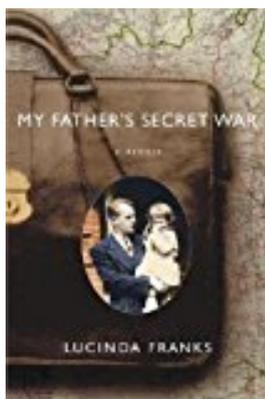


[PDF] My Father's Secret War: A Memoir

Lucinda Franks - pdf download free book



Books Details:

Title: My Father's Secret War: A Mem
Author: Lucinda Franks
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Description:

From Publishers Weekly One day, while trying to straighten up her elderly father's apartment, Franks discovered Nazi military paraphernalia, inspiring the Pulitzer-winning reporter and novelist (*Wild Apples*) to investigate what he really did during the Second World War. The painstaking inquiries are hampered by his reluctance to discuss his work in military intelligence, attached to the navy's Bureau of Ordnance. Some of that reluctance may have to do with the onset of dementia tearing away his memories, but he's also profoundly traumatized by some of his missions. In one moving passage, he is persuaded to describe his experience as one of the first American observers at a liberated concentration camp, every sentence still painful to get out even 50 years later. As Franks

perseveres with her questions, she begins to understand how those experiences shaped their disintegrating postwar family life, but she acknowledges how difficult it is to achieve closure with this past, especially when she's afraid to confront the reality of his present condition. Even the most painful moments—as when she throws a particularly harrowing revelation back in her father's face to score revenge for adolescent resentments—are recounted with unflinching honesty as the military history takes a backseat to the powerful family drama. *(Mar.)*

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From When Franks' father began slipping into dementia, he began finally to speak about a part of his life he had always kept hidden. Franks knew her father had served in World War II, but she never suspected the truth—that he was a spy who risked his life behind enemy lines (in the guise of an SS officer) and, near the end of the war, visited one of the first concentration camps liberated by the Allies. Like Scott Turow's recent novel *Ordinary Heroes*, which tackled many of the same themes in a fictional context, Franks' memoir works on many levels. It's the story of a man who became a hero and spent the rest of his life keeping it a secret, but it's also an almost heartbreakingly tender story of reconciliation, of a daughter coming to know her father even as he is slipping away from her. The book is beautifully written, packed with raw emotion, deep affection, and newfound, unexpected respect for a man his daughter hardly knew until it was almost too late. *David Pitt*

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