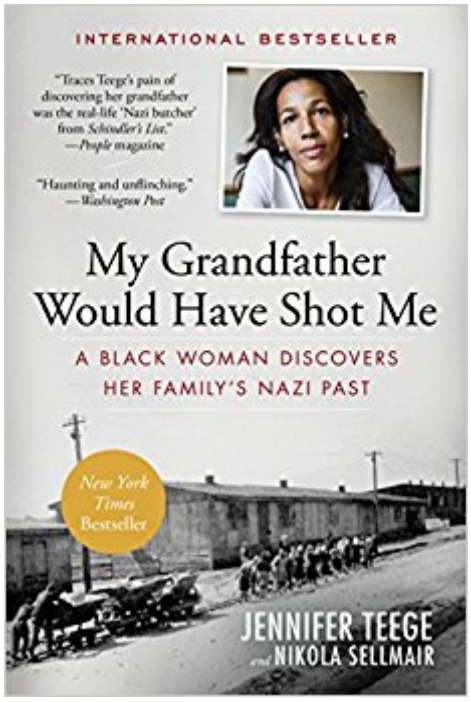
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My Grandfather Would Have Shot Me: A Black Woman Discovers Her Family's Nazi Past



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Synopsis

Now in paperback: TheÃ Â New York TimesÃ Â bestselling memoirÃ Â hailed as Ã¢â ¬Å“unforgettableÃ¢â ¬Â• (Publishers Weekly) and Ã¢â ¬Å“a stunning memoir of cultural trauma and personal identityÃ¢â ¬Â• (Booklist). At age 38, Jennifer Teege happened to pluck a library book from the shelfÃ¢â ¬â •and discovered a horrifying fact: Her grandfather was Amon Goeth, the vicious Nazi commandant depicted in SchindlerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s List. Reviled as the Ã¢â ¬Å“butcher of PÃ…â aszÃƒÂ w,Ã¢â ¬Â• Goeth was executed in 1946. The more Teege learned about him, the more certain she became: If her grandfather had met herÃ¢â ¬â •a black womanÃ¢â ¬â •he would have killed her. Ã Â TeegeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s discovery sends her into a severe depressionÃ¢â ¬â •and fills her with questions: Why did her birth mother withhold this chilling secret? How could her grandmother have loved a mass murderer? Can evil be inherited? Ã Â TeegeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s story is cowritten by Nikola Sellmair, who also adds historical context and insight from TeegeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s family and friends, in an interwoven narrative. Ultimately, TeegeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s search for the truth leads her, step by step, to the possibility of her own liberation.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

New York Times Bestseller2015 INDIEFAB Honorable Mention for Autobiography & Memoir Ã¢â ¬Å“Jennifer TeegeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s new memoir traces the pain of discovering her grandfather was the real-life Ã¢â ¬ËœNazi butcherÃ¢â ¬â„¢ from SchindlerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s List.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •People magazine Ã¢â ¬Å“Haunting and unflinching . . . A memoir, an adoption story and a geopolitical history lesson, all blended seamlessly into an account of TeegeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s exploration of her

