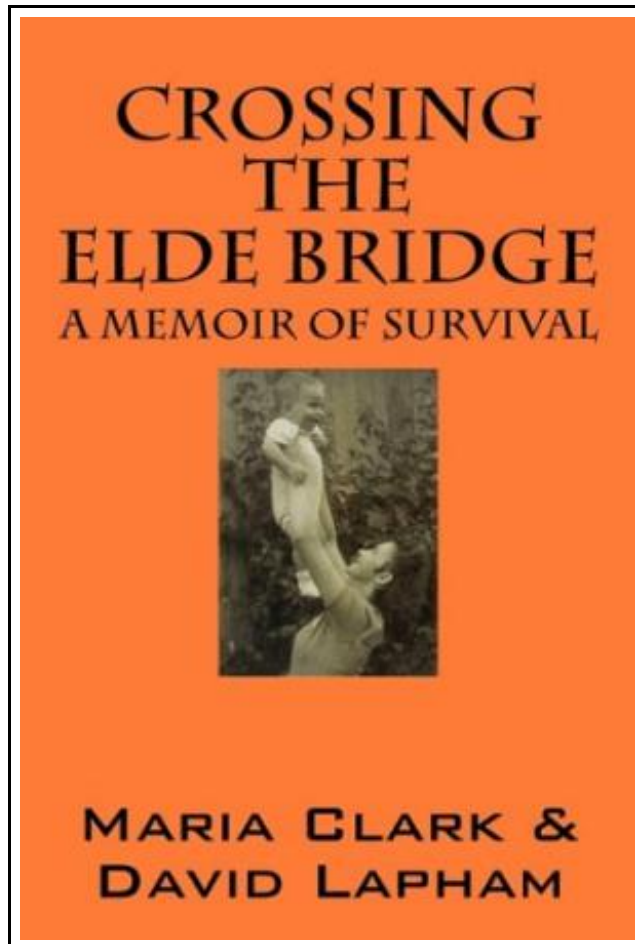


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Outskirts Press, United States, 2010. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. CROSSING THE ELDE BRIDGE: A Memoir of Survival Maria, a young, Catholic Austro-Hungarian, was born into a wealthy, aristocratic family, and lived a privileged, if isolated, childhood schooled by her mother and two governesses. Days before Christmas 1939 the young teenager was snatched from the fairy tale world she lived in by the Gestapo and thrown into a forced labor camp, Spandau Prison, in Berlin. For eight months she was beaten, starved, and worked almost beyond her endurance. Her family knew only that she had disappeared from the face of the Earth. Finally, the Nazi government notified them of her whereabouts, and they were reunited in Berlin-after her parents and grandmother had forfeited all their vast holdings to the Third Reich. Thanks to her mother's schooling, Maria spoke five languages fluently and was assigned as an interpreter/translator for the government in Berlin. Still in her mid-teens she met and soon married a young German pilot, hastened perhaps by veiled threats of repatriation because she and her family were not German citizens. After enduring the horrors of Allied bombings, Maria, who was then pregnant, and her mother-in-law escaped to her husband's family farm north of Berlin, where she gave birth to her son. At war's end as the Eastern Front collapsed, she fled west with her child trying to reach American lines, only to be captured by the Russians in the little town of Eldena on the Elde River. Raped, brutally beaten, and threatened with death, she finally escaped across the Elde Bridge with the help of an American soldier. When the Americans departed, she once more fled and wandered as a refugee across...

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