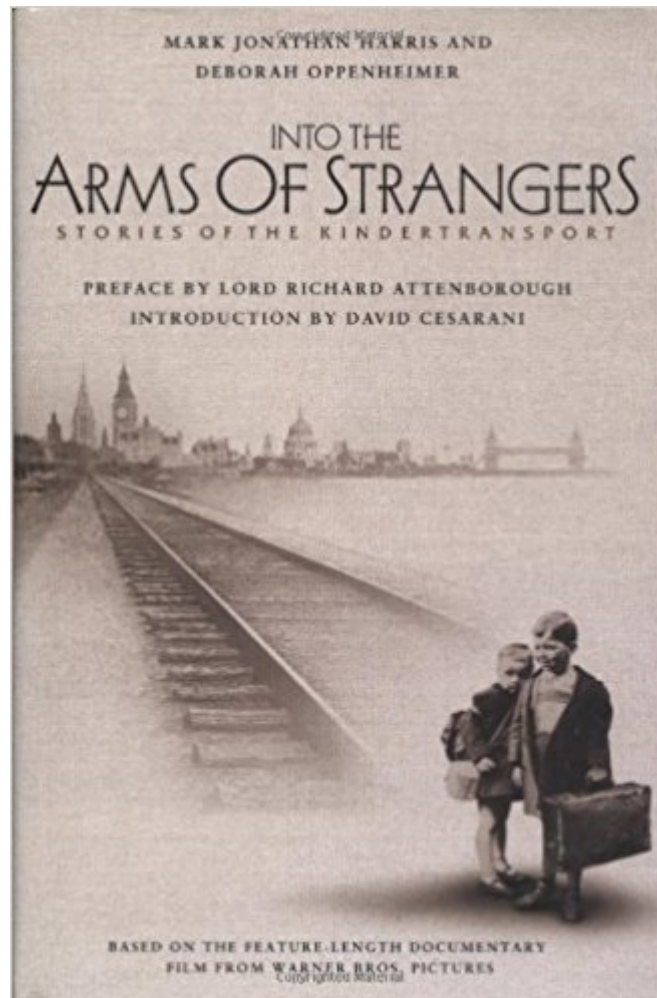




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# Into The Arms Of Strangers: Stories Of The Kindertransport



## Synopsis

For nine months before the outbreak of World War II, Britain conducted an extraordinary rescue mission. It opened its doors to over 10,000 endangered children-90 percent of them Jewish-from Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia. These children were taken into foster homes and hostels in Britain, expecting eventually to be reunited with their parents. Most of the children never saw their families again. *Into the Arms of Strangers* recounts the remarkable story of this rescue operation, known as the Kindertransport, and its dramatic impact on the lives of the children who were saved. The book is the companion to the feature-length documentary to be released in the theatres by Warner Bros. in Fall 2000. It contains stories in their own words from the child survivors, rescuers, parents, and foster parents. They recount, in harrowing detail, the effects of the Nazi's reign of terror, the horror of Kristallnacht, the agonizing decision by the parents to send their children away, the journey, the difficulties of adjustment in Britain, the outbreak of war, and the children's tragic discovery afterward that most of their parents had perished in concentration camps. The stories are heartbreaking, but also inspiring. These are the stories of those who survived with the help of others; they are stories about the strength and resolve of children; and most astonishing, these are stories not yet heard about the Holocaust.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Between December 1938 and the outbreak of war in August 1939, some 10,000 children, the vast

majority of them Jews, from Germany, Austria, Poland, and Czechoslovakia were evacuated to Great Britain. The stories of 18 witnesses to this Kindertransport--children, parents, and rescuers--are recounted in *Into the Arms of Strangers*. These first-person accounts are woven into a loose narrative of life before the Nazi era, the transport, and life in their new homes. The editors wisely remain in the background, allowing the survivor testimony to shine through. Their experiences were diverse: some stayed behind, such as Norbert Wollheim, a Kindertransport organizer who refused a number of chances to escape from Germany, knowing that if he did, the transports would be stopped. Lory Cahn was actually on a train when her father pulled her off; he was unable to let her go. Those who made it to England found challenges of their own: some remained in hostels for the remainder of the war; some were taken in by families to work as cheap servant labor; still others were taken in by loving families, but then had to deal with "survivor's guilt." Years after the war, Vera Gissing asked her foster father why he and his family had taken her in. He answered, "I knew I could not save the world. I knew I could not stop the war from starting. But I knew I could save one human life." *Into the Arms of Strangers* is a moving tribute to this remarkable event. --Sunny Delaney

“An important work that contains first-hand testimonies of an experience that only a few books have addressed, much less captured.” —Chicago Tribune  
“Wonderfully moving . . . a noble story, beautifully told.” —The Daily Mail (London)  
“Harris, an Academy Award-winning documentary filmmaker (*The Long Way Home*), and television producer Oppenheimer tell the story of the Kindertransport, a rescue mission undertaken by the British that saved 10,000 predominantly Jewish German, Austrian, and Czech children from the Nazi regime. In a series of Studs Terkel-style interviews, they relate the stories of 18 children, foster parents, and organizers of the transport. The text is arranged chronologically, with each section telling the story of one person to illustrate how the rescue mission worked, from the events preceding the children's departure for England to their lives today. This is an effective and compelling way of preserving history. Although much has been written already about the transport, the diversity of the participants' experiences gives a better feel for this amazing rescue and makes for especially fascinating reading.” —Library Journal  
--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

You should read the book with the same title that served as a source for this movie. Both recall the experiences of several (distant) relatives and friends. They have also recommended this movie as

very worthwhile viewing matter! But it is not easy watching and may leave a viewer very upset what these folks suffered after their arrival in the UK., They were "farmed out" to various homes. Some were treated quite well; others - girls- had to act as maids and governesses for the family's children. Later on, some of them went to USA to start new lives again. But on the whole the very lives of these youngster were saved from the Holocaust. By the way, a number of these youngsters were also "weaned away" from their Jewish religion because of their new family's religious practices. Be sure to see this movie to learn some history that has remained almost completely hidden and neglected. My personal experiences include the departure of some of these children to the UK, as well as to Palestine (now Israel). These youngsters were my own age! Many of them never saw their parents again. So therefore this represents a very special way to re-tell some my own experiences , but seen with different eyes.

I liked how this was written by giving each narrative pieces of a chapter, so that you saw all their stories progressing together, rather than reading each survivors narrative in full one at a time. I think many people don't see these children as "survivors" because they didn't suffer the way those who lived in concentration camps did. However, to be an orphan, learning a new way of life, a new language, and all without your parent, is definitely compelling and worth telling.

I've read several books on the topic of the Kinder Transport. This really showed how one's life touch the lives of tens of thousands. The two men who spearheaded the project of this transport of 60,000 + children, were 25 and 32 years old. They wouldn't take no for an answer. One even gave up his freedom to make sure as many children as possible were able to leave the war-torn country. It's a remarkable chapter in history, and this book was enjoyed.

Incredible story. It's so important not to forget

Item arrived promptly and in excellent condition. This book is a must for those remembering the Holocaust. It must not be forgotten. I believe this book should be part of everyone's home library.

The Children of Willesden Lane was better.

A friend mentioned Kindertransport to me and I did a search in and this book was listed. Seller's description was accurate and received very quickly. Book was great reading for anyone interested

in history or WWII.

Excellent Read it

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