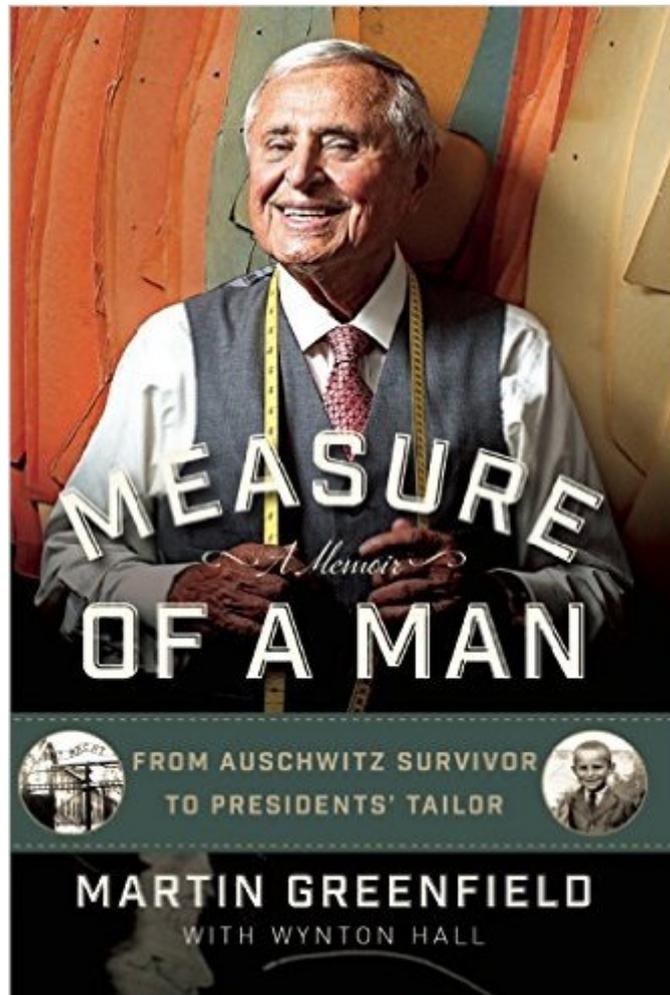


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# Measure Of A Man: From Auschwitz Survivor To Presidents' Tailor



## Synopsis

He's been called "America's greatest living tailor" and "the most interesting man in the world." Now, for the first time, Holocaust survivor Martin Greenfield tells his incredible life story. Taken from his Czechoslovakian home at age fifteen and transported to the Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz with his family, Greenfield came face to face with "Angel of Death" Dr. Joseph Mengele and was divided forever from his parents, sisters, and baby brother. In haunting, powerful prose, Greenfield remembers his desperation and fear as a teenager alone in the death camp; and how an SS soldier's shirt dramatically altered the course of his life. He learned how to sew; and when he began wearing the shirt under his prisoner uniform, he learned that clothes possess great power and could even help save his life. *Measure of a Man* is the story of a man who suffered unimaginable horror and emerged with a dream of success. From sweeping floors at a New York clothing factory to founding America's premier custom suit company, Greenfield built a fashion empire. Now 86 years old and working with his sons, Greenfield has dressed the famous and powerful of D.C. and Hollywood, including Presidents Dwight Eisenhower, Bill Clinton, and Barack Obama, celebrities Paul Newman, Leonardo DiCaprio, and Jimmy Fallon, and the stars of Martin Scorsese's films. Written with soul-baring honesty and, at times, a wry sense of humor, *Measure of a Man* is a memoir unlike any other; one that will inspire hope and renew faith in the resilience of man.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

MEASURE OF A MAN starts off with the author, as a boy, in a German concentration camp. Martin was quickly separated from most of his family--and many relatives he would never see again. Martin

was sent to the line on the right, where the prisoners were allowed to live. Those on the left--including many of his family--were killed. We've heard the Auschwitz story before, but it bears repeating. The young boy was witness to astonishing acts of human cruelty. He witnesses a friend being used as target practice. Martin's father was a wise man who realized that in order for his son to survive, he and his son must be separated. Thus, early on, his father claimed Martin was a skilled mechanic. Like the other prisoners in Auschwitz, Martin was given a tattoo. In his case "A4406." For some reason, the young man was sent to the camp laundry. There, he learned a little bit about sewing and the power of appearance. Martin had torn a Nazi shirt whilst cleaning it, and after being bloodied by the guard for his error, Martin decided to wear the shirt under his prisoner garb. "The day I wore that first shirt was the day I learned clothes possess power. Clothes don't just make the man, they can save the man. They did for me." Ironically, the hellhole of Auschwitz became his tailoring training ground--but hardly his first choice: "Of course, receiving your first tailoring lesson inside a Nazi concentration camp was hardly the ideal apprenticeship. I would have much preferred to learn my craft on Savile Row." In January of 1945, the Jewish prisoners were forced to march on the infamous "death march." Only 500 prisoners survived. Martin recalls that he was forced to carry a heavy backpack of one of the German soldiers.

The table of contents says there are twelve chapters. Essentially, this book has only two chapters: I will call them "The Holocaust Experience" and "Martin, the Menswear Guy." The author's holocaust experience as a teenager, the execution of his father just a week prior to liberation, and his postwar transition, ending in a life in a segregated America, are intensely interesting and rank with the best of Holocaust memoirs. Martin, the Menswear Guy--not so much. Unless you a) are totally wedded to the concept that clothes make the man, and b) fervently believe that celebrities are invariably and inherently of greater value and interest than your neighbor down the street, the second part of the book may leave you cold and yearning to be on the final page. While in the camps, "I'd never felt so alone. I wondered where God was, where He'd been these last nine months... I wasn't having a crisis of faith. I was a child. I didn't think grand, deep thoughts. All I knew was that I wanted to feel close to God, to know that He hadn't forgotten me and still loved me. 'Maybe God's just been really busy,' I remember thinking. 'Soon maybe He will remember me.'" (pp. 38-39) Although the book doesn't develop the author's personal theology, clearly he never drifted into agnosticism or atheism. In fact, he finally celebrated his long-delayed Bar Mitzvah on his eightieth birthday and "felt God's presence and peace." (p. 218) The following seem worth noting: "I will go to my grave believing that the many who lived in and around the camps knew what Hitler and his henchman were up to. How

could they not?" (p. 55)"I found it hard to talk about what we went through.

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