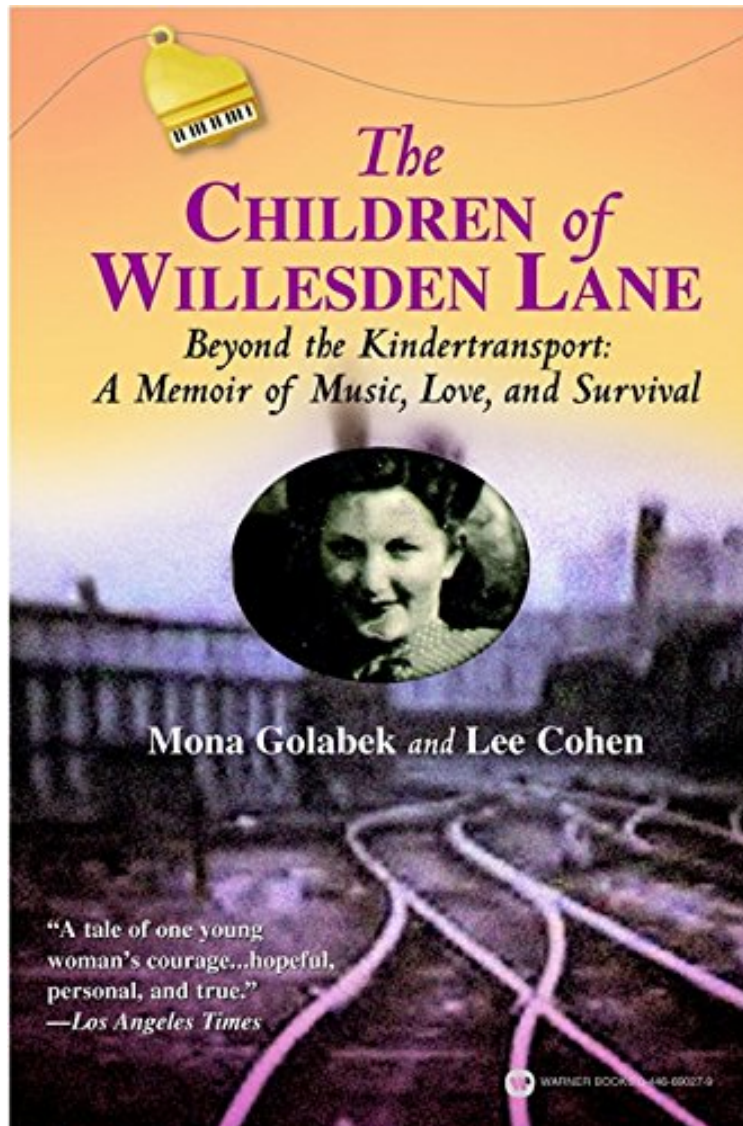


[FREE] The Children of Willesden Lane: Beyond the Kindertransport: A Memoir of Music, Love, and Survival

## The Children of Willesden Lane: Beyond the Kindertransport: A Memoir of Music, Love, and Survival

Mona Golabek, Lee Cohen  
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**Mona Golabek, Lee Cohen : The Children of Willesden Lane: Beyond the Kindertransport: A Memoir of Music, Love, and Survival** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Children of Willesden Lane: Beyond the Kindertransport: A Memoir of Music, Love, and Survival:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic Narration of a WWII Survival StoryBy L. CramerI met

