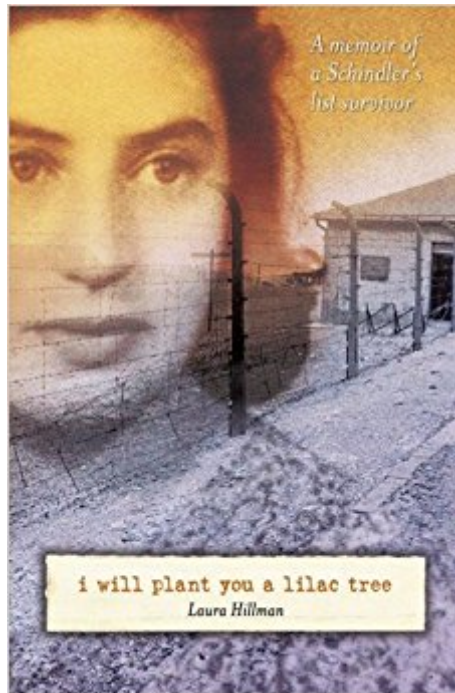




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# I Will Plant You A Lilac Tree: A Memoir Of A Schindler's List Survivor



## Synopsis

"HANNELORE, YOUR PAPA IS DEAD." In the spring of 1942 Hannelore received a letter from Mama at her school in Berlin, Germany--Papa had been arrested and taken to a concentration camp. Six weeks later he was sent home; ashes in an urn. Soon another letter arrived. "The Gestapo has notified your brothers and me that we are to be deported to the East--whatever that means." Hannelore knew: labor camps, starvation, beatings...How could Mama and her two younger brothers bear that? She made a decision: She would go home and be deported with her family. Despite the horrors she faced in eight labor and concentration camps, Hannelore met and fell in love with a Polish POW named Dick Hillman. Oskar Schindler was their one hope to survive. Schindler had a plan to take eleven hundred Jews to the safety of his new factory in Czechoslovakia. Incredibly both she and Dick were added to his list. But survival was not that simple. Weeks later Hannelore found herself, alone, outside the gates of Auschwitz, pushed toward the smoking crematoria. *I Will Plant You a Lilac Tree* is the remarkable true story of one young woman's nightmarish coming-of-age. But it is also a story about the surprising possibilities for hope and love in one of history's most brutal times.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Grade 9 Up  
In a clear, objective narrative, Hillman (called by her German name, Hannelore, in the book) describes her life from April 1942, as a student at a private school in Berlin, until the German surrender in April 1945 that freed her from a detention camp. After her father's death, she left school and was deported with her mother and brothers to Poland. During her three

years of captivity she was moved to several labor and concentration camps. Her inclusion on Oskar Schindler's list led, finally, to her deportation to the Brännitz camp in Czechoslovakia, where Jewish prisoners were treated humanely. At the fourth detention camp Budzyn Hannelore met the man who would become her husband. Her growing love and concern for him; her strong instinct for survival; and her endurance in the face of deprivation, inhumane conditions, and near-starvation provide considerable inspiration. Several photos of family members are included, along with a map that clearly indicates the locations of the camps in which Hannelore was held prisoner. While strong language, descriptions of brutality, a rape scene, and sexual innuendos suggest an audience of mature teens, this readable account of loss and survival during Hitler's Holocaust belongs in most collections. Susan Scheps, Shaker Heights Public Library, OH Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

**\*Starred Review\*** Gr. 8-11. There are many YA Holocaust memoirs, but few of them deal with a teenager's survival in the concentration camps. That makes Hillman's affecting account particularly noteworthy. In 1942 Berlin, Hannelore, 16, bravely volunteers to be deported with her mother and two younger brothers to Poland. Of course, they are soon separated, and during the next three years Hannelore is moved through eight concentration camps. In clipped, first-person narrative, she remembers the worst: crammed cattle cars; backbreaking work from stone quarries to salt mines; beatings; hunger; her own rape; the smell of children's bodies in the crematoria. She tells it as she endured it, quietly relaying the facts without sensationalism or sentimentality. She remembers making friends, one of whom is beaten to death because of a relationship with a German soldier. Hannelore herself falls in love with a young prisoner, Dick. At the end of the book is a photo of the lovers reunited and married; no one else in the family photos survived. The author never fully explains how she and Dick get onto Schindler's list, which saves them from Auschwitz (an explanatory note about the list would have been helpful), but the arbitrariness of the list was as true to the Holocaust survival experience as the loss. Hazel Rochman Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

This was one of those books I never wanted it to end. I was devastated . Even though it was fiction, I know I learned a whole lot about France in World War 2. The author was able to get me fully connected to every character even with the 75 year gap. I fully recommend this book to anyone. You will be part of their family, you will be brave, in love, in hate, and under the rein of Hitler and his

army.

A very touching, moving story.

This memoir of how a young girl endured and survived the Holocaust horrors was originally chosen for my 15-year-old granddaughter who has begun asking questions about the breakdowns of humanity. When the book arrived, I read it in one evening before passing it on to her. The book is a well written, tear-jerking love story. I believe survival of the prisoners in the labor and concentration camps is nothing less than a miracle. This is an excellent book, especially as an introduction and explanation of the suffering of those times to the young people of today. I look forward to discussing the book with my granddaughter when she finishes reading it.

The author captures the many difficulties Jews and others experienced at the hands of Germans under the influence of evil Hitler. She was so courageous. I'd like my 17 year old granddaughter to read it, so she can learn what bad people are capable of doing.

I never want to forget this part of history. I wish I could read them all. They show how mankind can be so evil. I think we should constantly be re-minded that we have the capacity to be this evil if we are not careful. I admire the physical and mental strength of the Jewish people. No one person needs to have to face this hatred.

Excellent book, just as many others I have read on the subject of Holocaust. Very touching and painful yet true and eye-opening. Recommend for any serious reader who wants to be enlightened about the suffering of Jewish people during WWII.

I am very interested in the holocaust. I enjoy the true stories more than anything, and this one was another good one. Very easy to read and another amazing story of the strong people who survived that horrible event.

This book is a beautiful piece of memoir to keep the reader on the edge of their chair, and tissues nearby. I chose this rating because not only do I love reading about how people thrived through this time period and what not giving up is about, this story takes the reader through a changing life firsthand.

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