

Levi, Primo

(1919--1987), Italian Jewish Holocaust survivor and author. Born in Turin, Levi was awarded a doctorate in chemistry in September 1943. Soon thereafter, the Italians surrendered to the Allies and Germany quickly took control of much of Italy. Levi fled to the mountains in the north of the country, but he was caught, and in February 1944 he was deported to Auschwitz.

Levi was imprisoned in Auschwitz for 10 months, and was in fact one of the few Italian Jews to survive the camp. When he returned to Italy he resumed his life as a chemist, married, and had children. However, his experiences at Auschwitz never left him alone. In 1947 Levi wrote *Survival in Auschwitz: The Nazi Assault on Humanity*, which described his stay at Auschwitz and his observations on life there. He depicted his horrific experiences authentically and humanely without anger or generalizations. However, it took years for his writing talents to be fully appreciated. Over time, Levi came to be known as an author with remarkable talent, and one of the best Italian writers of his time, whose works continued to focus on Auschwitz and the human condition after Auschwitz. Levi took his own life in 1987, leaving behind no explanation.