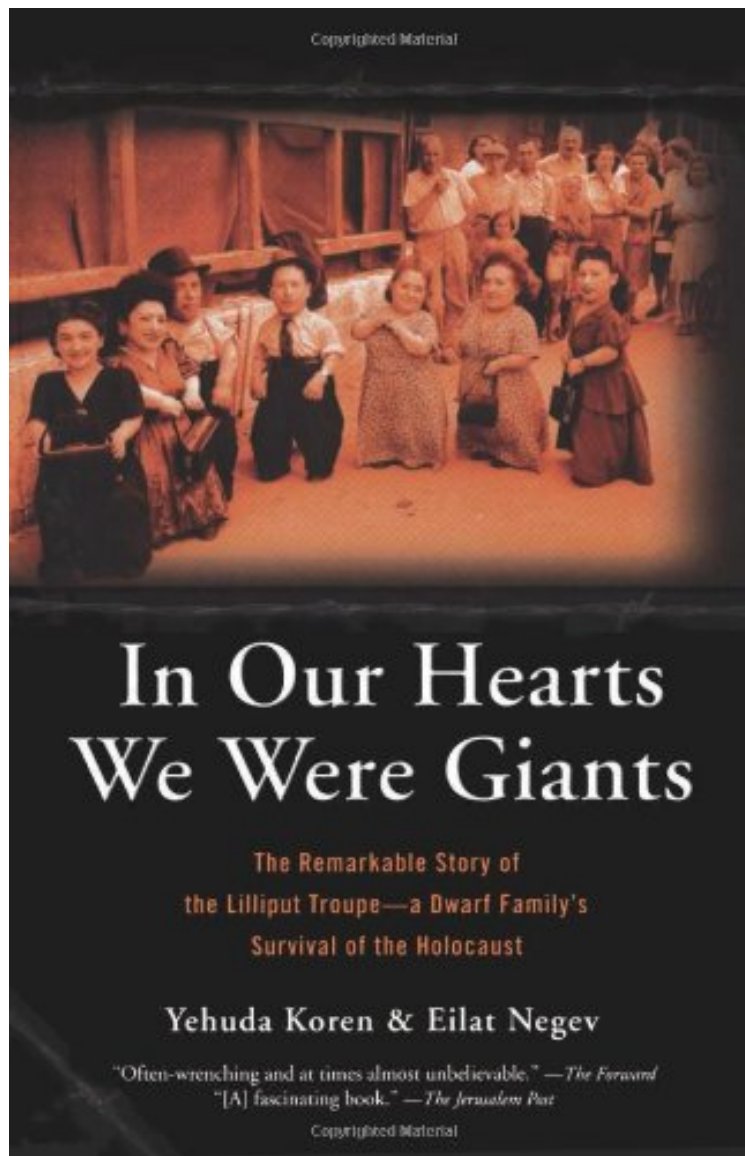


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In Our Hearts We Were Giants: The Remarkable Story of the Lilliput Troupe: A Dwarf Family's Survival of the Holocaust

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#531869 in Books Yehuda Koren 2005-06-10Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.63 x .75 x 5.50l, .96 #File Name: 0786715553320 pagesIn Our Hearts We Were Giants | File size: 16.Mb

Yehuda Koren, Eilat Negev : In Our Hearts We Were Giants: The Remarkable Story of the Lilliput Troupe: A Dwarf Family's Survival of the Holocaust before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In Our Hearts We Were Giants: The Remarkable Story of the Lilliput Troupe: A Dwarf Family's Survival of the Holocaust:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great Book, Not A Light ReadBy Blues BabeThis is an interesting but very poignant and at times, distressing tale. The book was well-researched and written and the photos were a great enhancement to the story but be warned; this is not a book to read for entertainment. However, for a student of history and human nature it is very worthwhile. This was a book that I had to walk away from on occasion because I felt sorrow and anger on behalf of the characters. Still, I was involved in the narrative and it never occurred to me to abandon the story. In the end I finished with admiration for the resilience and resourcefulness of the Ovitzs and appreciation of the enduring human and family values that led to their amazing survival during their imprisonment as well as throughout their lives. This story is a glimpse into a wide spectrum of individuals and societies of noble, ignoble, and horrendously evil character.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. They truly loved being artists and devoted a lot of time to ...By Rebecca BertishThis book was extremely heartbreaking and inspiring at the same time. I watched the documentary "seven dwarves of Auschwitz" and I had to know more about this incredible family. They truly loved being artists and devoted a lot of time to cater to their audiences. I have read a few memoirs about the holocaust, this one one showed how a group could somehow pull together and survive. They managed to stay positive even when they had no idea what was going to happen to them.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Incredible True StoryBy NHBUnionAfter watching the PBS special about a performing family of dwarves, The Lilliput Troupe, sent to Auschwitz during the holocaust, I had to read this book about the Ovitz family. Their tiny size made them special targets of the infamous Dr. Mengele's attention, who subjected them to near-constant measurements painful experiments, but ultimately their unusual size may have kept them from the gas chamber. The book is an inspiring page-turner about the life of this tiny indomitable family. But I was surprised reading elsewhere about a controversy involving their Auschwitz survival--evidently some fellow concentration camp survivors bitterly viewed the Ovitz family as near pets of Dr. Mengele.The 2 authors have done a wonderful job putting the family's story in book form. Not to be missed!

