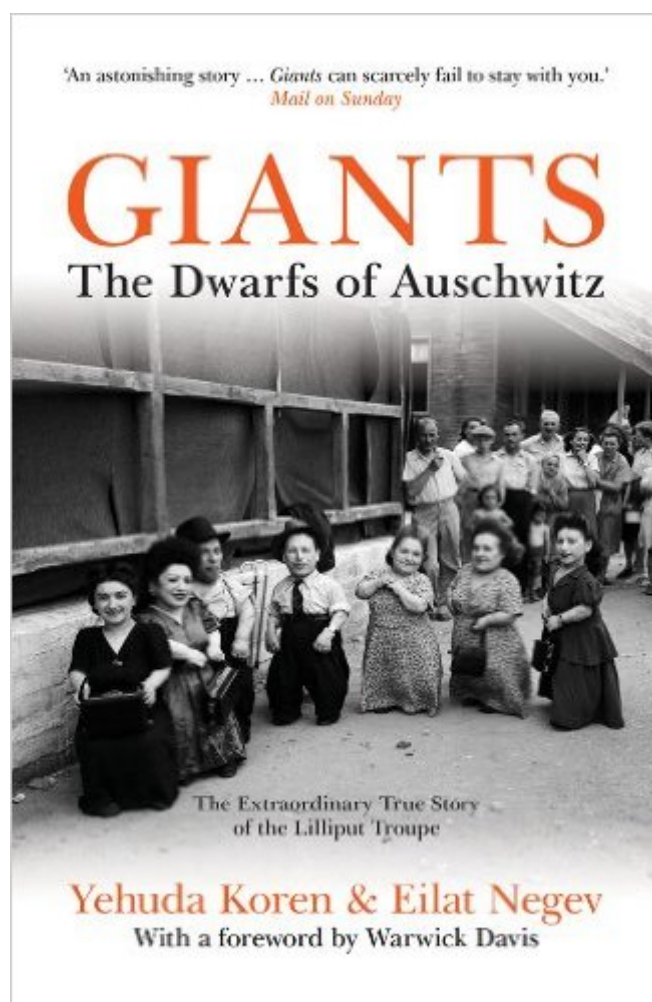


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# Giants: The Dwarfs Of Auschwitz



## 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

I have read hundreds of Holocaust accounts in the past two decades, and each story is always unique despite the shared grief and pain. "In Our Hearts We Were Giants" is a compelling and unique Holocaust account as it is a chronicle of the lives of the Ovitz family which hail from Rozavlea, Transylvania from 1868 through the Holocaust and after - and what makes this unique is the fact that the family was afflicted with dwarfism (excluding a few family members), and this very

condition saved them when the family arrived in Auschwitz in May, 1944. Most of the Jews in that transport were sent on to their deaths in the gas chambers - but the Ovitzes were spared because their sheer numbers and their dwarfism made them stand out amongst the crowds. The Nazi guards realized that this family would interest Dr. Mengele, the infamous Nazi doctor who with a flick of his finger sent Jews to either their deaths or to life (albeit a harrowing one spent in arguably the worst concentration/extermination camp in WW II). Dr. Mengele does become interested in the dwarves and keeps them for his personal quasi-medical experiments. In turn, the dwarves themselves soon realize that Mengele is the one person standing between them and death - and do all they can to survive. Though they are generally treated better than the other Auschwitz inmates (better food, clothing, kept together for the most part, etc.), they are also subjected to horrific and senseless medical experiments - tests, invasive procedures, being gawked at by strangers (in the nude) etc. The Ovitzes did manage to survive, and in the process also saved those not related to them (such as their family coachman Shimon Slomowitz, his wife and children) and some relatives who were not afflicted with dwarfism.

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