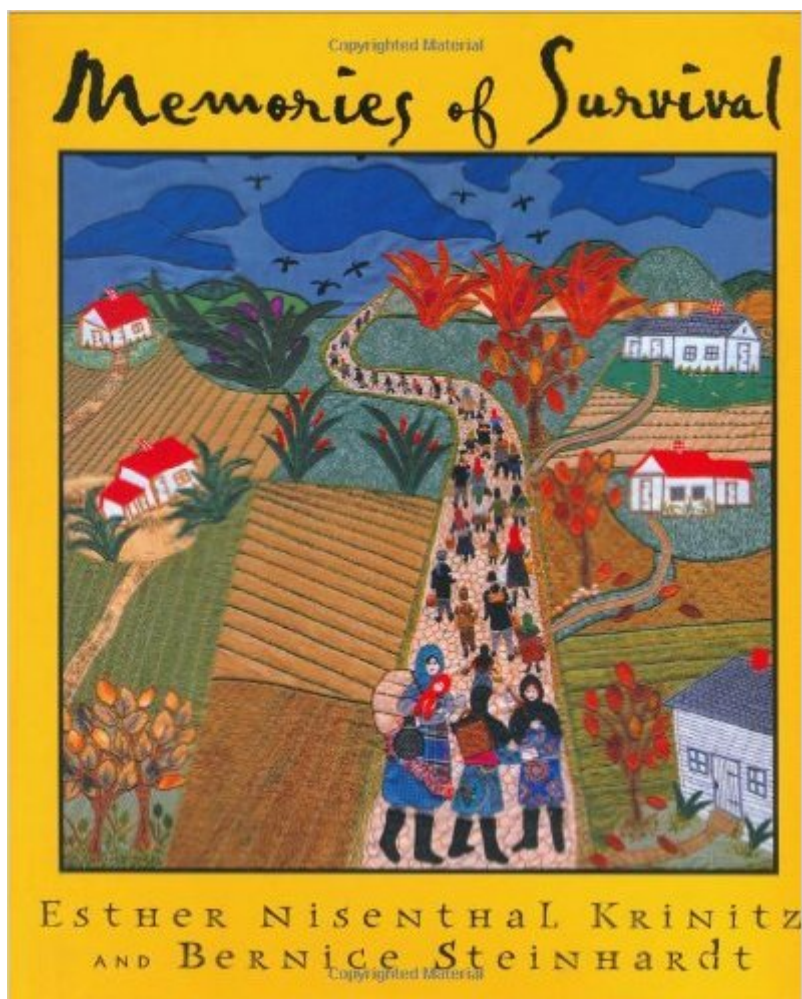


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# Memories Of Survival



## Synopsis

Esther Nisenthal Krinitz was a survivor of the Holocaust in Poland. At the age of 15, in October 1942, having lived under Nazi occupation for three years, she and her sister decided to separate from their family and disguise themselves as Catholic farmhands. Esther never saw her family again. In 1977, at the age of 50, having worked throughout her life as a dressmaker, she began hand-stitching embroidered fabric panels as a way of remembering, healing and sharing her childhood stories. She went on to create 36 pieces chronicling the key moments of her childhood story. Esther passed away in 2001 but lives on through her unforgettable tapestries of survival. Her daughter, Bernice Steinhardt, adds insightful narrative to each panel as she recounts her own recollections of the stories her mother shared with her.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 64 pages

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Product Dimensions: 9.4 x 0.4 x 10.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (32 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #924,838 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #147 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Holocaust](#) #1437 in [Books > Children's Books >](#)

[Biographies > Historical](#) #33250 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction](#)

Age Range: 5 - 9 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 4

## Customer Reviews

Memories of Survival reveals the truth in the saying that a picture is worth a thousand words and for the first time the history of the Holocaust makes the leap from memory to life in the hand stitched and embroidered tapestries of Holocaust survivor Esther Nisenthal Krinitz. Having also seen the original artwork that is presented in this beautiful book I can attest that the pictures and stories touch the reader, whether child or adult. The book lovingly enables you to feel that you are remembering the human realities that Esther Nisenthal Krinitz experienced as a child and that she later stitched to life to tell her story to her family, and now shares with the world. Memories of Survival has a place in

every home.

