

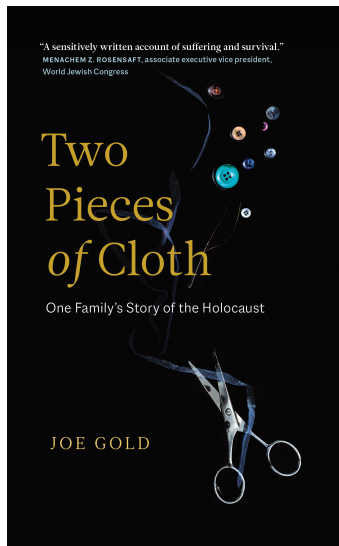
"A sensitively written account of suffering and survival that allows the reader to understand the plight of European Jewry during World War II from the perspective of two individuals who emerged from the maelstrom without ever abandoning their humanity or their faith."

—**Menachem Z. Rosensaft**, associate executive vice president, World Jewish Congress

"An obvious labour of love, a generational testament to parents who survived the Shoah, and a treasure for our children and grandchildren... **A powerful, authentic, and meaningful tribute to memory.**"

—**Dr. Robert Krell**, professor emeritus, psychiatry, University of British Columbia;  
founding president, Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre

*Launching as a fundraiser for the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre*



## TWO PIECES OF CLOTH

### *One Family's Story of the Holocaust*

by JOE GOLD

**Vancouver, BC**—In this astonishing memoir, author Joe Gold shares the remarkable true story of his parents' survival through the horrors of the Holocaust, and the incredible strength they drew upon to ultimately rebuild their lives.

Drawing from testimony given to the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre, personal conversations, and archival documents, Gold channels the voices of his parents: young up-and-coming textile businessman David "Deszy" Gold and his wife, Aurelia Gold. In an alternating first-person narrative, they recount their journey from the vibrant Jewish community of Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, through the atrocities of WWII.

"This is the book my father always wanted to write," says Gold. "He always said, 'My story could be a movie,' and it really is an amazing tale. There are so many moments in his journey when things could have gone differently—twists of fate that allowed him to narrowly escape death over and over again. Those pieces of luck, combined with his incredible strength and instinct for survival, are what finally lead him back to safety."

#### **From Auschwitz survivor to Canadian textile legend**

David's journey takes him through the death camp of Auschwitz, where he comes face to face with the infamous Dr. Josef Mengele, and the concentration camp of Bergen-Belsen, where prisoners are ravaged by starvation and disease. Meanwhile, in Budapest, Aurelia hides under a false Christian identity with their infant son Andrew, disguising him as a girl to shield him from soldiers checking boys for circumcision.

By the time David is liberated from Bergen-Belsen by the allies, he weighs a skeletal 65 pounds. He is told to wait for the Slovakian legion, but typhus is ravaging the camps. With no sign of when the rescue might come, David leads a group of men in an escape to Hannover. Using his skills of persuasion, he finds a textile business that agrees to give him two pieces of wool cloth—the key to rebuilding his future as he searches for his wife and child. In 1948, the couple and their two young children emigrate to Vancouver, Canada. There, David establishes Gold's Fashion Fabrics, which grows to become Western Canada's largest fabric retailer.

At once heartbreaking and hopeful, tragic and redemptive, *Two Pieces of Cloth* bears witness to the horrors of the Holocaust, and serves as a testament to the power and resilience of the human spirit.

**ON SALE: June 8, 2021**

Page Two Books

Paperback

\$21.95 CDN/\$17.95 USD

ISBN: 9781989603826

Ebook

\$9.99 CDN/USD

ISBN: 9781989603833

Also available as an audiobook.

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## About the author(s)



Joe Gold was born in Czechoslovakia in 1947 and immigrated to Vancouver, Canada, in 1948. He attended the University of British Columbia and worked in the family textile business, followed by a career in real-estate development, management, and software.



Joe's parents, David and Aurelia Gold, survived the Holocaust, though most of their family members perished. David Gold became a business legend in the Canadian textile industry and was active in many Jewish organizations. He died in 2010, predeceased by Aurelia in 2007.

## Key information

- 6 million Jews were killed during the Holocaust, among them more than 60 members of the Gold family.
- David and Aurelia Gold emigrated to Vancouver, B.C. in 1948, where David established his textile business, Gold's Fashion Fabrics, on Granville Street. By 1971 the store had expanded to become the largest fabric store in Western Canada, with over 20,000 square feet across two floors, and a staff of 80.
- *Two Pieces of Cloth: One Family's Story of the Holocaust* is launching as a fundraiser for the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre. Donations up to \$30,000 are being matched by Joe Gold's family and friends.
- 100 copies of *Two Pieces of Cloth* have been donated to B.C. high school students through First Book Canada in April 2021. On April 14, 2021, Joe Gold took part in a remote First Book Canada's RBC Stories of Empowerment Series to discuss the book, its lessons, and its relevance to current events with students from Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School.
- More information about the book, including an original musical composition by Joe Gold inspired by the writing of the book, archival documents, author interviews, and behind-the-scenes insights into its creation are available at [twopiecesofcloth.com](http://twopiecesofcloth.com).
- *Two Pieces of Cloth* is available in print and ebook from Amazon, Indigo, and Barnes & Noble. An audiobook featuring original music and archival interviews with David Gold is available through Audible and iTunes.

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