



# Destined to Live: A True Story of a Child in the Holocaust

*Ruth Gruener*

Download now

Read Online 

# Destined to Live: A True Story of a Child in the Holocaust

*Ruth Gruener*

## **Destined to Live: A True Story of a Child in the Holocaust** Ruth Gruener

What would you do if your whole life was shattered, and you were forced into hiding? This gripping, poignant memoir about coming of age during The Holocaust explores that question.

Pretty, carefree Aurelia Gamsler (known today as Ruth Gruener) had an idyllic life in 1930s Poland -- until violent acts of anti-Semitism and the deportation of Jewish families to concentration camps changed everything in her world. Hiding out with a gentile family, her very life at risk every day, Ruth struggled to remain strong and sane. And though she was destined to live, her struggle continued after the war, when she began a new life in America, as a teenager who had been through horrors. This memoir will inspire countless readers and bestow important lessons about life, hope, and memory.

## **Destined to Live: A True Story of a Child in the Holocaust Details**

Date : Published October 1st 2008 by Scholastic (first published October 1st 2007)

ISBN : 9780439892049

Author : Ruth Gruener

Format : paperback 156 pages

Genre : World War II, Holocaust, Nonfiction, War, History

 [Download Destined to Live: A True Story of a Child in the Holoca ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Destined to Live: A True Story of a Child in the Holo ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Destined to Live: A True Story of a Child in the Holocaust Ruth Gruener**

---

# **From Reader Review Destined to Live: A True Story of a Child in the Holocaust for online ebook**

## **Mary Clare says**

Poignant account of the author's experience as a young Jewish girl who was successfully hidden in Poland during World War II. The odd lack of chapter breaks will make this more challenging than necessary for the intended audience.

---

## **Amelia says**

Destined to Live is a story of a young girl Luncia or now known as Ruth, and her life as a young Jewish girl in the Holocaust. Written by herself she tells of how she grew up having everything she needed, beautiful dolls, fancy dresses, piano lessons, and treats at her parents candy shop. But, as the war starts her life takes a turn for the worst. She is forced to move out of her room so others can come live in it. She then goes through akzia's or deportations and hides in uncomfortable situations. After seeing many horrors that the Holocaust brought, Luncia is taken in by the Szczygiel family into hiding. Thankfully another family, the Oyak's take her so she can be with her parents who are also in hiding. It goes on to tell about hiding and how there town Lvov was liberated. She then makes a trek to America were she meets her American family and marries Jack Gruener. This inspiring true story about Luncia is heart warming and a most read for nonfiction book lovers. The young Jewish girl who you get to know really was destined to live.

---

## **Jackie says**

A great book for anyone, but is age appropriate for a 3rd to 4th grader.

---

## **Juliet says**

The book Destined to Live: A True Story of a Child in the Holocaust, was sad, but although it has a happy ending, there are still some disturbing parts. I just finished it so ideas are still fresh in my mind. The antagonist in this story is not only one particular person, Hitler, but all a group of people, the Nazis. Luncia, the main character in Destined to Live, was put through the hard times of World War II. Luncia, her mother, Barbara, and her father, Isaac (Tatu was his nickname meaning "Daddy" in Polish), lived in Lvov, Poland during the war. The point of view of this book is in first person, which I think makes it easier to relate to the character.

The theme of the story has to relate to all the hardships Luncia went through to save her and her family's lives. In the book, Luncia is fairly young, so she is able to find some sort of happiness in what she is doing. She goes through many hiding places, but never manages to get caught. She is also separated from her family multiple times, but lives through being in hiding with someone else. Luncia shows direct characterization: being brave through hard times.

The conflicts between the Jews and the Nazis during the 1930s to 1940s were large, and unfair. The author, actually Luncia, given the name Ruth Gruener, describes the details of the poverty and adversity of that

particular time period really well. She traveled to so many places during her hiding that she can use the dialogue that she actually used during the time she said it. This book is very influential, and I would recommend it to anyone who is not only interested in the Holocaust, but someone who wants a good, tense, exciting read.

---

### **Lori says**

Not as well written as *Prisoner B-3087*, but surely powerful. This is the true story, no novelization, of Luncia, who one day goes on to marry the hero of the companion book. She does a good job of detailing the mixed emotions of those committed to helping the Jews escape the Holocaust. So much so, that I found myself struggling to like the people who were helping her.

---

### **Sami says**

*Destined to Live*, written by Ruth Gruener, has a well constructed plot of the life of a child during the Holocaust. The Holocaust is an authentic setting in this book and is very identifiable because of all the horror that happened during the Holocaust. The Characters are believable and consistent because they are real people and this is their experience of how they were destined to live. The engaging writing style describes near death experiences with imaginative words. This book is first person point of view. The appropriate photographs show the protagonist as she grows up during the time of the Holocaust. This book is well-designed for its life story and tragic events. I recommend this book to people seeking miracles in really hard times or someone who just wants to read a book about a survivor in the Holocaust.

---

### **Cheryl says**

I had read the *Prisoner B-3087* by the same author and liked it — the story of Jack Greuner who survived 10 camps!

The copy I read is a Scholastic edition so I don't know if there are differences in the editions. This one did read very simply. As much as I keep reading historical memoirs and historical fiction, I'm always surprised to get immersed in new situations — this one not of concentration camps or escape, but hiding. Unlike Anne Frank, Aurelia Gamsner knew about what was going on around her.

