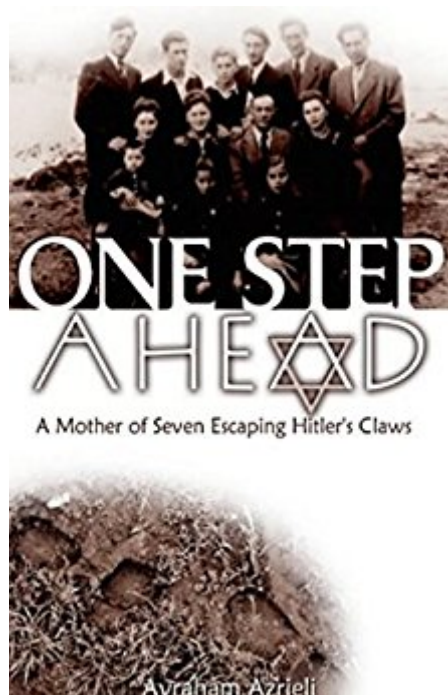




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# **One Step Ahead - A Mother Of Seven Escaping Hitler's Claws: A True History - Jewish Women, Family Survival, Resistance And Defiance Against The Nazi War Machine In World War II**



## Synopsis

Hitler's attack on Russia in the spring of 1941 and the Nazi eastward blitzkrieg form a dramatic backdrop to this true story. On the first day of Operation Barbarossa, in the midst of battle, Esther Parnes leads her family east, away from the Polish village of Skalat. A step ahead of Hitler's earth-scorching troops, Esther and her children endure hunger, disease, and bloodshed. But Hitler's four-year campaign defeats neither Mother Russia nor Esther Parnes. In an era when women were confined to traditional household roles, at a time when proud men bowed their heads as they stood at the edge of a pit waiting to be shot, this redheaded woman challenged Adolf Hitler. Based on extensive interviews and independent research into the Parnes family's plight and the Nazi war on Russia, this book tells the story of an extraordinary mother's battle to save her seven children.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I got the free sample. I was hooked. I canceled a volunteer gig and my own dance practice to keep reading. Why did G-d help Esther while other families perished? I have no idea, but I'm glad they persevered. The book left me breathless-- I was grateful that the author updated us on everyone at

the end. I think of the good that Esther sowed-- we never did hear of how Moshe's gentile war wife fared later, but I hope that because of Esther's kindness to her that in the coming post war years she was kind to Jews who would suffer under Stalin. I cheered throughout the book, I cried, I found myself whispering, "Stop yelling at Sarah! Your village would be destroyed a few days later! She saved your ungrateful tail!" Had a person written this as fiction, they'd be ridiculed because it would not be believable-- So many situations were \*too\* serendipitous, but they happened. I'm glad that it was real.

This is a true account of a family determined to stay together against insurmountable odds. As Jewish refugees fleeing Hitler, this family endures countless hardships and are forced to make tough decisions. This should be required reading for all students to understand the plight of the effects of war on individuals and countries. This book has made a deep, lasting impression on me. This is a book that will stay with me for years. Thank you for this body of work.

A must read. We have as a free people no idea of what the Jews were subjected to but through books like this. This book, it brings tears to your eyes with the turning of each page. Never could I have imagined the pain and suffering of those who survived. God bless those that perished. Shame on those that killed any human being because of their beliefs. Shame, shame to the Nazi regime and all of those who who helped them kill and maim another person because of their beliefs. God bless all those who helped the oppressed. Let's make this a loving world we all live in. Teach love, not hate.

In my opinion, this book deserves five stars because not only does it offer action-packed suspense, drama and romance, it provides fascinating historical facts about Hitler and the Nazi war machine (I'm fascinated, not impressed. I do not condone Nazism in the very least). The author is a master storyteller, which made for quite an enjoyable read. It's based on a true story, one that needed to be shared with the world. It documents a family's courageous flight to safety during one of the world's worst wars in history. I especially appreciate how it conveys the importance of maintaining loving relationships and embracing hope during times of hardship and persecution.

One Step Ahead: A Mother of Seven Escaping Hitler's Claws: A True History is by Avraham Azrieli. It is a fascinating story of the efforts of a Jewish Mother in Hungary to keep her family together and alive during the final years of the Holocaust despite weather, bombings, Russian

soldiers, and German soldiers. It is told in first person by the Mother. June 22, 1941 was a joyous day for Esther. Her seven children had all made it through the winter and were all healthy. Her son Moishe was eighteen and although he limped from a misformed foot, he was healthy and very bright. Sally was 15 and into theatre and in love, Izzy was thirteen and spent a lot of time with his father, Clare was ten, Johnny was eight, Tonia was five, and Genia was three. Her first son Buma's son, Yeh, died at 6 months. Her husband Samuel was a tailor and did very well. She felt God was watching them. Moishe came in and told her that young men were being taken and he decided to leave. He was going to his aunt's home with his friend Azeil Bauer, also 18. Azeil was in love with Sally and had been so since she was thirteen. After he had left, Esther found out that Sally had gone with them. Samuel and Esther were very upset and the next morning went after them. Esther could not be separated from her other children so they borrowed a horse and wagon, added a few pillows and blankets to the wagon, and set out with their children. An orphaned nephew Yossel (13) who was inseparable from Izzy, a pregnant niece Toibe and her husband Lionik also came with them. They joined a mass of people leaving Skalat ahead of the Germans. By the time they finally found the three, it was too late to go back. The Germans were too close. They had no choice but to go on. Where were they going? Right now they were between the Soviets and the Germans. They were constantly being bombed and strafed. It was through sheer luck or God's intervention that they avoided being killed. Would they ever get back to Skalat and the rest of the family? This book tells of an event that is not talked of often. That is on the Jews who were fleeing the Germans but were running straight into the Soviets. It is quite an interesting story.

This tells of a family that runs from the Germans and steal to survive. They magically find watermelon on the road. They seem to always find horses. I am sure they had a hard time but this wasn't my favorite book. I flipped through a lot because it was average after reading about the concentration camps.

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