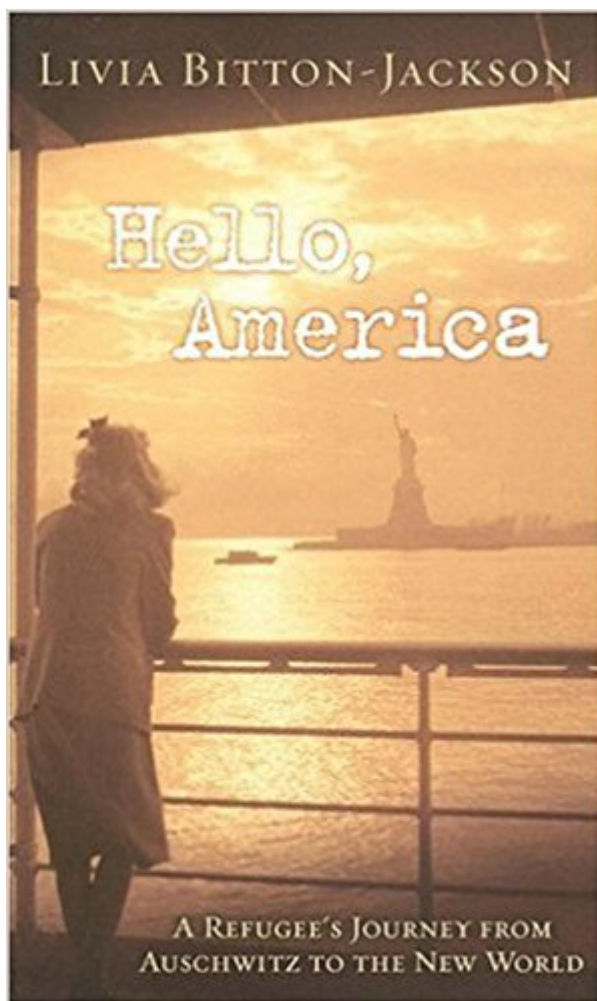


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# Hello, America: A Refugee's Journey From Auschwitz To The New World



## Synopsis

Having withstood the horrors of Auschwitz and made it out alive, eighteen-year-old Elli is more than ready to leave behind the painful memories and start fresh in America. What she is not fully prepared for, though, are all the challenges of creating a new life in a completely new place -- especially one as hectic as New York City! Within moments of stepping off the ship and into the arms of welcoming relatives, Elli's mind starts spinning with questions. Will she go to college? Will she have to take on a full-time job to pay the bills? And will she be able to fulfill her dream of becoming a teacher? Elli has dreamed for years of this abundance of opportunity and possibility -- and to think, this is only the beginning!

## Book Information

Mass Market Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Simon Pulse (July 1, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1416916253

ISBN-13: 978-1416916253

Product Dimensions: 4.2 x 0.6 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 23 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #544,109 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #104 in [Books > Teens > Biographies > Cultural Heritage](#) #120 in [Books > Teens > Education & Reference > History > United States > 20th Century](#) #211 in [Books > Teens > Biographies > Historical](#)

## Customer Reviews

Grade 7 Up – This is the final title in the Czech-born author's autobiographical trilogy describing her teen years before, during, and after the Holocaust [*I Have Lived a Thousand Years*(1997) and *My Bridges of Hope* (1999, both S & S)]. In 1951, Elli and her mother sailed off to New York. Still shaken from their harrowing experiences during the war and the loss of her father, the 18-year-old was fragile, innocent, yet hopeful as she stepped onto American soil. She was determined to finish her education and become a teacher, fulfilling her father's dreams. Readers get a detailed account of the many challenges she faced. First impressions of assimilated relatives, a supermarket, Brooklyn College, and tuna fish and milkshakes capture her awe and excitement. There is also disillusionment when the greenhorns leave their full shopping cart outside unattended only to find it stolen, or when Elli gets labeled a tease at summer camp for misinterpreting sexual

advances. Still, humor and romance softened a tragic past. The writing is at times melodramatic, and, while this engaging memoir reads like a novel, certain characters or events seem random—œas in real life. Nonetheless, this is a satisfying portrait of coming-of-age in 1950s Brooklyn.œ Barbara Auerbach, New York City Public Schools --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 9-12. The author of the Holocaust memoir *I Have Lived a Thousand Years* (1997) writes about what it was like to immigrate to America as a young woman in 1951. Elli Friedman's bond with her mother is as close as when they protected each other in Auschwitz and survived the refugee camps. Now they move in with family in Brooklyn, and Elli slowly finds friends, love, and work, always sustained by her Orthodox Judaism. There's too much of the daily detail for many readers, but Elli's "greenhorn" mistakes are funny, and her romance with Alex is bittersweet--he needs her to be a helpless immigrant; but she wants to make her own way as a teacher. Most powerful is her survivor experience, told with terse understatement in the present-tense narrative. Haunted by horror, guilt, and grief, she is shocked to find prejudice in America; even Jews don't want to know about the Holocaust, so she must hide the number tattooed on her arm. Hazel Rochman Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is an amazing account of the author's life during the first few years in America. It is a sequel to her first book, *I Have Lived a Thousand Years*. A survivor of Auschwitz, she was able to come to the US when she was very young. Her experiences are fascinating and inspirational. As it happens, she became a teacher in a school where I once taught, tho not at the same time. A great read!

This book is very much an autobiography. It relates events and how the author felt about them quite adequately. However, the book flirts with several issues - sexuality, sexual harassment, poverty and charity, but, it doesn't really address any of them in any sort of depth. It is what I presume to be a faithful record of events, but, does not delve deeply into any of the topics broached.

I just love this book. I could not put it down, finished reading in a day. Very inspirational.

I very much enjoyed reading *Hello, America* by Livia Bitton-Jackson. I admire her courage coming to America as a Holocaust survivor, struggling to start a new life and adapt to a completely different

culture. I also admired her courage in confronting prejudice and anti-semitism in her new country. What a shock to realize America isn't perfect either. A wonderful book which I thoroughly enjoyed reading.

This was an excellent true life story to read. It conveyed the difficulties and joys of learning to adapt and live in America in the 1950's. It puts the reader in touch with the challenges and emotional upheaval that was faced by Jewish post World War II concentration camp survivors. It was an interesting biography too of a woman with aspiration, motivation and dreams to become a teacher. In this story the reader sees the fruition of that dream.

The woman who wrote this book is still alive, and I was continually impressed by her courage and fortitude. The book is extremely gripping, and the story comes alive in your mind. There is a book prior to this, and , as I was so wrapped up in this woman and her story, I had to have this one, which continues on with her life in the states, where she resides now.

should be required reading in school. fantastically moving piece of work.

This is a true story, I am amazed at how much the author remembers. It is unbelievable what these people endured. You won't want to put the book down once you start it.

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