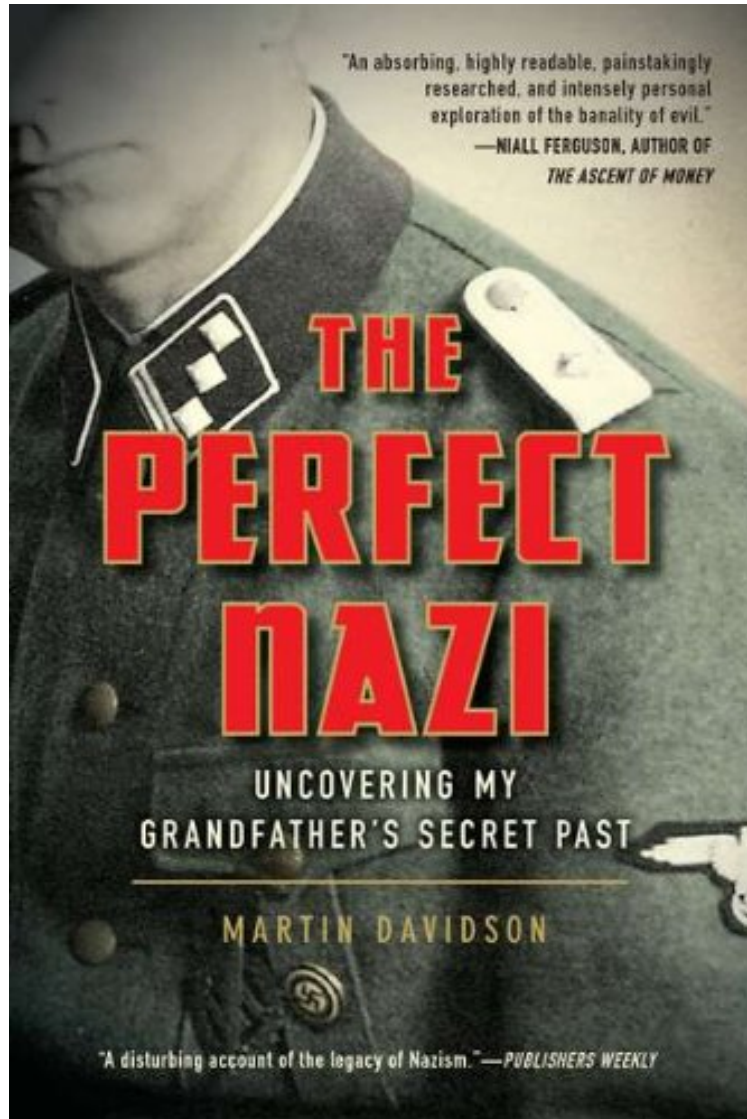


(Download pdf) The Perfect Nazi: Uncovering My Grandfather's Secret Past

## The Perfect Nazi: Uncovering My Grandfather's Secret Past

*Martin Davidson*

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#1644314 in Books 2012-03-06 2012-03-06 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.99 x 1.10 x 6.001, .96 #File Name: 0425245446370 pages | File size: 62.Mb

**Martin Davidson : The Perfect Nazi: Uncovering My Grandfather's Secret Past** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Perfect Nazi: Uncovering My Grandfather's Secret Past:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Disturbing, but Necessary Story By CI enjoyed this book a lot although it did get tedious in some places, but that was just where the author's trail led. There is criticism that it is not a biography, but a generalization with a lot of assumptions. Well, when you are tracking a relative and know where he was you have to see what was going on there and make assumptions based on other histories if you have no direct

