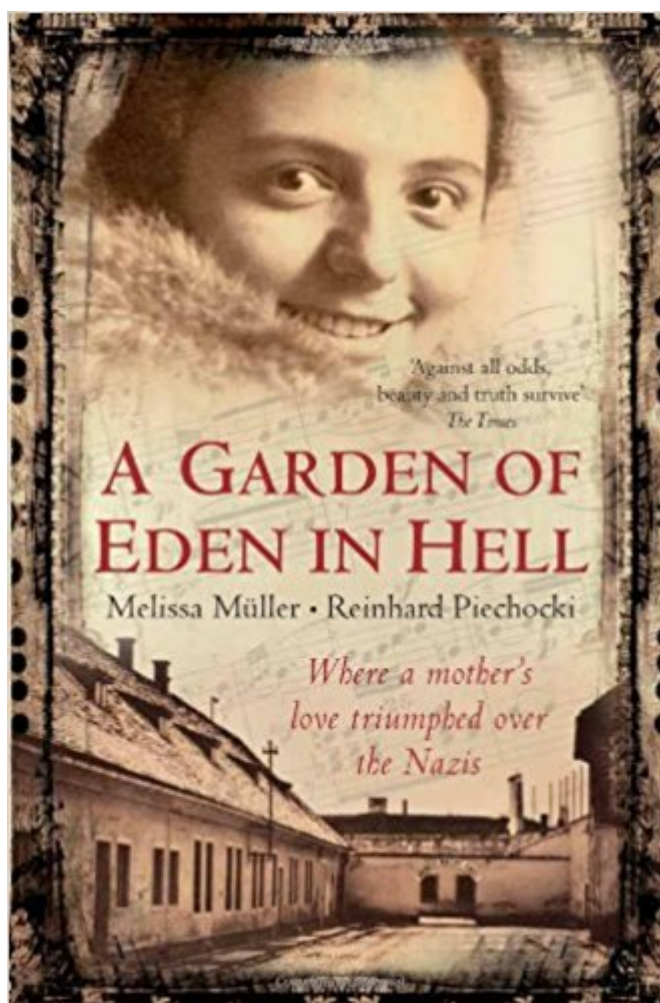


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# A Garden Of Eden In Hell: The Life Of Alice Herz-Sommer



## Synopsis

Alice Herz-Sommer was born in 1903 in Prague—the Prague of the Hapsburgs and of Franz Kafka, a family friend. Musically very gifted, by her mid-teens Alice was one of the best-known pianists in Prague. But as the Nazis swept across Europe her comfortable, bourgeois world began to crumble around her, as anti-Jewish feeling not only intensified but was legitimized. In 1942, Alice's mother was deported. Desperately unhappy, she resolved to learn Chopin's 24 Etudes—the most technically demanding piano pieces she knew—and the complex but beautiful music saved her sanity. A year later, she, too—together with her husband and their six-year-old son—was deported to a concentration camp. But even in Theresienstadt, music was her salvation and in the course of more than 100 concerts she gave her fellow prisoners hope in a world of pain and death. This is her remarkable story, but it is also the story of a mother's struggle to create a happy childhood for her beloved only son in the midst of atrocity and barbarism. Of 15,000 children sent to the camp, Raphael was one of the 130 who survived. Today, Alice Herz-Sommer lives in London and she still plays the piano every day.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Melissa Møller is a journalist, the author of *Anne Frank: The Biography*, and the coauthor of *Until the Final Hour: Hitler's Last Secretary*, which was translated into more than 20 languages. Reinhard Piechocki is the author of a number of works of cultural history and has been a close friend of Alice Herz-Sommer's for many years.

One of the most deeply moving stories I have ever read, bar none. Alice Herz Sommer changed my life, heightened my awareness and I would highly recommended this work to anyone who wants to learn more about what it is like to live in a regime that has been taken over by Nationalism and the Far Right. Alice was a remarkable person whose music not only saved her own live, but many others as well. She was a shining light in the darkness of a devastating time in human history.

Alice died this year at 108. This is the incredible story of her life before and in the concentration camp. There are U Tube videos that i suggest everyone watch. This woman is an incredible inspiration to maintain a happy mind no matter what the circumstances. The book is an easy read and fascinating. It doesn't go too much into the horrors of the camp. It's about her life before, during and after, and raising her son in the concentration camp...Always laughing. She was the oldest living holocaust survivor and concert pianist. Truly inspiring. Also read A Century of Wisdom: Lessons from the Life of Alice Herz-Sommer, the World's Oldest Living Holocaust Survivor by Caroline Stoessinger. A Garden of Eden in Hell was re published as Alice's Piano. I like the first title better. Much more meaningful.

I watched "The Lady In Number 6" on Netflix a while back and was very excited to find this book on Alice Herz-Sommer. Truly an inspiring human being who has lived and understands beauty in life and music despite the horrors she has been forced to live. Very nice writing that gives real insight into this woman's life. I highly, highly recommend this book--and the movie!

This is a very interesting book. However, it IS Word for Word, the same text as "Alice's Piano".

I've been researching gulag/concentration camp life and have found Alice's story (and that of her son) to be an arresting tale of beauty in the midst of horror, uncertainty and chaos. Beautifully told with a threading of the Chopin Etudes throughout, you'll never read another story like hers.

If we could grasp the way she has seen life, probably we would smile more, we would really appreciate each day and definitely love whoever is near to us.

It is the same book as Alice and the piano.

Inspirational! This book is about the triumph of the power of music and the goodness of the soul

over the evil in the world. Alice Herz lived quite a life.

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