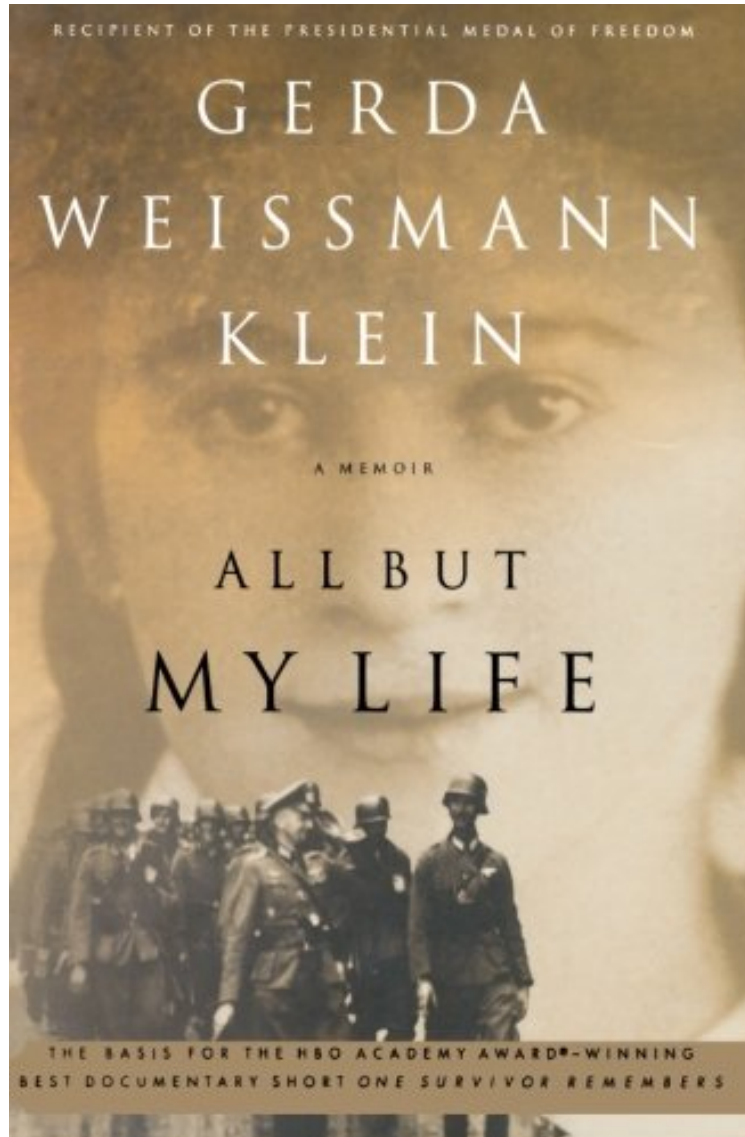


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## All But My Life: A Memoir

*Gerda Weissmann Klein*

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#29134 in Books Hill and Wang 1995-03-31 1995-03-31 Original language: English PDF # 1 201.42 x .76 x 5.511, .50 #File Name: 0809015803272 pages Great product! | File size: 23.Mb

**Gerda Weissmann Klein : All But My Life: A Memoir** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised All But My Life: A Memoir:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. it is truly an amazing account by a Holocaust survivor By Phillip Marlowe My late uncle Moshe (originally called Kurt) Klein was a first cousin of Gerda Klein's husband, Kurt Klein. And so I have personal interest in this book. Nevertheless, it is truly an amazing account by a Holocaust survivor, and an insight into what so many millions of others went through and never lived to tell about their horrific experiences.

There is nothing more to say, except: read it yourself to see what just one person's experience was. And then multiply that by around 6 million and you may just get an inkling as to what took place, but never will you or I be able to really reach a full understanding of the madness that was perpetrated by other human beings against others.<sup>2</sup> of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Story of love, sadness, and triumph over evil. By tornadojudi Out of all the books I have read recently about the holocaust this was the best. Part One: You fall in love with Gerda, her family, friends and home town of Bielitz. Part Two: You start the trip to hell. This part broke a little piece of my heart away and the tears ran down my cheeks. Part Three: Starting to heal and a new life. Gerda had a strong will to live and still just barely made it though the starvation and Death Walk. Her family were with her on the whole journey in mind and soul.<sup>1</sup> of 1 people found the following review helpful. I was afraid to start this book By Frances E. Rice I was afraid to start this book that a friend had recommended, but I am glad I did. It is a well-written account of what one woman endured under the Nazi occupation of Poland. Understated and without horrifying details, I was able to read and empathize with her. At times it was almost lyrical. Without a doubt I have a greater admiration for what the Jews endured and managed to survive during WWII.

All But My Life is the unforgettable story of Gerda Weissmann Klein's six-year ordeal as a victim of Nazi cruelty. From her comfortable home in Bielitz (present-day Bielsko) in Poland to her miraculous survival and her liberation by American troops--including the man who was to become her husband--in Volary, Czechoslovakia, in 1945, Gerda takes the reader on a terrifying journey. Gerda's serene and idyllic childhood is shattered when Nazis march into Poland on September 3, 1939. Although the Weissmanns were permitted to live for a while in the basement of their home, they were eventually separated and sent to German labor camps. Over the next few years Gerda experienced the slow, inexorable stripping away of "all but her life." By the end of the war she had lost her parents, brother, home, possessions, and community; even the dear friends she made in the labor camps, with whom she had shared so many hardships, were dead. Despite her horrifying experiences, Klein conveys great strength of spirit and faith in humanity. In the darkness of the camps, Gerda and her young friends manage to create a community of friendship and love. Although stripped of the essence of life, they were able to survive the barbarity of their captors. Gerda's beautifully written story gives an invaluable message to everyone. It introduces them to last century's terrible history of devastation and prejudice, yet offers them hope that the effects of hatred can be overcome.

Soul searching and human . . . A moving personal testament to courage. Herbert Mitgang, The New York Times An unforgettable reading experience . . . All But My Life is one of the most beautifully written human documents I have ever read. In this respect it is as sensitive and 'disturbing' a story as is The Diary of Anne Frank. Library Journal Gerda Weissmann Klein moves you, and not just because the story she can tell is so horrific. It is the passion with which she looked through the horror and found a heart-felt and basic goodness in humanity . . . All But My Life is filled with wonderful acts of decency and normalcy, even as she describes three years in labor camps and three months of a forced winter march from Germany to Czechoslovakia. Royal Ford, The Boston Globe About the Author Gerda Weissmann Klein was born in Bielsko, Poland, in 1924, and now lives in Arizona with her husband, Kurt Klein, who as a U.S. Army lieutenant liberated Weissmann on May 7, 1945. The author of five books, she has received many awards and honorary degrees and has lectured throughout the country for the past forty-five years. Kurt and Gerda are the authors of The Hours After: Letters of Love and Longing in War's Aftermath, published by St. Martin's Press. One Survivor Remembers (a production of Home Box Office and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum), winner of an Emmy Award and the Academy Award for documentary short subject, was based on All But My Life. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. All But My Life