

# Delve Deeper into "Inheritance"

A film by James Moll

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Susan Conlon and Martha Perry of the Princeton Public Library, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary "Inheritance" that premieres on December 10th at 9 PM (check local listings at [www.pbs.org/pov/](http://www.pbs.org/pov/)).

Imagine watching "Schindler's List" and knowing the sadistic Nazi camp commandant played by Ralph Fiennes was your father. "Inheritance" is the story of Monika Hertwig, the daughter of mass murderer Amon Goeth. Hertwig has spent her life in the shadow of her father's sins, trying to come to terms with her "inheritance." She seeks out Helen Jonas, who was enslaved by Goeth and who is one of the few living eyewitnesses to his unspeakable brutality. The women's raw, emotional meeting unearths terrible truths and lingering questions about how the actions of our parents can continue to ripple through generations.

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## ADULT NONFICTION

**Bar-On, Dan.** *Legacy of Silence: Encounters with Children of the Third Reich.* Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1989. Israeli psychologist Bar-On traveled to Germany on four occasions to speak with men and women whose fathers had served in the Nazi elite.

**Bar-On, Dan.** *Tell Your Life Story: Creating Dialogue Among Jews and Germans, Israelis and Palestinians.* Budapest; New York: Central European University Press, 2006.

This book documents Bar-On's usage of storytelling as a biographical research method and as an intervention to help bridge differences amongst Holocaust survivors and descendants of Nazis and Israeli-Palestinians and Palestinians from the PNA.

**Beer, Edith Hahn with Susan Dworkin.** *The Nazi Officer's Wife: How One Jewish Woman Survived the Holocaust.* New York: Rob Weibach Books/William Morrow, 1999.

This memoir speaks of Beer's experience as a nonobservant, Jewish Viennese law student when the German Anschluss annexed Austria and Hitler began his rise to power.

**Berger, Alan L.** *Second Generation Voices: Reflections by Children of Holocaust Survivors and Perpetrators.* Syracuse University Press, 2001. This compilation includes 29 essays written by children of Holocaust survivors and children of German perpetrators.

**Crowe, David M.** *Oskar Schindler: The Untold Account of His Life, Wartime Activities, and the True Story Behind the List.* Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2004. Crowe acknowledges, but also moves beyond, the mythology that surrounds the figure of Oskar Schindler. Crowe examines every phase of Schindler's life and presents a savior, an opportunist and a spy who helped Nazi Germany conquer Poland. The true story of the famous "Schindler's List" is one of the most intriguing aspects of Crowe's portrait.

**Dressen, Willi and Ernst Klee, Volker Riess, eds.** *The Good Old Days: The Holocaust as Seen by Its Perpetrators and Bystanders.* William S. Konecky Associates, 1996. This book is a collection of interviews,

photographs, diary entries, and reports from German eyewitnesses, including members of the SS.

**Eisenstein, Bernice.** *I Was a Child of Holocaust Survivors.* New York: Riverhead Books, 2006. Bernice Eisenstein's parents met in Auschwitz and married shortly after Liberation before coming to Canada. Her memoir begins with recollections and images of her childhood within a Yiddish-speaking household in Toronto in the early 1950s. Her parents' experiences in the war, hardly spoken about, were always present.

**Epstein, Helen.** *Where She Came From: A Daughter's Search for Her Mother's History.* Boston: Little, Brown, 1997. This rich and compelling family saga by the author of *Children of the Holocaust* brings to life three generations of Czech-Jewish women--from the 19th century to the Holocaust and beyond.

**Fremont, Helen.** *After Long Silence: A Memoir.* New York: Delacorte Press, 1999. Helen Fremont was raised as a Roman Catholic. It wasn't until she was an adult, practicing law in Boston that she discovered her parents were Jewish, Holocaust survivors living invented lives. Even their names were not their own. In this memoir, Helen Fremont recounts a remarkable tale of survival -- as vivid as fiction -- but true.

**Lebert, Stephan and Norbert.** *My Father's Keeper: Children of Nazi Leaders--An Intimate History of Damage and Denial.* Boston: Little, Brown and Co., 2001. The stories of six children of Nazi leaders are portrayed through interviews and research.

