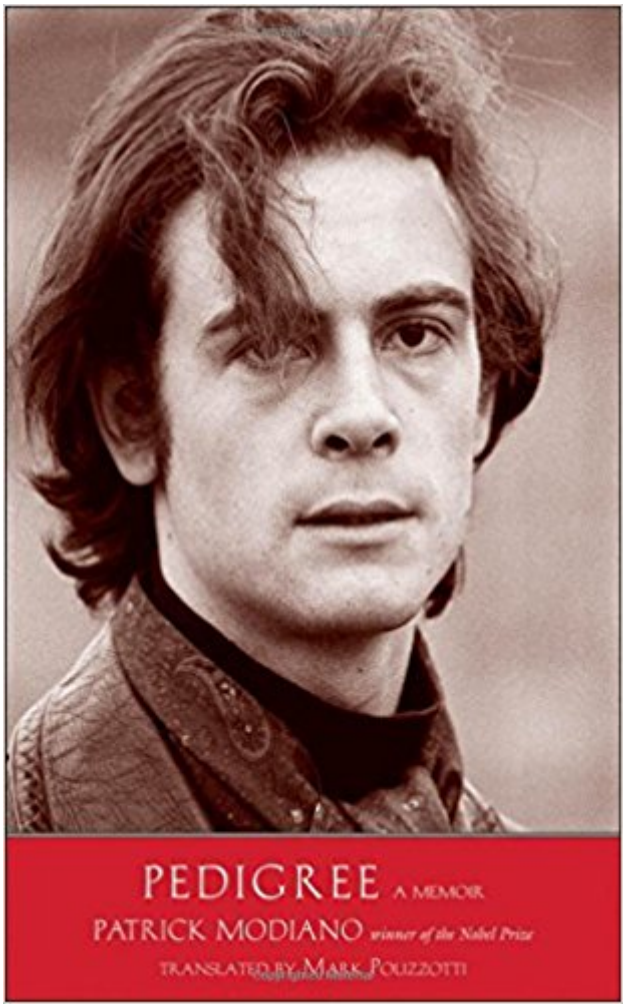
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Pedigree: A Memoir (The Margellos World Republic Of Letters)



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Synopsis

Nobel laureate Patrick Modiano has said that his many fictions are all variations of the same story. Pedigree, his memoir, is the theme. In this rare glimpse into the life of Nobel laureate Patrick Modiano, the author takes up his pen to tell his personal story. He addresses his early yearsÃ¢â ¬â •shadowy times in postwar Paris that haunt his memory and have inspired his world-cherished body of fiction. In the spare, absorbing, and sometimes dreamlike prose that translator Mark Polizzotti captures unerringly, Modiano offers a memoir of his first twenty-one years. Termed one of his Ã¢â ¬Å“finest booksÃ¢â ¬Â• by the Guardian, Pedigree is both a personal exploration and a luminous portrait of a world gone by. Ã Â Pedigree sheds light on the childhood and adolescence that Modiano explores in Suspended Sentences,Dora Bruder, and other novels. In this work he re-creates the louche, unstable, colorful world of his parents under the German Occupation; his childhood in a household of circus performers and gangsters; and his formative friendship with the writer Raymond Queneau. While acknowledging that memory is never assured, Modiano recalls with painful clarity the most haunting moments of his early life, such as the death of his ten-year-old brother. Pedigree, ModianoÃ¢â ¬â„¢s only memoir, is a gift to his readers and a master key to the themes that have inspired his writing life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"CompellingÃ Â . . . highly effective. . . . Mr. Modiano depends for effect not on rhetorical declaration or emotional outburst but on the accumulation of minor details. He is a writer unlike any

