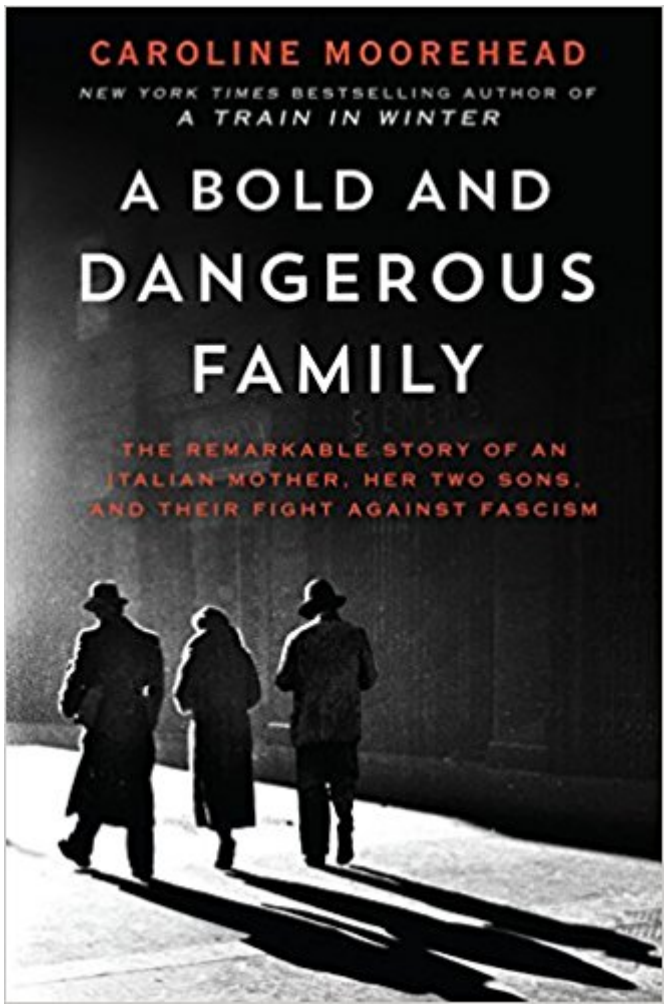
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A Bold And Dangerous Family: The Remarkable Story Of An Italian Mother, Her Two Sons, And Their Fight Against Fascism