**Ligocka, Roma; with Iris von Finckenstein; translated by Margot Bettauer Dembo.** *The Girl in the Red Coat: A Memoir.* New York: St. Martin's Press, 2002. The internationally bestselling memoir of survival and self-discovery by the woman whose childhood as the real-life girl in the red coat was so famously depicted in the film "Schindler's List".

**Patterson, David and John K. Roth, ed.** *After-Words: Post-Holocaust Struggles With Forgiveness, Reconciliation, Justice.* University of Washington Press, 2004. David Patterson and John K. Roth identify three "after-words" in the context of the Holocaust: forgiveness, reconciliation, and justice.

**Posner, Gerald L.** *Hitler's Children: Sons and Daughters of Leaders of the Third Reich Talk About Their Fathers and Themselves.* New York: Random House, 1991. Posner interviews and reports on modern Germans who have struggled to come to terms with their parents' or grandparents' associations with the Nazis.

**Schneider, Helga.** *Let Me Go.* New York: Walker & Co., 2004. In this extraordinary memoir, a daughter's sense of obligation collides with inescapable horror when she discovers that her mother abandoned her in 1941 Berlin to become a guard in Nazi concentration camps.



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**Shirer, William.** *Rise and Fall of the Third Reich.* Simon and Schuster, 1990. Shirer, a former radio journalist for CBS, wrote extensively about the history of Nazi Germany, using documents captured from the Third Reich.

**Sichrovsky, Peter and Jean Steinberg.** *Born Guilty: Children of Nazi Families.* New York: Basic Books, 1988. Sichrovsky documents fourteen interviews with children (and grandchildren) of Nazi war criminals.

**Wiesenthal, Simon.** *The Sunflower: On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness.* New York: Schocken Books, 1998. Robert Coles, The Dalai Lama, Matthew Fox, Mary Gordon, Harold S. Kushner, Albert Speer, Desmond Tutu, and 47 others respond to Wiesenthal's famous question: "Can evil be forgiven?"

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## ADULT FICTION

**Gutfrenud, Amir, translated by Jessica Cohen.** *Our Holocaust; Sho'ah Shelanu.* New Milford, CT: Toby, 2006. Amir and Effi are two Israeli children growing up in the Haifa suburbs and trying to make sense of a world in which all their elders and others they know have been damaged by the Holocaust.

**Sebald, Winfried Georg.** *The Emigrants.* New Directions, 1996. Four narratives that read like the biographies of four Jewish emigres: a painter, an elderly Russian, the author's schoolteacher as well as his eccentric great-uncle Ambrose. Sebald weaves together variant forms (travelogue, biography, autobiography, and historical monograph), combining precise documentary with fictional motifs.

**Wander, Fred, translated by Siebente Brunnen.** *The Seventh Well.* New York: W.W. Norton and Co., 2008. Fred Wander, who died in Vienna in 2006 at the age of ninety, was a survivor of some twenty concentration camps, but it was not until the death of his only daughter in 1970 that his recollections finally poured forth in the form of this harrowing work of fiction, first published in East Germany and written twenty-five years after Wander's miraculous release from the concentration camps.

**Wiesel, Elie, translated by David Hapgood.** *The Time of the Uprooted.* New York: Knopf, 2005. Gamaliel Friedman is only a child when his family flees Czechoslovakia in 1939 for the relative safety of Hungary. Eventually, he falls in with a group of exiles: a Spanish Civil War veteran, a survivor of the Warsaw ghetto, a victim of Stalinism, a former Israeli intelligence agent, and a rabbi - a mystic whose belief in the potential for grace in everyday life powerfully counters Gamaliel's feelings of loss and dispossession.

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## NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

**Adler, David S.** *A Hero and the Holocaust: The Story of Janusz Korczak and his Children.* New York: Holiday House, 2002. Grades 2-5. A brief biography of the Polish doctor, author, founder of orphanages, and promoter of children's rights, who lost his life trying to protect his orphans from the Nazis.

**Bartoletti, Susan Campbell.** *Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow.* New York: Scholastic Nonfiction, 2005. Grades 5-10. Bartoletti explores how Hitler gained the loyalty, trust, and passion of so many of Germany's young people.

