Record Nr. UNISA996213534803316 Autore Waldstein Wilkes Helen <1936-> Titolo Letters from the lost: a memoir of discovery / / Helen Waldstein Wilkes Pubbl/distr/stampa Athabasca University Press, 2010 Edmonton, Alberta:,: AU Press,, 2010 ©2010 **ISBN** 1-282-85195-0 9786612851957 1-897425-54-6 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (303 pages) : digital file(s) Collana Our Lives: Diary, Memoir, and Letters Disciplina 940.53/1809224371 Soggetti Jews - Czech Republic - Prague Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) - Czech Republic Jews - Canada Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references. Nota di contenuto Family Tree -- Opening the Box -- Leaving Home -- Letters to Antwerp -- Starting Over -- Letters to Canada -- Searching In Europe: 1997-1998 -- My Aunts and Uncles -- My Grandparents -- War Breaks Out -- The Family Copes -- The Letters Stop -- Imagining -- After the War -- Finding Home -- Searching for Family Again -- Searching for Family One Last Time -- Epilogue. Sommario/riassunto On 15 March 1939, Helen Waldstein's father snatched his stamped exit visa from a distracted clerk to escape from Prague with his wife and child. As the Nazis closed in on a war-torn Czechoslovakia, only letters from their extended family could reach Canada through the barriers of conflict. The Waldstein family received these letters as they made their lives on a southern Ontario farm, where they learned to be Canadian and forget their Jewish roots. Helen Waldstein read these letters as an adult — this changed everything. As her past refused to keep silent, Helen followed the trail of the letters back to Europe, where she discovered living witnesses who could attest to the letters' contents.

She has here interwoven their stories and her own into a compelling narrative of suffering, survivor guilt, and overcoming intergenerational

obstacles when exploring a traumatic past.