

**CHRONICLE OF SURVIVAL:
LEYB ROCHMAN**

I. The Shape of Survival

- A. Bracketed time
 - 1. usually begins @ outbreak of the war
 - 2. always end w/liberation
- B. Youthful protagonists
 - 1. [131] gives all of their ages
 - 2. must betray parents, grandparents in order to survive
 - 3. prewar experience imp. only insofar as it aids survival
e.g., ability to sew
 - 4. women must be good-looking and speak w/out an accent
- C. Outside Connections
 - 1. \$, goods
 - 2. Christian friends
- D. Plot of action
 - 1. many miracles and near-disasters
 - 2. stranger than fiction

II. Jew vs. Gentile

- A. Elemental confrontation w/all props removed
 - 1. Jews no longer economically powerful
 - 2. the most vulnerable, exposed population
 - 3. inject terror & constant, ubiquitous Jew-hatred
- B. Pagan World
 - reads like IBS *The Slave* (reviewed Rochman very favorably)
 - back the MA
 - world of witches, superstition, folk belief
 - 1 of the most detailed descriptions of their life in Yiddish literature
 - borne out by Alina Cala's postwar research
- C. Christian Jew-Hatred
 - Christ-killers who are now being punished
 - the priests cannot be trusted
- D. The Jew-Hunt [154]
 - even children play it!
 - most harrowing episodes overheard from their hideout
 - a price on their head; much more valuable dead than alive [17]
- E. Theme of Sexual Attraction

Auntie for Juszek

Felek for Esther

ALL HOLOCAUST MOVIES are about this theme alone!

F. Typology of the Christian Pole

Szczepanek

Kontraktowicz +

Bartnicki [164] -

black-uniformed Polish policeman Brodowicz [173 ff]

III. Individual vs. Collective

A. Totally counter-intuitive

there **must** be safety in numbers!

let's stay together, no matter what

intense family loyalty

ghetto-work camp must be better than hiding in forest, in haylofts

Sefer Minsk-Mazowieck recreates the ghetto

B. Terrible isolation [QUOTE 68]

receive new Polish names

do not meet another live Jew for 2 years!!

all they hear about Jews is terrifying

the desecrated landscape: Torah parchments turned into shoes [25]

C. Collective constructs

1. prayers, prooftexts

2. Eretz Israel

IV. Survival Time vs. Time of the Slaughter

moving backward in time, incrementally

back to the primal Event

A. Great Escape, 25 Nov. 42: [26-27]

B. How They Found Auntie, Oct. 42: [35-41; 45-48]

C. Black Friday, 21 August 1942; begins w/his mother: [49-58; 71-73]

D. From Hiding (Tues) to Kopernik Work Camp [153-81; 183-86]

186 Konyak introduced; from then on, 1 continuous narrative

Q: How are the 2 times different?

Durational Time = keeping the diary

[11] measuring time

[21-22] keeping the diary

[22-23] curse of survival

[81, 124, 160, 182] metadiscursive passages

V. Nature of Heroism

A. AUNTIE

B. FELEK & the Missus

C. SZUBE

Q: Is Appelfeld right?

VI. Paratextual

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Begins w/invocation of slain family