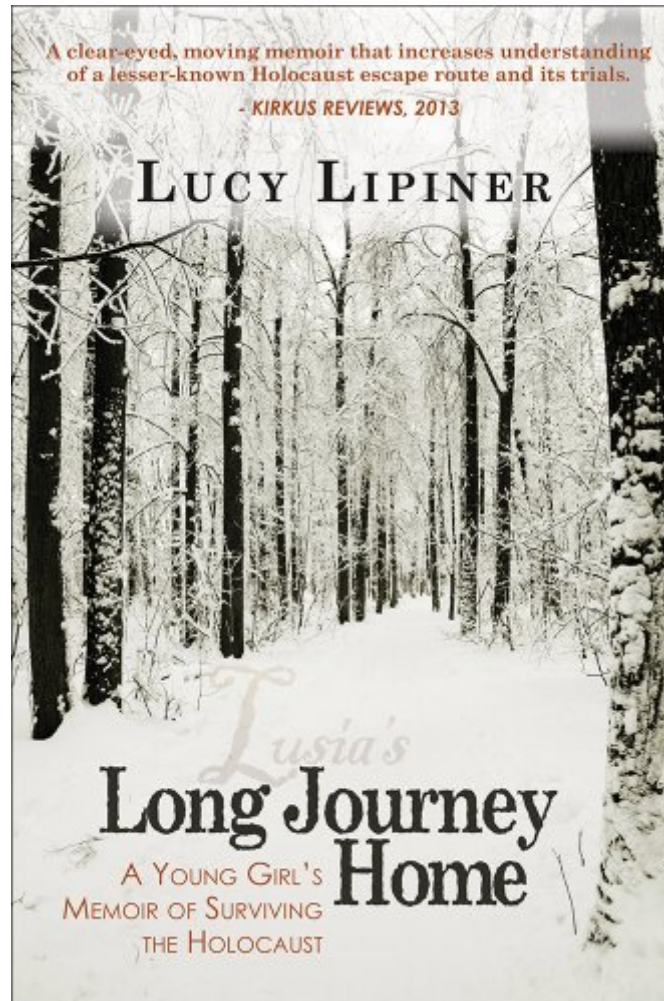


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# Long Journey Home: A Young Girl's Memoir Of Surviving The Holocaust



## Synopsis

The summer of 1939 turned out to be the last summer of author Lucy Lipiner's childhood. On September 1, when she was six years old, her parents roused her and her older sister from their beds and, with other relatives in tow, left their town of Sucha, home to 780 Jewish people. It was a decision carefully planned and carried out by the author's father which resulted in saving the lives of fifteen people. But the journey of survival was not an easy one, and in *Long Journey Home A Young Girl's Memoir of Surviving the Holocaust*, from the perspective of that little girl, Lipiner narrates her family's story. She tells of an odyssey of escape and rescue full of hardships and tribulation. From her sheltered life in a picturesque small town at the foothills of the Tatra Mountains to her time as a barefoot and hungry little girl in Siberia and Tajikistan in central Asia, and finally her arrival in America, this memoir shares the emotional details and the physical struggles of a ten-year flight to freedom. A story of resilience, *Long Journey Home A Young Girl's Memoir of Surviving the Holocaust* provides a detailed, historical account of a little-known and rarely discussed group of Holocaust survivors.

## Book Information

File Size: 1486 KB

Print Length: 213 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1936840707

Publisher: Usher Publishing (December 7, 2013)

Publication Date: December 7, 2013

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00H6QVRNU

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #5,067 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #7 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > World > Jewish > Holocaust #12 in Books > History > World > Jewish > Holocaust #36 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical

## Customer Reviews

Most people think of the Holocaust in terms of the horrific death camps and that of course should never be diminished. However, many do not realize the horrific toll it took on those who did not go to the death camps. This is an important story to read for this and other reasons. It is also a story of hope and of the strength of the human spirit. It is also a story that repeats itself throughout history--refugees fleeing unlivable circumstances caused by war. And finally it is the story of why so many people dream of living in America. I recommend this for those readers interested in the Holocaust, WW II, the plight of refugees, and the hope of America.