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Synopsis

The acclaimed author of A Train in Winter and Village of Secrets delivers the next chapter in "The Resistance Quartet": the astonishing story of the aristocratic Italian family who stood up to Mussolini’s fascism, and whose efforts helped define the path of Italy in the years between the World WarsÃ¢â ¬â •a profile in courage that remains relevant today.Members of the cosmopolitan, cultural aristocracy of Florence at the beginning of the twentieth century, the Rosselli family, led by their fierce matriarch, Amelia, were vocal anti-fascists. As populist, right-wing nationalism swept across Europe after World War I, and ItalyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Prime Minister, Benito Mussolini, began consolidating his power, AmeliaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s sons Carlo and Nello led the opposition, taking a public stand against Il Duce that few others in their elite class dared risk. When Mussolini established a terrifying and brutal police state controlled by his BlackshirtsÃ¢â ¬â •the squaddristiÃ¢â ¬â •the Rossellis and their anti-fascist circle were transformed into active resisters.In retaliation, many of the anti-fascists were arrested and imprisoned; others left the country to escape a similar fate. Tragically, Carlo and Nello were eventually assassinated by MussoliniÃ¢â ¬â„¢s secret service. After Italy entered World War II in June 1940, Amelia, thanks to visas arranged by First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt herself, fled to New York City with the remaining members of her family.Renowned historian Caroline Moorehead paints an indelible picture of Italy in the first half of the twentieth century, offering an intimate account of the rise of Il Duce and his squaddristi; life in MussoliniÃ¢â ¬â„¢s penal colonies; the shocking ambivalence and complicity of many prominent Italian families seduced by MussoliniÃ¢â ¬â„¢s promises; and the bold, fractured resistance movement whose associates sacrificed their lives to fight fascism. In A Bold and Dangerous Family, Moorehead once again pays tribute to heroes who fought to uphold our humanity during one of historyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s darkest chapters. A Bold and Dangerous Family is illustrated with black-and-white photographs.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“Much has been written about life under fascist rule.... But the study of a nation can never be as emotionally compelling as the study of a family. Expertly alternating vivid domestic detail with lucid exposition of the gradual evolution of totalitarianism,Ã Â Caroline MooreheadÃ Â allows her readers not only to know, but also to feel, how it was to endure fascist oppression.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Lucy Hughes-Hallett, The Guardian (London))Ã¢â ¬Å“Carefully, and with considerable skill, Moorehead juxtaposes the growth into maturity of the intelligent Florentines, Carlo and Nello, with a vivid account of the turbulent conditions that enabled Fascism to take root.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã Â (Miranda Seymour, Daily Telegraph (London))Ã¢â ¬Å“Moorehead, a distinguished biographer and historian, tells the story of the Rosselli brothers and their mother Amelia, a playwright, with sensitivity, erudition, and balance.... A fine tribute.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Tony Barber, Financial Times (London))Ã¢â ¬Å“A major contribution to the study of anti-Fascism, further enriched by Caroline MooreheadÃ¢â ¬â„¢s vivid portrayal of interwar Italy and Europe.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Jonathan Keates, Literary Review (London))Ã¢â ¬Å“MooreheadÃ¢â ¬â„¢s portrait of the Rosselli brothers is at once a political history of pre-second world war Italy, a beautiful literary portrait of two brave young men, and a gripping tale of intrigue, espionage and escape.... I finished it impressed, breathless and enormously moved.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Alex Preston, The Observer (London))Ã¢â ¬Å“A haunting reminder of the fragility of liberty and the dangers of complaisance.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Leanda de Lisle, The Times (London))Ã¢â ¬Å“Moorehead recounts a story that deserves to beÃ Â better known, exploiting her remarkable understanding of the nation and its culture.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Max Hastings, Sunday Times (London))Ã¢â ¬Å“Compelling and deeply informedÃ¢â ¬Â¦ [Moorehead] has done us the great service of unveiling the real lives behind the myth and in demonstrating that fallible human beings are far more interesting and dramatic figures than those who make up the stuff of legends.Ã¢â ¬Â• (New York Times Books Review on Village of Secrets)Ã¢â ¬Å“The definitive account.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Wall Street Journal on Village of Secrets)Ã¢â ¬Å“Le Chambon has long been mythologized in France for the actions of its inhabitants, who sheltered the refugees and helped many escape to Switzerland. But, as this riveting history shows, the story is more complex.Ã¢â ¬Â• (The New Yorker on Village of Secrets)Ã¢â ¬Å“A compelling and moving book. . . . . The literature of wartime France and the

Holocaust is by now so vast as to confound the imagination, but when a book as good as this comes along, we are reminded that there is always room for something new.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Washington Post on A Train in Winter)Ã¢â ¬Å“By turns heartbreaking and inspiring.Ã¢â ¬Â• (New York Times Book Review on A Train in Winter)Ã¢â ¬Å“A moving novelistic portrait.Ã Â .Ã Â .Ã Â . An inspiring and fascinating read.Ã¢â ¬Â• (People on A Train in Winter)

Mussolini was not only ruthless; he was subtle and manipulative. Black-shirted thugs did his dirty work for him: arson, murder, destruction of homes and offices, bribery, and intimidation. His opponentsÃ¢â ¬â •including editors, publishers, union representatives, lawyers, and judgesÃ¢â ¬â •were beaten into submission. But the tide turned in 1924, when his henchmen went too far; horror spread across Italy, and twenty years of struggle began. Anti-fascist resistance was born and it would end only with MussoliniÃ¢â ¬â„¢s death in 1945. Among those whose disgust hardened into bold and uncompromising resistance was a family from Florence: Amelia, Carlo, and Nello Rosselli.In A Bold and Dangerous Family, Caroline Moorehead draws on letters and diaries never previously translated into English to reveal, in all their intimacy, a family driven by loyalty, duty, and courage, yet susceptible to all the self-doubt and fear to which humans are prey. Readers will be drawn into the lives of this remarkable familyÃ¢â ¬â •and their loves, their loyalties, and their ultimate sacrifice.

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