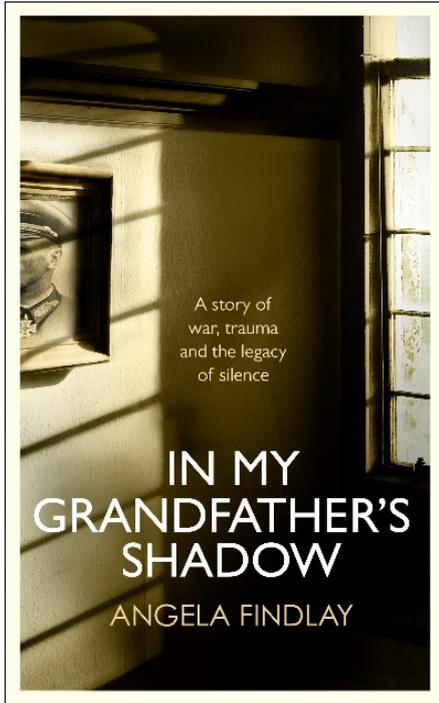


A powerful fusion of memoir, psychological enquiry and historical detective story, exploring how trauma can be handed down through generations, from an exciting debut voice...



IN MY GRANDFATHER'S SHADOW

ANGELA FINDLAY

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£20.00 | pp.464**

Having wrestled for decades with an inexplicable sense of guilt, Angela Findlay eventually turned to her German roots in the hope of finding answers. There, she discovered three generations knotted together by events that took place in Nazi Germany: a grandfather who was a decorated general on the Eastern Front, his daughter and granddaughter - Angela herself.

In a rare confluence of memoir, psychology and historical detective story, Findlay's unflinching quest for the truth about her grandfather breaks through the silence surrounding many of the Second World War's perpetrators. *In My Grandfather's Shadow* explores the heritability of unresolved experiences, questions deeply held perceptions of good and bad, and uncovers the lesser-known history of the war's losers, a post-war culture of apology and atonement, and the lingering legacy of shame.

Using her own family story to explore an episode in history that continues to appal and fascinate, Findlay reveals that it is possible not only for the scars of trauma to be handed down through generations, but also for them to be healed.

'A compelling journey through guilt and shame that asks fundamental and painful questions about the extent of a family member's participation in one of the biggest crimes of the 20th century.'

DEREK NIEMANN, author of A NAZI IN THE FAMILY

'An absolutely extraordinary book. In peeling back the layers of her family history, Angela Findlay reveals a vast, hidden European story that few nations have ever been brave enough to confront.'

KEITH LOWE, author of SAVAGE CONTINENT, THE FEAR AND THE FREEDOM, and PRISONERS OF HISTORY

'This is a moving and powerful memoir that illuminates the extraordinary power of unprocessed trauma as it passes through generations, and how when it is faced it can be healed.'

JULIA SAMUEL, author of EVERY FAMILY HAS A STORY, GRIEF WORKS and THIS TOO SHALL PASS

'A page turner of the highest calibre! Meticulously researched, searingly honest and beautifully written, this timely book is a salient reminder of how intergenerational relationships connect threads between past and present.'

MARINA CANTACUZINO, author and founder of THE FORGIVENESS PROJECT

'An unflinching exploration of shame and pain passed between generations. This is a powerful and important book which will change the way in which we understand ourselves.'

EMMA CRAIGIE, bestselling author of HITLER'S LAST DAY

"Can we as individuals untangle ourselves from a past that binds us to the suffering and deeds of our predecessors? This profound question forms the basis of this remarkable memoir and powerful investigation into the individual personal cost that results from wider history, A must read..."

CAROLINE SANDERSON, 'Editor's Choice' in The Bookseller

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Angela Findlay is a professional artist who has spent much of her career teaching art in prisons. Her time 'behind bars' in Germany and later as Arts Coordinator to the Koestler Arts charity inspired her research into intergenerational trauma and, over the last decade, she has been speaking and writing about trauma, guilt, cultures of remembrance and her own Anglo-German roots. *In My Grandfather's Shadow* is her first book.



HER RESEARCH PROCESS:

When Angela googled her grandfather's name for the first time the first thing that came up was a photo of the moment of his surrender to the Americans in May 1945. He had just been made a Prisoner of War. This left such a deep impression on Angela that she began researching.

She became a detective, following up on every clue she came across, talking with family members and strangers alike to create an increasingly detailed picture not only of her German family but also of the Germany of the 1930s-40s and beyond.

A big part of Angela's research involved travelling to significant sites in Germany and Italy culminating in an incredible trip across Russia following the route her grandfather had marched in the massive invasion, Operation Barbarossa, in 1941.

Angela is available for interviews, features and events.

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