The main character of this book is Aurelia Gamsner (known by several names throughout the book — Lucia, Luncia, Lucinda, .... She tells her story from age 5. Through a child's eyes, we see the Kristelnicht, sharing Lvov living quarters, being moved to the ghetto, multiple roundups (called *aura*?...), Pg. 76-77 one woman went to see a psychic and was told that she had a Jewish girl living in her home who would one day be famous." Although her parents were hidden by others, it surprised me when they risked going on the streets or talking about shopping. It's so easy to forget that the life of many Germans went on almost normally. Pg. 86 hiding in a trunk/ having to learn to walk and talk again.... At page 91, there are suddenly several pages of photographs - one poignantly of her and her 5th grade class; she was the only one not killed in the Holocaust! Pg. 109-110 amazing the things that were considered as possible! Pg. 116+. When survivors met and started telling stories...

I guess I can't fathom the horrendous numbers of atrocities committed by the Nazis. The book starts with the stats — 7 m. Jews in Central and Eastern Europe, by war's end 6 m. Killed/3 m. Polish, plus 222,000 others like gypsies, homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses and physically disabled. Pg. 1

---

### **Mahrysa York says**

This book is about the Holocaust and the troubles that one girl and her family had to face during it. This is a very good book and I'd definitely suggest it.

---

### **Mellanie C says**

This was a true story of a girl who survived the Holocaust by being hidden by her neighbors. I felt so bad for young Ruth, or Luncia, as she was known then. What I find even more interesting is that there is a second book, featuring the boy who would grow up to become Ruth's husband.

---

### **Cooper says**

Cooper Hutfless

Mrs.Plata

English

21 January 2016

Destined to Live by Ruth Gruener

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to have to hide in small, tight spaces? Then have to sneak around the streets just to get a small piece of bread? In the book *Destined to Live* by Ruth Gruener it tells the story of how a young girl named Luncia survived the Holocaust. I read this book because I had never learned about the holocaust, so I thought this would be the perfect opportunity.

In the beginning of the story Luncia is living a normal life as a child. Then Nazi soldiers come into their home taking items such as pots, and pans. Telling Luncia's parents the items are needed for the war.

Eventually the Nazis took almost all of the family possessions except for the walnut furniture they gave to the Christian family downstairs. They had to wear a white armband with the star of David all the time.

Eventually all the Jewish people were forced to go live in the "ghetto." Which was a place separated from the rest of the city. It was dirty, dull, and very tight. Every so often the Nazis would do "akzias," which were sweeps where they captured Jewish people and loaded them into trailers to be sent to concentration camps.

"Akzias" could last up to several days. After surviving many "akzias" Luncia needed to leave before she was sent with the rest of her family to a concentration camp. The only people allowed to leave the ghetto were store owners. Since Luncia's father owned a candy shop, one night her father snuck her out to live with a Christian family. She lived with the Szczygiels for a little over eight months. After nearly being discovered several times she feared the Szczygiels were going to throw her onto the streets. Learning that her parents

had escaped the ghetto the Szczygiels took her to go live with her parents at the Oyaks. The setting is in Lviv, Poland. I felt the plot could have been a little better at the climax and leading up to the climax. The conflict in this story is between the Nazis and The Jewish people. Luncia is the protagonist. The Nazis are the antagonists.

The ending of the story seems brief to me but overall I think it was a decent. It was courageous of her to move to America and go to college to start a new life. My favorite part was when her and her mother were hiding and she had to go to the restroom. She asked her mother if she could get out to use the restroom. But her mother replied by saying, “ Why do you think I put all these rags in here ?”

Overall I thought this book was very good . Also very well written. It was a very inspiring story of how she made it through the Holocaust. Since I have never learned about the Holocaust, As I said previously, I can't connect this book with any other books about the Holocaust. I think this book would be great for kids third grade or older. Or anyone wanting to learn more about the Holocaust.

---

### **Jackie says**

My 11 year old son bought me this book for Christmas.

It is a great book for reading level 10-13!

My only real problem is a lack of timeline updates. It felt like years got glosses over and I couldn't keep track of how old she was.

Otherwise a fantastic age appropriate introduction to this terrible time in history to young readers.

---

### **Donnette says**

Easy to read. Reading level grade 6. I was drawn to the story. Picked the book up and finished it in a few hours. Worth your time to read. My heart goes out to all who suffered; perished or survived, in the Holocaust.

---

### **Alfredo Barajas says**

Destined to Live is a really good book to learn about the holocaust that took place in World War II. The writing was very effective and powerful which is what made me get me more interested into the book. The book was really adventurous because she kept moving from place to place. I would recommend this book to anybody that wants to lean about the holocaust and what people had to go through. The strengths of this book is the way things were exaggerated which gave alot of detail and emotion. Overall the writing was very powerfull, intresting, and moving.

---

### **Lauren H says**

A young girl Luncia, now known as Ruth tells her tales of hiding to survive the Holocaust. Destined to Live is a true story of a young girl who survived the Holocaust with her family. She starts her story by telling about her early life and how she was well off and very blessed. However as the war progresses, she tells of how she has to give her bedroom to another family, how her fathers candy shop must close, how she loses

her toys, dolls and beautiful dresses and the loss of her home. She is snuck out of the ghetto to be taken to work mate of her dads. When she is seen in their house, she must be moved but to where? She must hide in a trunk all day long until she is found by one of the daughters. She is then taken to a friend of her family where she has a happy reunion with her parents. It then goes on to tell of their adventures and travels as they start their journey to America. It is a heartwarming story that is filled with emotion and intensity. It shows and proves how hard it really was to live through and survive the Holocaust if you were a Jew.

---

## **J says**

Easy, quick read, but interesting story on survival.

---