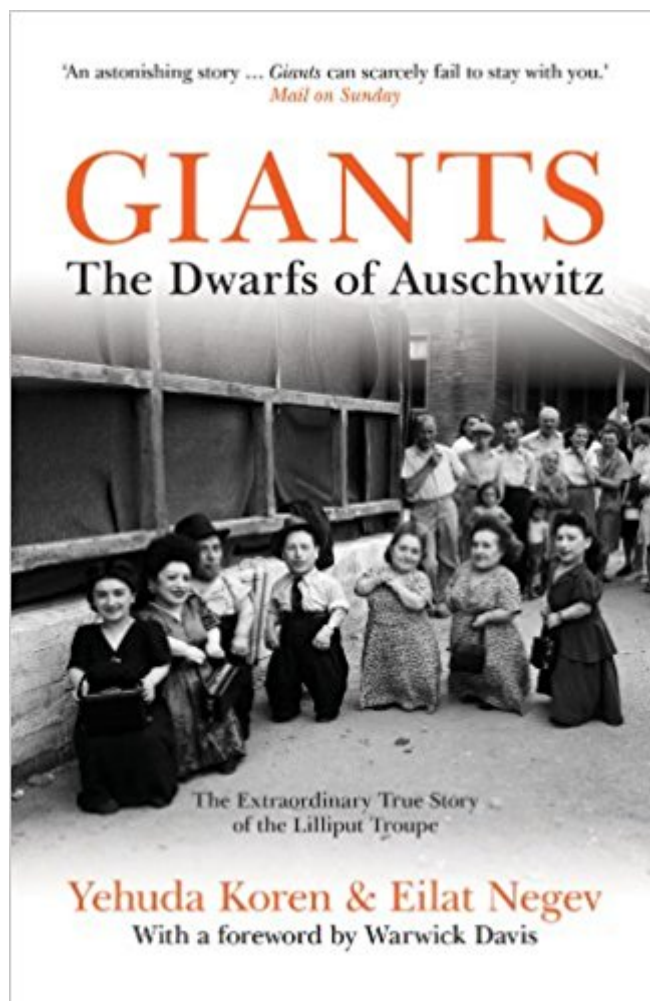


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# Giants: The Dwarfs Of Auschwitz



## Synopsis

'Through thick and thin, never separate. Stick together, guard each other, and live for one another.'

As Hitler's war intensified, the Ovitz family would have good reason to stand by their mother's mantra. Descending from the cattle train into the death camp of Auschwitz, all twelve emerged in 1945 as survivors - the largest family to survive intact. What saved them? Ironically, the fact that they were sought out by the 'Angel of Death' himself - Dr Joseph Mengele. For seven of the Ovitzes were dwarfs - and not just any dwarfs, but a beloved and highly successful vaudeville act known as the Lilliput Troupe. Together, they were the only all-dwarf ensemble with a full show of their own in the history of entertainment. The Ovitzes intrigued Mengele, and amongst the thousands on whom he performed his loathsome experiments, they became his prize 'patients': 'You're something special, not like the rest of them.' It was this disturbing affection that saved their lives. After being plunged into the darkest moments in modern history, this remarkable troupe emerged with spirits undimmed, and went on to light up Europe and Israel, which offered them a new home, with their unique performances. *Giants* reveals their moving and inspirational story.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"An astonishing story: both wretchedly sad and oddly uplifting - *Giants* can scarcely fail to stay with you." *Mail on Sunday* '[An] amazing story sympathetically and eloquently told ... The authors show great respect and affection for the Ovitzes ... Theirs was a life worth living and a story very worth telling.' *New York Review of Books* "Their remarkable story, extensively researched, is so beautifully and sympathetically written that it fully deserves to appeal far beyond its core audience." *BBC*

Yehuda Koren and Eilat Negev are respected writers and journalists. Their books include *The First Lady of Fleet Street* and *Lover of Unreason: The Life and Tragic Death of Assia Wevill*.

I watched a program on PBS that spoke about this family and so I looked for the book and found it at . I received it and read it in two days. The story is fascinating and you can hardly put the book down. This is a different story in regards to most concentration camp histories. This family of little people arrived late at Auschwitz and were there less than a year and they were kept in better health because Mengele wanted to keep them for his experiments. The family is truly amazing, they had so much fortitude and bravery. The fact that they lived complete as a family is amazing in itself and when they were finally released it is astounding that the survivors of the camps were not given any real aid in getting back to what homes they had. This story is told very well and with much feeling. I recommend this book to all, we should never forget what happened under the Nazis and we should admire everyone that survived and moved on with their lives. This is an inspiring story.

I'm not sure how I even came to know this book existed, but I'm glad I did. It's an interesting story about a unique family in a life-altering situation. How they came through it is amazing. I DID have a lot of questions while reading this book, which, to me, means the research could have been more thorough, but it's a good book nonetheless, especially if you are a student of the Holocaust.

I've read a lot of books on this subject but this book had a different perspective on the war and the people. Could not put it down. I think I will reread it in the future.

This book is about a strong Jewish family living during the time of the Holocaust. This collection of family members includes 10 siblings and of those 10, 7 were dwarfs. The lives that they lived pre and post WWII were very interesting. The period of time that they were in Auschwitz and under the eye of Joseph Mengele is a true horror. They were poked/prodded/probed in and on every square inch of their bodies. All of these experiments were done while living under the most stressful living conditions. And they SURVIVED!!! A must read.

This was a very interesting Auschwitz story that I hadn't heard before. Of course it was sobering, but also inspiring to read of this family's resilience. It was a book club read and while most of us have

done a lot of reading about WWII, we agreed that this was a story we hadn't heard a lot about before. However, this was also more than a story about the horrors of Auschwitz because it gives a good picture of what even every day life with dwarfism was like for the family. I won't forget this one.

Touching story of a family surviving the Holocaust in the best way they could!

Can't exactly say "love" for this topic. Opened my eyes even more.

To say I enjoyed reading this book is misleading. Very well written, intriguing, sad, horrific. But certainly should be read. . And never forgotten.

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