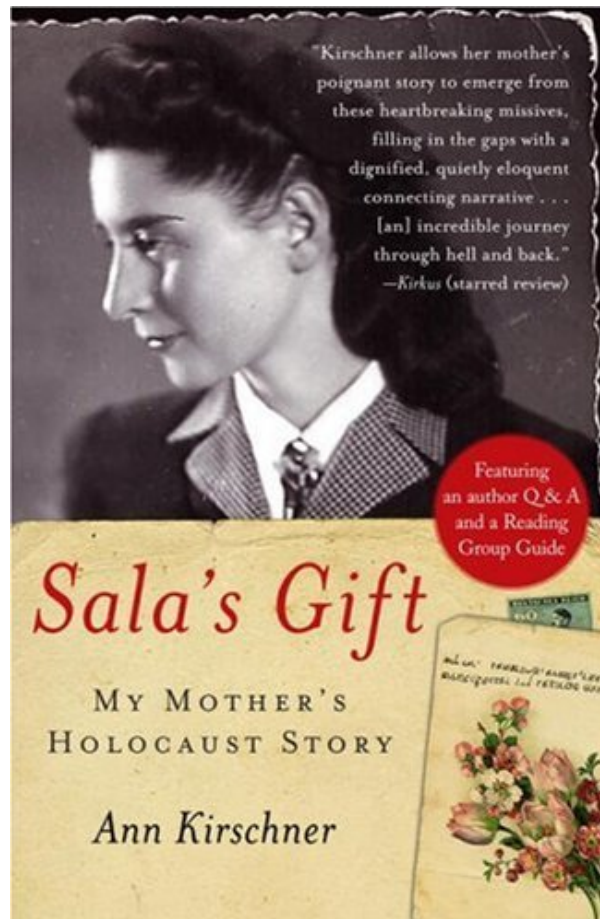
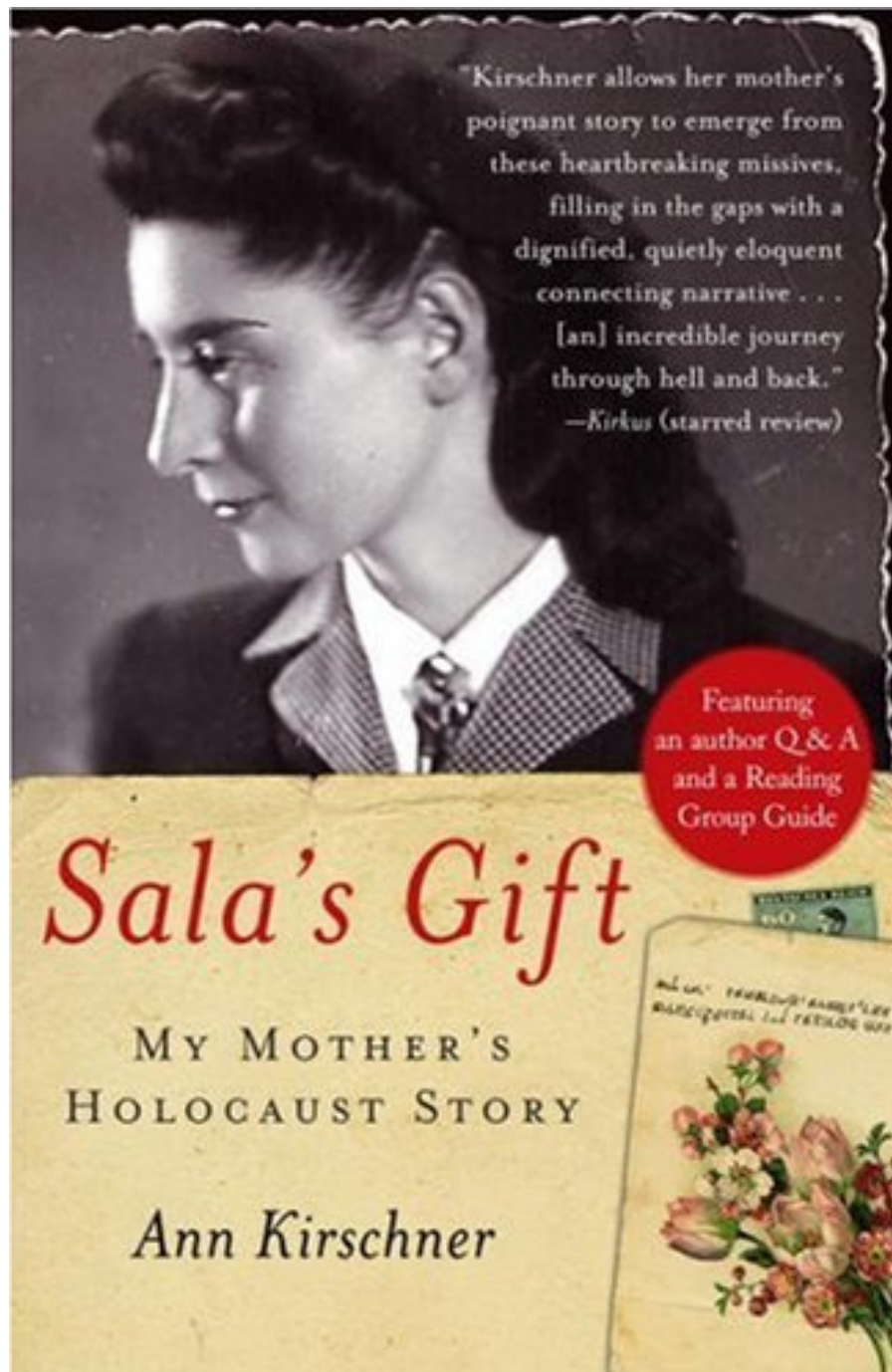