Mona in a coffeeshop. What a sweet lady! We talked for some time about how young people (my age 22 and younger) are seeing a trend of pop culture references that make light of the Holocaust and WWII. There are few survivors left, and someone needs to tell the stories the way they should be told, the way we should remember. Mona Lee Cohen does exactly that in this book. They tell the heartfelt story of their mother Lisa Jura, based entirely on true stories and real people. Jura's family sent her to England as a young child on the Kindertransport, in hopes that she could use her brilliant talent as a pianist to make a life for herself. She had to leave her parents, sisters, friends, and neighbors behind. But despite her fears, loneliness, and confusion (why would the Nazis do this?), Lisa Jura always found a way to be thankful, polite, and appreciative of the good things in life. This is more than just a survival story; it's a story about how she and the other Jewish children refugees found ways to make their lives rich and meaningful in times when life didn't seem to make sense. This is a quick read -- in one sitting in case you get addicted, and can't put it down! -- and very uplifting. It reminds you to be thankful for what you've got, and not brood on what could have or would have been. It is not a depressing book, but it will bring tears to your eyes! I shared this book with family and friends, and everyone loves it so much that they've asked to buy their own copies. \*\*\*\*\* FIVE STARS 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Interesting and educational By Quille I didn't know what to expect from this memoir-style book but ended up liking it very much. The real-life story of a young girl's escape from Nazi-occupied Vienna to the completely different world of London is compelling and touching. It's also informative about what life was like living in greater London during the heavy bombing. Kudos to the residents who "stayed calm and carried on." Such conditions are difficult to imagine. Lisa's determination is inspiring as she struggles to keep a promise made to her mother to continue her music studies. The lives of her closest friends in the refugee orphanage are also hinted at. They all served as a substitute family in place of the ones they left behind. I give it four stars instead of five only because the story is told second-hand. The author, Maya Golabek, is Lisa's daughter. She does a fine job of evoking the time and place and covering the major points of her mother's life. Still, it's always preferable to get such a story firsthand. But overall, this was an excellent book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Highly recommended By Margaret C. Zabel Amazing, heart-warming life story. I cried. Highly recommended for music lovers, biography lovers, history buffs, and people in general. It is perhaps not obvious from the title, but this is a Holocaust story that never enters a camp. It is about not knowing and caring so much it hurts. Lisa Jura, one of the Children, is sent to London on the Kindertransport soon after Kristallnacht. Her parents are taken by the Holocaust, but she does not know this for sure until months, maybe years, after the war is over. This book provided a new and unexpected point-of-view plus the wonderful details of a tale of growing up in wartime poverty that Lisa does not allow to define her.

Based on the true story of her mother, Mona Golabek describes the inspirational story of Lisa Jura Golabek's escape from Nazi-controlled Austria to England on the famed Kindertransport. Jewish musical prodigy Lisa Jura has a wonderful life in Vienna. But when the Nazis start closing in on the city, life changes irreversibly. Although he has three daughters, Lisa's father is only able to secure one berth on the Kindertransport. The family decides to send Lisa to London so that she may pursue her dreams of a career as a concert pianist. Separated from her beloved family, Lisa bravely endures the trip and a disastrous posting outside London before finding her way to the Willesden Lane Orphanage. It is in this orphanage that Lisa's story truly comes to life. Her music inspires the other orphanage children, and they, in turn, cheer her on in her efforts to make good on her promise to her family to realize her musical potential. Through hard work and sheer pluck, Lisa wins a scholarship to study piano at the Royal Academy. As she supports herself and studies, she makes a new life for herself and dreams of reconnecting with the family she was forced to leave behind. The resulting tale delivers a message of the power of music to uplift the human spirit and to grant the individual soul endurance, patience, and peace.

From Publishers Weekly One of 10,000 Jewish children sent to England by fearful parents at the dawn of WWII, aspiring pianist Lisa Jura was 14 when her family put her on a Kindertransport train in Vienna. In this alternately heart-wrenching and uplifting story, Jura's daughter, Golabek, a pianist, and writer Cohen trace the six years Jura spent in London, where she found surrogate families in the 31 other young refugees at the Willesden Lane hostel, and in the working-class British women at the East End garment factory that employed her. The authors beautifully capture Jura's passion for music and her determination to realize her dream of becoming a concert pianist. Her quest to win a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music seems to inject hope into everyone with whom she comes into contact: the hostel owner provides her with a piano and practice time, her housemates band together to drill her on technique and theory, and a co-worker makes her an audition outfit. Yet this is no *Babes in Arms*. Jura's struggle to hold herself together on the trip to England and as she makes a life for herself without the guidance of her beloved mother is as bleak as her musical successes are joyful. And the depictions of V-Day are especially vivid: rather than celebrate with the masses, Jura retreats to the hostel. The war may be over, but for her and her fellow young refugees waiting to learn the fate of their families, the tragedy will continue. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. "A deeply moving and heartfelt tale....Compelling." About the Author Mona Golabek is an internationally acclaimed concert

pianist, the host of the popular syndicated classical music radio show, "The Romantic Hours," and Grammy-nominated recording artist. With her sister, Rene Golabek Kaye, she has performed at the Hollywood Bowl, Kennedy Center, and London's Festival Hall. Ms. Golabek lives in Los Angeles. Lee Cohen is a journalist, screenwriter, and poet. He lives in Los Angeles.