other and a worthy recipient of the Nobel."Ã¢â ¬â •James Campbell, Wall Street Journal"[ModianoÃ¢â ¬â„¢s] books . . . make up a system as beguiling and complete as any in contemporary literature. . . . In Pedigree, his memoir of his early life . . . he is preoccupied with the riddle of his father."Ã¢â ¬â •Alexandra Schwartz, New Yorker"Nobel PrizeÃ¢â ¬â œwinning author and screenwriter Patrick Modiano recalls his post-WWII Paris youth . . . filled with the kind of live-by-their-wits characters who inform his work."Ã¢â ¬â •Megan OÃ¢â ¬â„¢Grady, Vogue"Terse, yet somehow infinitely generous, Pedigree both enacts and accounts for ModianoÃ¢â ¬â„¢s fraught relationship with memory and the pastÃ¢â ¬â •his own and those of his country. It outlines the stakes of his literary practice and reveals the specific sufferings this practice entails."Ã¢â ¬â •Kaiama L. Gloverdec, New York Times Book Review"In this slim but potent volume . . . [Modiano] grapples with the ghosts of the past and the events that shaped the man and writer he would become."Ã¢â ¬â •Publishers Weekly"The only book that Modiano has explicitly identified as a memoir . . . [Pedigree] tells us that nearly all of the fictions would be true had the author not peopled them with his surrogates."Ã¢â ¬â •Joshua Cohen, HarperÃ¢â ¬â„¢s"This book will stay with readers long after its end and begs for rereading. . . . Echoes of the gray, bleak, yet resilient mood of FranÃƒÂ§ois TruffautÃ¢â ¬â„¢s 1959 film The 400 Blows are felt throughout, perhaps because both works share postÃ¢â ¬â œWorld War II Paris as the setting. . . . A truly wonderful book."Ã¢â ¬â •Derek Sanderson, Library Journal (starred review)"For those familiar with and interested in Modiano's fiction, Pedigree is essential reading."Ã¢â ¬â •M.A.Orthofer, Complete Review"[Pedigree] makes a powerful, lasting impression."Ã¢â ¬â •Michael Autrey, Booklist"Brief and sharp, a pointillist interpretation of personal history."Ã¢â ¬â •James McAuley, New Republic"Fascinating . . . much of the book surprises us with irresistible images. . . . Pedigree is an excellent introduction to one of the more enigmatic Nobel laureates in recent years."Ã¢â ¬â •Michael Magras, Book Reporter"[Pedigree] gathers emotional power as the book progresses in this crystalline translation by Mark Polizzotti. . . . The memoir is a map, and once youÃ¢â ¬â„¢ve read it, you are no longer a tourist walking in the strange land of ModianoÃ¢â ¬â„¢s fictionÃ¢â ¬â •now there are landmarks and familiar places you can revisit from a fresh angle."Ã¢â ¬â •Priyanka Kumar, Santa Fe New Mexican"[Modiano], who won the Nobel Prize last year for a body of work as deft and beautiful as any in postwar European literature, is an excavator of memory . . . [Pedigree] tells the story of the author's early years."Ã¢â ¬â •David L. Ulin, Los Angeles Times"For those coming anew to Modiano, reading Pedigree first might be a wise choice. His life, such as he tells it here, is as extraordinary and as bizarre as the situations of his fiction . . . [and] it also goes a long way to show what made him a writer."Ã¢â ¬â •J.P. Smith,

The Millions"Wonderfully served by an excellent translator, Mark Polizzotti . . . in [Pedigree] we find the key to unlock the haunting, charged, atmospheric novels that preceded it . . . the memoir reiterates the elusive qualities of the novels and, in its concern for shadows and fog, casts the mysterious lives of [ModianoÃ¢â ¬â„¢s] parents as emblematic of a larger obscured history."Ã¢â ¬â •Jonathan Wilson, Los Angeles Review of Books

Patrick Modiano, winner of the 2014 Nobel Prize for literature and an internationally beloved novelist, lives in Paris, France. Mark Polizzotti has translated more than forty books from the French and is director of the publications program at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

Modiano becomes accessible to us in this brief autobiography. It explains much about his earlier books - especially Dora Bruder. His extraordinary experiences growing up almost as a cast-off of two fly-by-night parents following the devastation of France after WW2 moved me, though he asks for no sympathy. Understanding that post-war period and all its privations, existing hand-to-mouth, give us a picture of the era. It is all the more remarkable that this child grew up to receive the Nobel Prize for Literature. This book is well worth reading.

An autobiography basically telling how to confront and make peace with the past. It also presents the reader with a number of questions that almost everyone has asked themselves: when do we start standing on our own feet? Is forgiving necessary for inner peace or is just being neutral enough?A must read before starting any Modiano novel...

He takes one through a long lost world that not so much nurtured him, but did in fact form him. How easily he could have been a very different person from whom we would have learned nothing. He bears the scars, but doesn’t wallow in the pain that inflicted them.

I am in love with Modiano’s writing. Read his novel, Honeymoon, loved it. Hope to read all his novels. Unique memoir, utterly singular and fascinating

Though the reader does get a sense of the chaotic family life Modiano endured with two ego-centric, absent and abusive parents, he never really engages the reader with the multiple lists of people in his life. He does state his reactions and give a sense of his feelings about his parents, but his desire to not judge or really analyze their actions leaves this reader wanting to know more about how his

parents' absence influenced his views and literary imagination. Maybe that will come with a later memoire that begins after age 21. I hope so.

Written in much the same style as his fiction, somewhat brooding and elusive, yet a fine complement to reading his other texts.

Patrick Modiano offers the reader a different take on the notion of 'pedigree' in this literary memoir. As with his famous novels, this account draws as much on a sense of place and of people surrounding our selves and our families in our youth as it does about biological parentage or ethnicity. Modiano makes a strong case from his own life that much of that is uncertain or unimportant or even...too difficult to think about. A past can be a launching pad and it can also be an enormous weight of portent and precedent and we may rightly fear that we will never break free to find our true selves.

Wonderful book. I want to read everything by Modiano.

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