**Frank, Anne.** *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl.* Geneva: Doubleday, 1967. A beloved classic since its initial publication in 1947, this vivid, insightful journal is a fitting memorial to the gifted Jewish teenager who died at Bergen-Belsen, Germany, in 1945. Born in 1929, Anne Frank received a blank diary on her 13th birthday, just weeks before she and her family went into hiding in Nazi-occupied Amsterdam. Her marvelously detailed, engagingly personal entries chronicle 25 trying months of claustrophobic, quarrelsome intimacy with her parents, sister, a second family, and a middle-aged dentist who has little tolerance for Anne's vivacity.

**Giblin, James.** *The Life and Death of Adolf Hitler.* New York: Clarion Books, 2002. Grades 6 and up. Traces Hitler's life from his childhood in Austria and his ambition to be an artist, to the forces that shaped the man including the social conditions that hastened his rise to power and to his final days in a bunker under Berlin.

**Greenfeld, Howard.** *After the Holocaust.* New York: Greenwillow Books, 2001. Grades 6 and up. Excerpts from personal interviews, including photographs of more than sixty-five survivors of the Holocaust.

**Hillman, Laura.** *I Will Plant You a Lilac Tree: A Memoir of a Schindler's List Survivor.* New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2005. Grades 8 and up. One woman's incredible story of finding courage, strength, and love during one of the most horrific times of the modern era.

**Label, Anita.** *No Pretty Pictures: A Child of War.* New York: Greenwillow Books, 1998. Grades 6 and up. The author, known as an illustrator of children's books, describes her experiences as a Polish Jew during World War II and for years in Sweden afterwards.

**Novac, Ana.** *The Beautiful Days of My Youth: My Six Months in Auschwitz and Plaszow.* New York: Henry Holt, 1997. Grades 7 and up. On scraps of paper hidden by friends and strangers until their dying moments, young Ana Novac kept a diary in Auschwitz, a testimony that deserves to become one of the most treasured books of our time.

**Zullo, Alan & Mara Bovsun.** *Survivors: True Stories of Children in the Holocaust.* New York: Scholastic, 2004. These are the true-life accounts of nine Jewish boys and girls whose lives spiraled into danger and fear as the Holocaust overtook Europe. In a time of great horror, these children each found a way to make it through the nightmare of war. Some made daring escapes into the unknown, others disguised their true identities, and many witnessed unimaginable horrors. But what they all shared was the unshakable belief in-- and hope for-- survival. Their legacy of courage in the face of hatred will move you, captivate you, and, ultimately, inspire you.



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**Boyne, John.** *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas: A Fable.* New York: David Fickling Books, 2006. Grades 7 and up. Bored and lonely after his family moves from Berlin to a place called "Out-With" in 1942, Bruno, the son of a Nazi officer, befriends a boy in striped pajamas who lives behind a wire fence.

**Lowry, Lois.** *Number the Stars.* Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1989. Grades 3-7. In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis. Winner 1989 Caldecott Award.

**Roy, Jennifer.** *Yellow Star.* Tarrytown, NY: Marshall Cavendish, 2006. Grades 4-9. From 1939, when Sylvia is four and a half years old, to 1945 when she has just turned ten, a Jewish girl and her family struggle to survive in Poland's Lodz ghetto during the Nazi occupation.

**Wolf, Joan M.** *Someone Named Eva.* New York: Clarion Books, 2007. Grades 4-8. From her home in Lidice, Czechoslovakia, in 1942, eleven-year-old Milada is taken with other blond, blue-eyed children to a school in Poland to be trained as "proper Germans" for adoption by German families, but all the while she remembers her true name and history.

**Zusak, Markus.** *The Book Thief.* New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006. Grades 7 and up. Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, the narrator, Death, relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors. Winner of 2007 Michael L. Printz Honor.