roots.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Washington Post Ã¢â ¬Å“A stunning memoir of cultural trauma and personal identity.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Booklist, starred review Ã¢â ¬Å“Unforgettable. . . . TeegeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s quest to discover her personal history is empowering.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Publishers Weekly Ã¢â ¬Å“An important addition to narratives written by descendants of war criminals. A gripping read, highly recommended for anyone interested in history, memoirs, and biography.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Library Journal, starred review Ã¢â ¬Å“[A] journey of self-discovery.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Metro US Ã¢â ¬Å“[An] amazing story of horror and reconciliation and love.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •John Mutter, Shelf Awareness Ã¢â ¬Å“[Jennifer TeegeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s] memoir has much to teach us about the ordinary, intimate conditions in which political violenceÃ¢â ¬â •and the reckoning that followsÃ¢â ¬â •take place.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Michael Rothberg,Ã Â Public Books Ã¢â ¬Å“The high quality of the writing helps to convey this incredible but amazingly true story.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Association of Jewish Libraries Ã¢â ¬Å“This book is not for the faint of heart, but it is fascinating and fair. There are no easy answers to the issues raised in this book, but they exist for both groups of descendants. Readers will be challenged to think about a major event in world history from a perspective that is rare but surely significant.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Gerhard L. Weinberg, History Book Club Ã¢â ¬Å“A powerful account of TeegeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s struggle for resolution and redemption, the book [is] itself a therapeutic working-through of her history, as well as a meditation on family.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •The Independent (UK) Ã¢â ¬Å“Courageous. . . . the memoir invites rereading to fully absorb TeegeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s painful search for answers, for a sense of identity and belonging and for inner peace. Readers wonÃ¢â ¬â„¢t help but feel for her. Teege discovers, however, that historyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s shattering truths have the potential to make us more whole.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Seattle Times Ã¢â ¬Å“[TeegeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s] message is an important oneÃ¢â ¬â •that we have the power to decide who we are.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Seattle Weekly Ã¢â ¬Å“In honest, direct, and absorbing prose, Teege and coauthor Nikola Sellmair confront highly personal repercussions of the Holocaust. . . . The bookÃ¢â ¬â„¢s real triumph is in its nuanced, universally appealing portrait of an individual searching for her place in the world. Just as TeegeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s chance encounter with a library book led her to question the fundamental assumptions of her life, so too the reader. . . will be forced to reconsider the wide-ranging impact of past injustices on present-day relationships.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •The Jewish Book Council Ã¢â ¬Å“A discomfiting but clear-eyed journey of self-discovery and identity reconciliation that first-time author Teege relates with admirable straightforwardness and equanimity.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •In These Times Ã¢â ¬Å“The alternating narrative between Teege and co-author Sellmair offers a refreshing and ultimately

impartial analysis. TeegeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s heartfelt commentary and SellmairÃ¢â ¬â„¢s objective narrative produce a layer of balanced interpretation and insight.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •New York Journal of Books Ã¢â ¬Å“TeegeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s story is at times heart wrenching, and yet, full of her own stark honesty and surprising wisdom as she ponders the impacts of oneÃ¢â ¬â„¢s family history.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Manhattan Book Review Ã¢â ¬Å“Jennifer Teege has a fascinating story.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Washington Independent Review of Books Ã¢â ¬Å“TeegeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s story is one of questions as much as answers. Her honest self-examination makes for a provocative, unpredictable story of an understanding still in progress.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Columbus Dispatch Ã¢â ¬Å“As spellbinding as any horror fiction, but itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s true, and grippingly filled with personal details that ensnare the reader. . . . Fascinating.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Jacksonville Clarion-Ledger

Jennifer TeegeÃ Â worked in advertising for 16 years before becoming an author. For four years in her twenties she lived in Israel, where she became fluent in Hebrew. She graduated from Tel Aviv University with a degree in Middle Eastern and African studies. Teege lives in Germany with her husband and two sons. A New York Times and international bestseller, My Grandfather Would Have Shot Me is her first book. Ã Â Nikola Sellmair graduated from Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich and has worked in Hong Kong, Washington, DC, Israel, and Palestine. She has been a reporter in Hamburg at GermanyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Stern magazine since 2000. Her work has received many awards, including the German-Polish Journalist Award, for the first-ever article about Jennifer TeegeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s singular story.