A Jewish girl's riveting story of her family's survival of the Holocaust. Written with a tender consciousness through the eyes of a child in the beginning, changing to views of a preteen then teenager to young woman, this story is never obscene. The author takes great care to present the horrific details in a way which allows one to see the context of a situation rather than paralyzing graphic details. Although she has every right to do this she writes more softly and uses transitional sentences well so you have an inkling of what the remainder of her story will unveil. I found it refreshing to hear her immediate family survived. Clearly not the norm. I was glad to see she included an epilogue but now wish for another book devoted to her family's new life in America in order to complete the circle.

This very moving memoir of a child under the grim burden of the Holocaust stands up well when compared to that other famous book, "The Diary of Anne Frank". But this time we have the added joy that Lucy survived! The interweaving of the unspeakable horrors, the fear, and the hunger with the unquenchable zest for life and the indomitable capacity to create pleasure out of the smallest things makes this book a must read.

This is a great read. Well written, fast paced and compelling. We get to put faces to the names with the included photos. The author tells her story in an honest, matter of fact way, that doesn't try to wring out the drama. She writes in an 'it-is-what-it-is' style that makes it very readable. Rewarding, unforgettable, thought provokingâI highly recommend .

I loved reading this Holocaust memoir. It was difficult to put this book down! The author tells of her gripping familial escape from Western Europe and the encroaching Nazis. Her father was able to keep his family free and safe for many months, until they were captured by the Soviets and sent by rail car to Siberia.

The subtitle of "Long Journey Home" tells us it is a memoir about the Holocaust. But the book is so much more. We are astounded to learn that it took ten years for a family who closed the door of their comfortable house in Sucha, Poland, in September 1939 to arrive on the safe shores of the United States. Lucy tells us that it was her father--clearly, an extraordinary man--who took charge of a large extended family and never let them lose hope. But in this simply but eloquently written memoir we get to see that Lucy herself also found the spirit to survive and endure.

Lucy Lipiner's "Long Journey Home: A Young Girl's Memoir of Surviving the Holocaust" is, above all else, a gripping memoir about resilience and hope in the face of devastating and seemingly insurmountable circumstances. While it indeed details heartbreak and despair, much like Szpilman's "The Pianist" and Wiesel's "Night," it also skillfully weaves in an unconquerable fortitude and optimism, offering a child's unique perspective on largely bewildering situations and often demonstrating a poignant and unusual sense of calm and serenity under unspeakably horrific conditions. The ever-present current of optimism and strength is so powerful in this book that it is truly inspiring, and a reader would be challenged not to regard his or her everyday difficulties with a bit more perspective as a result. It is similarly humbling; that anyone can survive what the author has survived with such strength and grace is a testament not only to her as an individual but also as an accomplished author for her ability to bring the reader back in time with her to stand in the snowy deprivation and misery and yet still cast eyes toward the sunlight and feel courageous. A very, very well-written book and most highly recommended!

I was touched by Lucy Lipiner's account of her family's difficult journey during World War II. She clearly describes the horrible conditions experienced first-hand from the age of six because of the German Occupation of Poland. I am utterly amazed at her father's insight and wisdom. She writes, "My father's knowledge of Nazi Germany--and, in particular, of the Nazis' hatred of the Jews--is what ultimately saved our lives. He persuaded his two sisters and their entire families--three generations in all-- to leave their homes and businesses and join us on the difficult and at times dangerous escape. There were fourteen of us--aunts and uncles; cousins; my parents, Abraham and Roza; my big sister, Frydzia; and me (Luisa)." The family traveled east hoping to cross into Soviet occupied Poland, and ending up in Siberia with many other displaced Jews. It was to be only the beginning of their travels. The final destination for this wandering Jewish family would be in the United States. It would be a very long journey home. I highly recommend this historical book about

the Holocaust, although they survived because they escaped the horrors. Many of their own family members perished. This is a hauntingly, moving story about finding a real and lasting home.

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