This remarkable, never-before-told account of the Ovitz family, seven of whose ten members were dwarfs, bears witness to the best and worst of humanity and to the terrible irony of the Ovitzes' fate: being burdened with dwarfism helped them endure the Holocaust. Through dogged research and interviews with Perla, the youngest Ovitz daughter and last surviving sibling, and other relatives, authors Yehuda Koren and Eilat Negev weave the tale of a beloved and successful family of performers who were popular entertainers in Central Europe until the Nazis deported them to Auschwitz in May 1944. Descending from the transport train into the hell of the concentration camp, the Ovitz family known widely as the Lilliput Troupewas separated from other Jewish victims. When Dr. Josef Mengele was then notified of their arrival, he assigned them to sequestered quarters. His horrific "research" on twins and other genetically unique individuals already under way, Mengele had special plans for the Ovitzes. The authors chronicle Mengele's loathsome experiments upon the family members, the disturbing fondness he developed for these small people, and their interminable will to make it out alive. Dozens of telling photographs are included in this horrifying yet remarkable tale of survival.

From Publishers WeeklyWhen the last of his 10 children was born in 1921, Shimshon Eizik Ovitz had the distinction of having fathered the largest dwarf family in the world. Twenty-four years later, his seven dwarf children, two of their normal-sized siblings and a handful of their spouses and cousins set a more tragic record as one of only two extended families to survive Auschwitz intact. The same physical characteristics that frequently rendered them helpless made them endlessly appealing to the notorious Dr. Josef Mengele, who tormented them in the name of genetic research. The Ovitz family history is fascinating, as is the dwarf lore that Israeli journalists Koren and Negev have unearthed, but the real dramaaside from the horror of the Holocaustis in the relationships the Ovitzes formed with Mengele as well as with one another, their spouses, extended family and with the Slomowitzes, fellow townspeople who pretended to be relatives so that they, too, would be spared. Much of the family history comes from the last surviving Ovitz daughter, Perla, who died in 2001, and her nephew, Shimshon, who was a toddler in Auschwitz. Perla is a compelling blend of pride and misery, her nephew a sorrowful adult whose difficult childhood was followed by a troubled adolescence. Their stories, and those of their family, are unique and unforgettable. 16 pages of photos not seen by PW. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistThe Ovitz family--seven dwarfs and three normal-statured siblings--traveled through Transylvania and neighboring lands singing songs for enthusiastic audiences in the 1930s and early 1940s. Then in 1944, they were shipped with thousands of other Jews to Auschwitz, where the infamous Dr. Mengele took an interest in them. Saved from immediate murder by Mengele, they were treated far better than the average resident of Auschwitz. Although forced to suffer through painful and humiliating medical tests, they kept their own clothes and were better fed than others at the camp. They survived Mengele's experiments, eventually moving to Israel and going on a successful reunion tour before retiring to run a cinema together. Employing information culled from interviews with friends and the last surviving Ovitz sister, Koren and Negev explore with considerable depth the Ovitzes' complicated relationships with their size; one another; and their awful savior, Mengele. The sometimes melodramatic writing detracts a bit from the inherently powerful

story, but this is a quirky, illuminating addition to Holocaust history. John GreenCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Amazing story sympathetically and eloquently told". Professor Istvan Deak, New York of Books March 2005. -- New York of Books, March 10, 2005