SALA'S GIFT: MY MOTHER'S HOLOCAUST STORY BY ANN KIRSCHNER



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From Publishers Weekly

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Review

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-- Kirkus (starred review)

"Sala Kirschner spent five years as a slave in Nazi camps as a teen. Now her daughter has gathered Sala's vintage snapshots and the letters that reached her in the camps into a moving volume." -- People

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"Sala's unique, stirring end-of-life gift are the letters and photos she received from her sister Raizel when Sala was a slave laborer.... A touching, interesting, and valuable history, one in which the personalities of the principals shine through the wretchedness." -- Jewish Book World

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For nearly fifty years, Sala Kirschner kept a secret: She had survived five years as a slave in seven different Nazi work camps. Living in America after the war, she kept hidden from her children any hint of her epic, inhuman odyssey. She held on to more than 350 letters, photographs, and a diary without ever mentioning them. Only in 1991, on the eve of heart surgery, did she suddenly present them to Ann, her daughter, and offer to answer any questions Ann wished to ask.

When Sala first reported to a camp in Geppersdorf, Germany, at the age of sixteen, she thought it would be for six weeks. Five years later, she was still at a labor camp and only she and two of her sisters remained alive of an extended family of fifty.

Sala's Gift is a heartbreaking, eye-opening story of survival and love amidst history's worst nightmare.

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- Published on: 2007-06-12
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- Original language: English
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- Dimensions: 8.44" h x .80" w x 5.50" l, .70 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 320 pages

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Most helpful customer reviews

21 of 21 people found the following review helpful.

Highly Recommended

By Princeton Reader

Highly Recommended! What is it like to be a teenager and be sent to a Nazi labor camp away from home? How is it like for the family left behind? The combination of a fluid narrative and beautiful authentic letters makes for a powerful reading experience like no other book. My heart went for Sala and her family. Her grace while enduring the darkest of human experiences is truly captivating. Would you believe that the picture of beautiful Sala on the cover was taken during a three day vacation from labor camp spent with her family and friends in Sosnowiec? a slave on a three day break? All I see in her face is love light and beauty there is no hatred depression or darkness. The love of her family, truth and the hope for the future. Having your children born in a free land and bringing the story and the letters to light. Thank you Sala: you gave us a huge gift and thank you Ann, second generation of love and light.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Holocaust Experiences Told Through Letters Written at the Time

By Ben Isaacs

This is a most unusual and sensitive telling of one woman's experience in Nazi labor camps and her family's experiences at home during the Holocaust, revealed through actual letters.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

A moving world I didn't know existed

By SDF

Sala's Gift describes the life of the author's mother in the labor camps during the Holocaust. The world of the labor camps is something I knew nothing about. The book is fascinating and also incredibly moving while written beautifully and with remarkable restraint. Sala's story goes well beyond the cliché of a "survival against all odds" story although it is certainly that. The gift Sala gives is a story of love, family and integrity of the soul against the backdrop of the enormous cataclysm that was Europe in that period.

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