## FILMS/DOCUMENTARIES

**"Anne Frank: The Life of a Young Girl." A&E Home Video, 2004. (50 min).** No other 13-year-old girl in modern history has had as a profound effect on readers as Anne Frank. Born on June 12, 1929, in Frankfurt, Germany, Anne, her elder sister, and her parents fled Germany in 1933 for the Netherlands to escape Adolf Hitler and his Nazi regime. This installment of A&E's award-winning *Biography* series, *Anne Frank: The Life of a Young Girl*, takes viewers back to her 13th birthday when she received the red-and-white-checked diary she named Kitty. Just a few weeks later, Anne's Jewish family was forced into 25 months of hiding in the secret annex behind a bookshelf in her father's office. [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

**"Auschwitz – Inside the Nazi State." BBC Warner, 2005. (300 min).** More than any previous documentary about the Holocaust, *Auschwitz: Inside the Nazi State* reveals the inner workings of the Nazi implementation of Hitler's infamous "final solution." Drawing on the latest academic discoveries, this remarkable BBC series presents a wide-ranging, meticulously researched biography of the titular "killing factory" and its evolution into a highly efficient location for industrialized extermination of well over one million Jews, gypsies, and other so-called "mongrel races" between 1940 and 1945. [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

**"BBC History of World War II." A film by Laurence Rees. BBC Warner, 2005. (1800 min).** This comprehensive collection not only examines the details of the conflict (the Battle of Moscow the campaign against German U-boats the RAF bomber offensive) but digs deeper to attempt to answer the questions that still haunt us. [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

**"The Holocaust & Concentration Camps: Jewish Life & Death in the Nazi Camps." Quality Information Publishers, Inc., 1945. (67 min).** This is a collection of real Nazi concentration camp footage including torture, death, starvation, mass graves and other unconscionable atrocities committed in Nazi camps. Footage from the following concentration camps are shown: Penig, Ohrdruf,

Breendonck, Hannover, Arnstadt, Mauthausen, Buchenwald, Dachau (Note: This film contains very graphic scenes). [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

**"Life is Beautiful." A film by Roberto Benigni. Miramax, 1998. (116 min).** A Jewish man has a wonderful romance with the help of his humour, but must use that same quality to protect his son in a Nazi death camp. [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

**"Nazi Propaganda Film: Triumph of the Will." A film by Leni Riefenstahl. Quality Information Publishers Inc., 1934. (115 min).** Arguably the greatest (and most horrifying to modern viewers) propaganda film ever made, "Triumph of the Will" is a big budget documentary of a Nazi convention in Nuremberg. Hitler is the star, and the film attempts to cast him in the most powerful light possible. To use the word deification would not be an exaggeration. To this effect, the director Leni Riefenstahl is forcefully apt and the results are harrowingly lasting images. [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

**"The Pianist." A film by Roman Polanski. Universal Studios, 2003. (150 min).** A childhood survivor of Nazi-occupied Poland, Polanski was uniquely suited to tell the story of Wladyslaw Szpilman, a Polish Jew and concert pianist (played by Adrien Brody) who witnessed the Nazi invasion of Warsaw, miraculously eluded the Nazi death camps, and survived throughout World War II by hiding among the ruins of the Warsaw ghetto. [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

**"Schindler's List." A film by Steven Spielberg. Universal Pictures, 1993. (196 min.)** The story of a Catholic war profiteer, Oskar Schindler, who risked his life and went bankrupt in order to save more than 1,000 Jews from certain death in concentration camps. He employed Jews in his crockery factory manufacturing goods for the German army. At the same time he tries to stay solvent with the help of a Jewish accountant and negotiates business with a vicious Nazi commandant who enjoys shooting Jews as target practice from the balcony of his villa that overlooks the prison camp he commands. Winner of 1994 Academy Award for Best Picture. [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)



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**"Shoah." A film by Claude Lanzmann. A co-production by Les Films Aleph and Histora Films with the assistance of the French Ministry of Culture, 1985. (566 min.)**

The Nazi extermination of Jews is examined through interviews of survivors, witnesses and perpetrators and through footage of the sites of the death camps and environs as they appear today. Those interviewed include Jewish survivors of the death camps and the Warsaw ghetto uprising, Polish farmers and villagers who lived near the camps and Nazis who worked in the camps and the ghettos.

[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

**"Walk on Water." A film by Eytan Fox. Samuel Goldwyn Films, Roadside Attractions & Lama Films, 2005. (103 min.)**

While on assignment in Berlin, a homophobic Israeli intelligence agent is ordered to assassinate a Nazi war criminal. However, he has a crisis of conscience after he befriends the target's gay grandson.

[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

