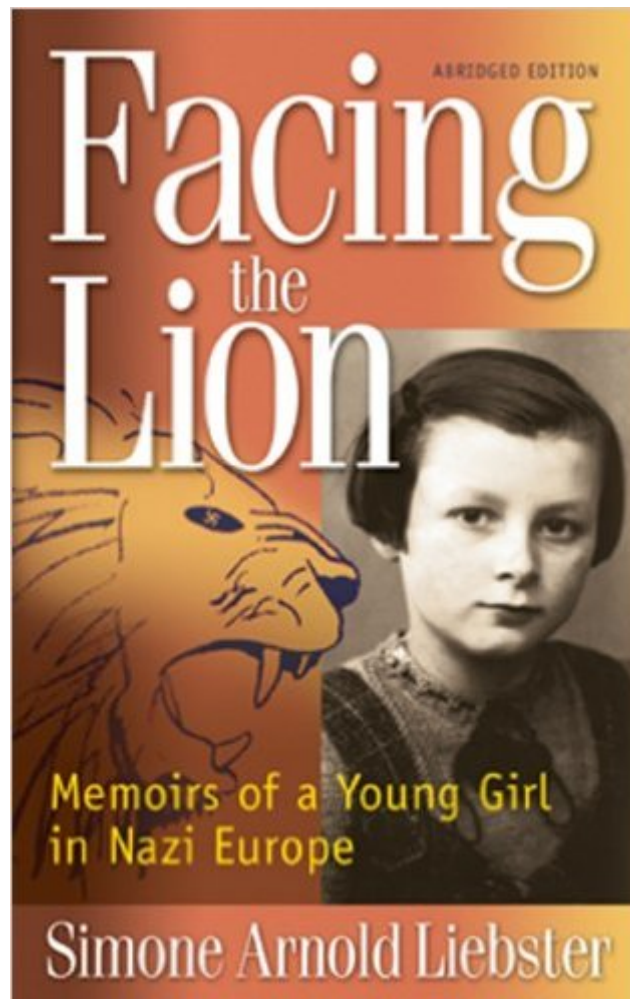


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# Facing The Lion (Abridged Edition): Memoirs Of A Young Girl In Nazi Europe



## Synopsis

Simone Arnold is an ordinary French schoolgirl—spirited and stubborn. Then the Nazis march in, demanding complete conformity. Friends become enemies. Teachers spout Nazi propaganda. School officials recruit for the Hitler Youth. Simone's family refuses to hail Hitler as Germany's savior. They are Jehovah's Witnesses, and they reject Nazi racism and violence. The Nazi Lion makes them pay the price.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book paints a portrait of life under Nazi rule that most people would otherwise never see. We are all aware of the treatment of the Jews in World War II but this is the first book I've read concerning the treatment of Jehovah's Witnesses during this time. I knew very little about their faith when I started reading this book and even less about how they were treated by the Nazis. This book was not only informative but the story is very compelling and very hard to put down. The writer has a wonderful writing style and many times I felt I was actually reading the thoughts of this young girl as she struggled on a daily basis with her life as a prisoner while at the same time tried as best she could to live a life that her faith required.

This excellent auto-biography provides a glimpse into the life and trials of a girl and her family who found themselves facing the wrath of Hitler. As members of the Jehovah's Witnesses, they refused to support Hitler's war machine and so the Nazis vowed to exterminate the group. Persecuted for their beliefs, not for their ethnicity, this story tells of Simone's quiet fight for right. Sustained by her

hope and faith, she overcame opposition of the strongest kind and has found the strength and courage to share her story. For anyone who loved Anne Frank, this is a must read!

Simone Arnold and her family were devout members of the evangelical Christian movement known as Jehovah's Witnesses and living in Nazi occupied Alsace-Lorraine during World War II. Like the Jews, Gypsies, Homosexuals, Communists, and political liberals, the Jehovah Witnesses were targeted by the Nazi's for extermination. Shunned by the community at the direction of the Nazis, rounded up and imprisoned in concentration camps, starved, beaten, abused, and publicly humiliated, all that Simone and her family would have had to do to avoid arrest and persecution was to simply sign a piece of paper renouncing their religion. Facing The Lion is the compelling autobiographical account of a young girl's faith and courage, and her refusal to accept the Nazi party and remain loyal to her faith -- despite the her father's being sent to the camps and she separated from her mother and interned in a reform school for purposes of "reeducation". Facing The Lion is a compelling and highly recommended testament to both Nazi atrocity and the endurance of the human spirit, a detailed view of life during Hitler's ill-fated regime and an inspiration to future generations having to cope with overwhelming pressure to conform in violation of heartfelt beliefs.

Simone's story is honest and heartening, a tale of spiritual and moral victory over the tragedy of the Holocaust and Hitler's third reich. This wonderful little girl would not, could not, and did not compromise, and suffered greatly for it. Her two years of "reform school" from age 13-15 were an inordinately large part of her short life, and that right at puberty, an exquisitely sensitive and formative time. Her great love for her father and mother and the respect for what they taught her carries her through, all of this in the context of her devotion to God and her religious beliefs. Like myself, most of Jehovah's Witnesses have for many years been aware of Simone Arnold and other Witnesses incarcerated during the Holocaust... Simone's story is all the more important for its length, depth and breadth of scope, including her psychological insights. Facing the Lion is unique in that it tells us about a child, but more than a child, a child on her own. At least my relatives and the majority of Witnesses incarcerated during Nazi times had each other in their barracks. Highly recommended reading for young people and their parents.

A fascinating read. Never wanted to put it down. The life experience of not only a young girl dealing with the Nazi regime, but the experience of someone standing up for their beliefs, no matter what

the cost. Also, this book shows the importance parents play in the moral and character development of a child. We learn that Simone, even at an early age, could not only identify truth, but make a solid decision to hold firm to what is right even though it meant persecution for herself and her family. There's much one will discover about themselves as they read this book. Definitely add this to your list and your children's list of "must read" books!

I found the book both inspiring and informative. In a world gone mad this woman painted a picture of a young girl trying to make sense of it all while fighting not to become just another victim. Her strength while facing impossible life decisions inspired me to review how I personally handle stress in this time of relative peace. As a young person, I had read the Diary of Anne Frank and was deeply impressed by her resourcefulness. Unlike the Jews during Nazi occupation, Simone Arnold could have chosen not to be tortured for her beliefs. Her family could have chosen to remain together and compromise. Yet they didn't. They held on to values in a time when there were few to be found. I think everyone, young and old, would benefit from comparing their convictions with the history of this amazing woman.

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