



# Jennifer Teege

Bestselling Author of

MY GRANDFATHER WOULD HAVE SHOT ME

MY GRANDFATHER WOULD HAVE SHOT ME, now a New York Times bestseller, is a book born of a shocking discovery: At age 38, married with two children, Jennifer Teege picked up a book by chance at Hamburg's main library and discovered that her grandfather was the brutal Nazi commandant of the Plaszow concentration camp, portrayed so memorably by Ralph Fiennes in the film *Schindler's List*.

Teege's mother was German; her father was Nigerian. Unable to raise a newborn child, her single mother placed Teege in a children's home when Teege was four weeks old. In her early childhood Teege had only intermittent contact with her mother and grandmother; that ended when Teege, age 7, was adopted by a white German family, where she was raised in a loving home. Later, in her twenties, Teege struggled with depression. She went to college in Israel, where she learned fluent Hebrew and earned degrees in Middle Eastern and African studies. She returned to Germany where she began a career in advertising and started a family of her own.

Already coping with the trauma of rejection by her birth mother, Teege now faced other cruel facts: that she had to learn about her biological family's secret from a book; and that a monstrous man, Amon Goeth, reviled for decades as "the butcher of Plaszow," was her biological grandfather. Was it possible she might resemble him? She fell into a deep depression, unable to function as a mother. After many months of therapy, Teege was eventually able to live, once again, fully in the present. She set off to visit the sites of her grandfather's crimes, to seek greater understanding of her biological family and, if possible, some sense of closure in relation to his victims. She made contact with her biological mother and father, and finally shared her story with her Israeli friends. The result is her memoir, MY GRANDFATHER WOULD HAVE SHOT ME, written with award-winning journalist Nikola Sellmair, who also supplies historical and other context in a separate, interwoven narrative.

After her emotional pilgrimage, Teege says, "I'm no longer a prisoner of the past. I know now that I am not to blame, and the guilt no longer weighs heavily on my shoulders. There is no Nazi gene: We can decide for ourselves who and what we want to be."

MY GRANDFATHER WOULD HAVE SHOT ME has been an international bestseller, published in Germany, Poland, France, Japan, Brazil, Israel, the UK, Australia, and the United States. Fluent in five languages, Jennifer Teege has spoken at organizations, universities, libraries, and book festivals all over the world.

<http://www.jennifer-teege.de/>