form), Eyewitness to Holocaust (an autobiographical essay consisting of prose and poetry), Will You Still Love Me? (a collection of love poems dedicated to her husband), and Songs of Life (a poetry book with a variety of subjects). Even though out-of-print, all four of these books are available in limited quantities from 1st World Library. When requested, Magda will autograph each book sold with a special message. For the past 31 years Magda has been lecturing about the Holocaust and reading her poetry in schools, universities, church organizations, nursing homes, literary organizations, etc. She has also participated in many TV and radio programs. Magda was a marathon runner, skier, and mountain climber. She and her husband, Dr. Eugene Herzberger, a retired neurosurgeon, reside in Fountain Hills, Arizona. They have a

daughter, Monica; a son, Henry; and two grandchildren. Survival is her "Magnum Opus." Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. From the Foreword by Dr. Moshe Carmilly-Weinberger "Write, Jewish Children!" ("Schreibts, Jidische Kinder!") were supposedly Simon Dubnovs, the famous Jewish historians, last words from the death-train before it left the railway station of Riga. He was the author of an excellent Jewish history entitled: Die Weltgeschichte des Jüdischen Volkes (The World History of the Jewish People). He knew the value of the written word. He cried out as his last testimony: "Schreibts, Jidische Kinder!" "Verba volant, scripta manent!" Words have wings, fly away easily, but written words have everlasting power. Are we able to put in words our deepest feelings, pain, and suffering? Expressionist painters tried to demonstrate anguish, torment, and agony in their artistic works. For example Käthe Kollwitz in her drawing, "Sorrow," was able to express, with a few brush strokes, a woman's grief. Can we forget Edward Munch's famous painting, "The Scream," a young man standing alone on a bridge under a turbulent, red sky calling for help? In the far distance the silhouette of two people is visible. It appears that they walked away as if they didn't want to hear the tremendous call for assistance. The Jewish people were the lonely ones, who stood alone in the world when nobody was willing to hear the bitter cry which reverberated all over Europe and America. Six million Jews, including one and a half million innocent children, were annihilated. What a miracle that a few escaped death and tried to rebuild their lives. Slowly they regained their human feelings and revitalized their strength. The Holocaust survivors started to reconstruct the tragic events of the past and to place it in historical perspective. "Schreibts, Jidische Kinder!" A storm of unbelievable, inhuman attacks, torment, and misery came alive on paper as hundreds of survivors took pen in hand and started to write and to publish their memories. Each personal report is not only a personal communication, but a confession, too, in order to get some relief from the unbearable past. The distinctness in these accounts is natural. It is not an easy task to relive, to bring back the terror of Auschwitz. But they courageously followed the biblical command, "Zachor al tishkah!" ("Remember! Do not forget!"). Magda Herzberger, an excellent student of the Jewish Gymnasium (Jewish High School) in Kolozsvár in the years 1940-1944, fulfills that task. She understands the power of the written word. A multifaceted, talented poet, writer, and composer, shaken by suffering experienced in the death camps of Auschwitz, Bremen, and Bergen-Belsen, was able to write lyrical poetry. Human voices are heard in her poetic works: Songs of Life, The Waltz of the Shadow, and Will You Still Love Me? With her poetic talent and her musical ability she composed a "Requiem" for solo and choir, in memory of those who perished in the death camps. The suffering of Job can be heard in this musical composition. Before us now is her "magnum opus" called Survival (1st World Library, Austin, Texas, 2005). Magda Herzberger describes in her book the fight between life and death. It is a "death-dance" (known as "Totentanz"). The naked reality of the death camps is before our eyes. Total lack of compassion, inhumanity, and despotic harshness is the daily reality of her and her fellow inmates. Magda Herzberger looks in vain for human understanding among her captors. In that unbelievable hell, she finds human voices only in her sensitive heart. She prays. She believes in a better future. In October 1945 Magda returned to her city (Kolozsvár-Cluj). She rang the bell of her home. "A window opened. I heard my mother's voice, Who is there? It is your daughter coming home!" It would have been a great loss if Magda Herzberger's Survival had not been written. In a dark world it provides a profound insight. Moshe Carmilly-Weinberger New York, March 2005 ----- On the Way to the Grave by Magda Herzberger We were hauled into the somber freight cars and placed behind bars. Then, the doors were locked, our freedom was taken; we were left in the darkness, doomed and forsaken, ready to be shipped to our place of execution. The slow puffing of the steam engine grew faster and faster, as the locomotive pulled us further and further into the unknown. As the train rolled on and on, our last spark of hope was gone. Some of us cried, others tried to rebel, in vain. Sorrow and pain crept into our hearts, chilling our bodies, clouding our minds. But gradually most of us succumbed to the strong power of destiny, sitting silently, hour after hour on the cold, wooden floor, lamenting no more. Only a few were still pounding the heavy door with their fists, and shouting, "Open up! Why are we here?" No one could hear our desperate outcry. Then suddenly the train stopped. We were in Germany, facing the barbed-wire fence of Auschwitz. Humiliated, heartbroken, waiting for the judgment of guilt to be pronounced on the innocent. Each of us was possessed by fear. We were so near to death that we could feel its breath. We were robbed, trapped. And with horror, into the German concentration camp we stepped! \* \* \* \* \* We entered the gate of the greatest annihilation camp in Germany: Auschwitz, situated forty miles from the Polish city of Krakow occupied by the Germans. A large sign on the gate declared "Arbeit macht frei" ("Work gives you freedom"). Crammed into railroad cattle cars, we had traveled for three days and three nights from my childhood home in the city of Kolozsvár, Hungary. It was the intention of our captors to completely erase our identities. I decided not to let them. Who was that eighteen-year-old girl who stood before that ominous gate that May morning in 1944?