I picked up this book at the school where I teach on the advice of our librarian and I am so very glad I did! The stories woven in the embroidered panels speak volumes about what Esther Nisenthal and her family endured during the horror of the Holocaust. Her use of color is astonishing, and the fact that she actually embroidered the words to her story onto the cloths just makes the whole experience seem so much more real and personal. This book is a moving tribute to all who perished and survived this evil time. This is an amazing book. Highly, highly recommended.

"Memories of Survival", helped me more fully grasp the Holocaust through the untutored art of survivor Esther Nisenthal Krinitz. I saw "Memories" when it was on exhibit at the American Museum of Visionary Art in Baltimore, Maryland in the spring of 2005. Mrs. Krinitz's beguiling needlework enabled me to absorb the impact of Nazism on a level hitherto unavailable to me. Her artful pictures and their simple text informed me on what I had been afraid to imagine. I've purchased 4 copies of "Memories of Survival", 3 to give as gifts, and one to keep.

In this outstanding book are displayed thirty-six embroidered pictures that the author began at the age of fifty, to illustrate the stories of her childhood in Poland and her survival during the Holocaust. When she died at the age of seventy-four, she wasn't finished, but she left this remarkable book. Her daughter Bernice used her mother's comments to write the text. It is amazing how much Esther remembered, which is evidenced in the intricate details and vibrant colors of the needlework. Each full-page picture is framed in a different color, with Esther's comments under it and the text on the opposite page. The deceptively simple pictures have the look of folk art in contrast to a grimly realistic story. At the end, there is a poignant page titled "To Germany," where Esther has joined the Polish Army in March 1945 and she shows us in it what she remembers so many years later: seeing Nazi officers hanging from every tree as they passed along the road of an earlier battle with the Russians on their way to Berlin. The last frame shows Esther landing at Ellis Island, viewing the Statue of Liberty. She was very excited, because she felt that this meant she would never again be persecuted for being Jewish. Her daughter Bernice calls this a memorial to her mother's family, because of them all, only Esther and a sister survived the war. Esther's daughters Bernice and her sister have founded a nonprofit educational organization called Art and Remembrance, which is dedicated to using the power of story and art to illuminate the effects of war, intolerance, and social injustice. This book is highly recommended for all collections, as Esther's story brings these terrible

times alive in a way that adds a different dimension to children's understanding of the Holocaust.

For ages 12 - adult. Reviewed by Andrea Davidson

Beautifully done book. If you have a chance to see (in person) the actual works, please do so. It was a sponsored event at our local art museum several years ago. I'll never forget seeing them and have the book as a treasured reminder. My granddaughter, Rachel, went with me to the art museum and has the book as well. Also gave a copy away to my friend, Rebecca Soloman, a local newscaster who has gone on to larger and larger Tv stations. So had to buy one for me to keep.

I saw this exhibit in St. Petersburg Florida. It was amazing. The book is an illustration of the mother of the author's needlework tapestries. It is a moving story with her artwork to enhance her memories of Surviving the Holocaust in Europe. Very touching with photos of the original needlework.

I saw Mrs. Krinitz's work at an exhibit near me. The fabric paintings are quite large and you don't really get that impression in the book. The paintings range in size from 20" X 24" to three feet by five feet. Many of the paintings are 3-D, and that doesn't come across, either. Nevertheless, the color and most of the texture can be seen in these photos of the paintings. My only regret is that there is no photo of Mrs. Krinitz in the book. I did see it in the exhibit and even as an old woman, she was beautiful. I'm always amazed at the courage and dignity we find among those who have suffered greatly. Mrs. Krinitz took her suffering and turned it into creative, majestic beauty that is breath-taking to behold. I thank her daughters for sharing their mother's work. Anyone interested in needlework will appreciate this book. Anyone interested in survival stories will be amazed at this one.

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