The week before I came across this book, I strangely became interested in what happened to the children of the Nazi leaders. I say strangely because I never really even thought about the matter before that time, although I’ve read quite a bit about the children and grandchildren of Holocaust survivors. I then went online and watched an old "60 Minutes" episode of some of the adult children discussing their Nazi fathers. At least two had surgery to prevent them from having children for fear of having evilness in their bloodlines. Thus, I think in some ways it was for the best that Jennifer Teege did not discover who her grandfather was until she was a happily married mother in her 30s.It was not something she grew up with. Instead, she grew up as an adopted half-black child in a German family. Her family life was good, though, and she was treated no differently than the family’s two sons, and the three siblings seemed close. However, when she came across the library book by her mother discussing her grandfather, nothing was obviously ever the same again. This

book discusses Ms. Teege's feelings during that traumatic time period, and describes her searches for the truth; as well as her discovery of the stories of other children and grandchildren of Nazis. Coauthor Nikola Sellmair provides an additional enlightening voice, with chapter sections of her own, including discussions with a psychiatrist who specializes in treating those who had Nazi parents.Since I've read no other books on the topic, I can only guessÃ Â My Grandfather Would Have Shot Me: A Black Woman Discovers Her Family's Nazi PastÃ Â is an excellent way to begin research on the matter. Ms. Teege also has Jewish friends and connections to Israel which add an interesting twist to things. Only once when she was discussing the victims of the Nazis did I feel she was being self-indulgent. But that leveled off, and the ending is not one of someone who is forever going to be swallowed up by her grandfather's evil legacy. In fact, one of the most interesting aspects of the story is what eventually happened to Jennifer Teege's depression once she discovered her biological family's past. Unlike what the book's description suggests, she had periods of depression before she came across the library book that changed her life. The discovery is not what created her depression. The discovery is what cured her depression.(Note: A free e-ARC of this book was provided to me by NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.)

The gut wrenching, yet important story of Jennifer TeegeÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s life is not one I will soon forget, nor would I want to. I read the book one afternoon and felt myself trying to walk in her shoes upon learning the truth about her grandfather and I just couldn't do it. How does a biracial (Black) woman come to terms with the truth her Nazi grandfather, Amon Goeth, would have killed her? This book is about Teege's journey of making peace with her family's horrific past, as well as acceptance of her place in it. Shortly after reading Teege's book, I was fortunate to hear her speak at an event, and just listening to the range of emotions Teege experienced throughout her talk, I wondered how her recovery was even possible! Through sheer determination and incredible support, Teege emerged from her ordeal a strong woman with a unique voice and her readers are the beneficiaries of her inner strength and peace. This book validated my assertion that your past does not define you, it can only make you stronger. Read the book.

The style of writing is rather plain, and the alternating voices between Jennifer & her co-author broke the flow for me.That aside, I don't think I was prepared to read about Jennifer's issues surrounding her adoption, specifically. I picked up the book as I've long been interested in history, the Holocaust being one catastrophe about which I've never stopped trying to learn more about.I had seen Monika Goeth in the documentary mentioned, yet it took me a bit to make the connection.

I suppose I had expected the reaction of trying to reconcile a grandfather's actions under the most basic of circumstancesÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •I hadn't realized there would be so much more to it.Full disclosure: I am an adoptee. It was incredibly painful for me to read about Jennifer's choice to give up calling her parents mama & papa. I don't say this out of obligation to my family; I simply have a hard time wrapping my mind around that... Perhaps more than trying to reconcile a criminal's actions. Clearly, this book struck a wound of my own. I'm not sure if I'd have read it had I known. This is a book I can take or leave. I'd hoped for some further insight into the psychological aspects, likely in a way that could be explained in a way that I could understand. I came away feeling as if I learned far more about a woman's experience as a transracial adoptee as opposed to being a living relative of a Nazi commander. It wasn't wrong, it just wasn't what I expected. 3.5 stars.

I bought this book after hearing the author being interviewed on TV. I've read a lot of true books and novels about the Holocaust and thought I had explored the subject as much as I ever wanted to. Then this book came along. This is a totally unique memoir of a woman discovering the truth about her past and coming to grips with it. How do you deal with learning that your grandfather was a notorious war criminal and that your beloved grandmother shared his Nazi life? Ms. Teege has done a wonderful job writing this painful story. The co-author provides additional research into her family and on German attitudes towards the Holocaust as well as how other Nazis' descendents have felt and coped with their family history. This is a fascinated and very readable book.

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