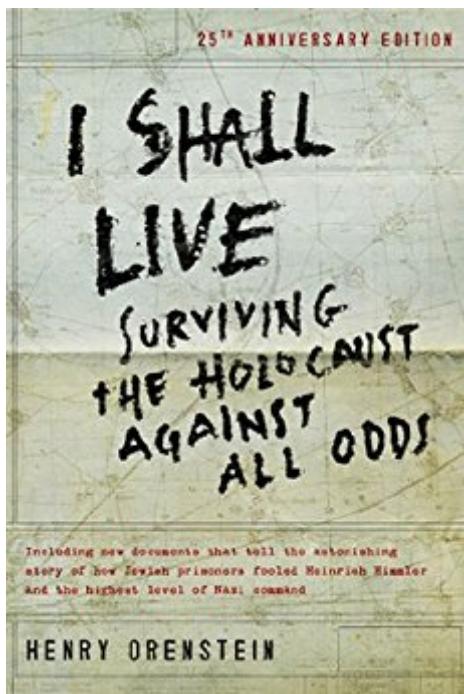


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# I Shall Live: Surviving The Holocaust Against All Odds



## **Synopsis**

I Shall Live tells the gripping true story of a Jewish family in Germany and Russia as the Nazi party gains power in Germany. When Henry Orenstein and his siblings end up in a series of concentrations camps, Orenstein's bravery and quick thinking help him to save himself and his brothers from execution by playing a role in the greatest hoax ever pulled on the upper echelons of Nazi command. Orenstein's lucid prose recreates this horrific time in history and his constant struggle for survival as the Nazis move him and his brothers through five concentration camps. His description of their roles in the fake Chemical Commando sheds new light on an incredible and generally unknown event in the history of the Holocaust. This edition of I Shall Live contains new evidence about this false Commando, including letters signed to and from Himmler himself.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Orenstein's view of the war is less familiar to most Americans who have only seen the concentration camps through the eyes of American liberators, with starved skeletal survivors being encountered and the stories of millions gassed and burned and buried in mass graves. His luck and resourcefulness in surviving the war and the concentration camps with two of his brothers is a

heartrending tale that humanizes the fate and circumstances of a few of the millions of Jews and other concentration camp prisoners who were poured into the meat grinder that was WWII in Europe. The story is a straightforward and well written account of his survival that will stay with you long after finishing his story.

I have read numerous books re the holocaust, but this is the first that I have read that tracks an entire family beginning with freedom to the death of some family members. It is a heart-felt, hear-breaking story of fear, loyalty, love of family and the sacrifices they made in their attempts to remain alive and together. Orenstein gives the reader a personal glimpse into his feelings of running, hiding, hoping and fearing not just for himself, but for his family. He paints a vivid picture of hiding atop a hay stack, inside fake walls, seeing his parents led off to be shot by the Nazis and life inside the various concentration camps where he, his brothers and sister were sent. He gives a very honest insight into how many of Poles thought about Jews during and after World War II, and he does not gloss over the fact that there were some Jews who cast their lot with the Nazis. This is not a book for the faint of heart, but it is one that I have recommended to others and shall read several times. How the author has managed to hopefully shed the horrors of concentration camps and become a successful businessman who is intent upon helping others is astounding!.

I have read a lot of Holocaust books and most of them tend to be specifically about the camps, which is fine if that's what you are looking for. This book expands on the camps and gives you an overview of how the war was proceeding as the Jewish people struggled.

Very good book about a time that never should have happened -- and which we need to remember, so it cannot happen again. This book is very useful in relating how normal lives were affect by Hitler, and also how the war progressed over the years.

The story was moving and many parts were horribly brutal; however, I do believe it was the real story. As I finished reading, I thought as I often do that the brutality of people who participated in such horrors will someday find that Karma will not be kind either. I hope they receive all that they deserve; the prisoners deserve our utmost respect; and those who survived should be honored always.

Incredible story and incredible writing. I read this in one night. I was so incredibly moved by what

these sweet people suffered from. I cannot imagine the pain, loss, and fear they went through every day. I was able to visit Dachau this year, and I thought about this book the whole time. I don't remember if he ever was at the Dachau camp, but seeing the roll call yard, the train platform, the incinerators - my gosh, I couldn't believe that it was only 70 years ago that this happened. The most meaningful part for me was when they woke up and the guards were gone. They just sat there. They didn't believe that they could truly be free. I cried so much when they finally realized they lived and survived. I felt like I was there watching them. I wish I could meet this man and tell him that he profoundly influenced me and my outlook on life. I feel like my eyes were opened to seeing the beauty in life - the little things. He went through such horrific things, but he kept putting one foot in front of the other.

Ah please let people never, ever forget what happened in Europe during World War Two... Henry Orenstein recounts in detail his early life in Poland and the lead up to the German (and Russian) invasions, as well as life on the run and finally as a slave in several different camps. The brutality, pain and abominations are very hard to read about, but it's important to read about them to make sure we never let this happen again. I found the story of the special "chemical" group so fascinating, how a small group of German scientists were able to keep a small group of Jews safe by giving them fake essential work... How did they decide on this plan?! Why pick from that camp specifically and not a larger one?! Never, ever forget.

Man's inhumanity to man. When will the human race ever learn to stop hating. Unfortunately, the answer seems to be never. I see the same things the Orensteins went through happening again. I'd like to believe "never again," but people don't seem to learn and always appear to look for a scapegoat. This book should speak to all who read it. It is uplifting to know a few people have good hearts and a love for their fellow man. But too many do not!

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