facts. This author makes no false statements about his research and the trail he took. This book, unlike a lot of recent "best formula selling histories" ( i.e. Killing \_\_\_\_\_ ) is footnoted and well documented. We are lucky that the author shared what he found. I recently authored a WWII history, *In Her Father's Footsteps*, available on . ( sorry for the plug, but I have no TV audience to sucker). From that experience, I fully appreciate what this author did research wise and applaud the footnotes. It takes a lot more work. I now question any so called history with shallow documentation.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Personalizing HistoryBy K. B. HottleAs a history teacher, my primary challenge was assisting students to see past events as more than just words or pictures on a page. The essentially existential nature of children of any age renders the past as remote and not relevant to their lives in the moment. The impact of a horrific event like a major war must be made real to them by more than film and video games, which by their nature are limited. In *The Perfect Nazi*, Mr. Davidson makes very clear the meaning of war and the consequences of exposure to violent, racist ideas like nazism because he gives a rather intimate portrait of his grandfather and explains his reactions to the experience of researching him. The reality of an individual explaining the burden that knowledge of his grandfather's fanaticism has imposed on him reaches the reader in ways that even dramatic pictures can never fully convey. This book is vital to an understanding of the profound effects of war upon the individual, even if he lives long after it has occurred.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. quite an entertaining read with a few surprisesBy She's On Target!when I ordered this book I wasn't sure what the spin was going to be on this biographical work and what the author had to gain from writing it. Such a notorious family history is usually well hidden by subsequent generations -- to say the least... I'm still not sure why the author "came clean" by airing his family's "dirty laundry" but have to say he did a very good job as the book was an easy and fascinating read. It would seem that the author's mother-in-law "Ida" (with a name like that and her looks) was at least part Jew. For some reason I cannot recall the author mentioning that she was a Jewess. However, a lot of historical research presented here. Worth the 1 cent I paid! AAA+++

What if you found out that your grandfather had been a Nazi SS officer? This is the confession that Martin Davidson received from his mother upon the death of demanding, magnetic grandfather Bruno Langbehn. *The Perfect Nazi* is Davidson's exploration of his family's darkest secret.As Davidson dove into his research, drawing on an astonishing cache of personal documents as well as eyewitness accounts of this historical period, he learned that Bruno's story moved lock-step in time with the rise and fall of the Nazi party: from his upbringing in a fiercely military environment amid the aftermath of World War I, to his joining the Nazi party in 1926 at the age of nineteen, more than six years before Hitler came to power, to his postwar involvement with the Werewolves, the gang of SS stalwarts who vowed to keep on after the defeat of Nazism.Davidson realized that his grandfather was in many ways the "perfect Nazi," his individual experiences emblematic of the generation of Germans who would plunge the world into such darkness. But he also realized that every fact he uncovered was a terrible truth he himself would have to come to terms with...

From Publishers WeeklyIf it were not for BBC editor Davidson's grandfather's position as an officer in the Nazis' SD "security police," this would be only one more guilty memoir by the descendant of a mid-level Nazi. Davidson, however, succeeds in creating an overview not only of his maternal grandfather's life and career but of his own search for truth. As family rumors and occasional comments implied, Bruno Langbehn was more than a retired dentist. An early Nazi Party member , and "disdain political anonymity," Langbehn joined the SS in 1937. Selected for Heydrich's elite SD, he specialized in investigating German "reactionaries" who opposed the Nazi regime. Later, Langbehn and his immediate family were transferred to Prague, where he participated in organizing "one of Himmler's most desperate ideas": the "Werewolf" resistance force to wage guerrilla warfare against the victorious Allies after the war's end. Needless to say, "Werewolf" came to nothing. Langbehn escaped Allied justice and returned to Berlin, where he died in 1992. Above all, Langbehn emerges from this compelling account as an unrepentant fanatic whose grandson, Davidson, is understandably saddened by this family connection. While the book could have benefited from more details on some events of the war, this remains a disturbing account of the legacy of Nazism. (Apr.) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved. "A fascinating and extraordinary journey into the heart of Nazism."-- Ben Macintyre, Author Of *Agent Zigzag And Operation Mincemeat* "Martin Davidson has done a brave thing: he has confronted and revealed his own family's Nazi past. The result is absorbing, highly readable and painstakingly researched."-- Niall Ferguson "The utterly compelling account of what it's like to discover that your grandfather was a ruthless officer in Hitler's SS."-- Philip Kerr "The Perfect Nazi is a terrific piece of writing, shedding light on how ordinary Germans abetted the Nazi terror and how in later years all was conveniently "forgotten.""-- David Cesarani, Author Of *Eichmann: His Life And Crimes* "A fascinating and compelling account. This is an important book for anyone interested in the moral climate which led to the Holocaust and the other crimes of the Third Reich."-- Adrian Weale "Evening Standard" (UK) "A riveting narrative that brings a freshAbout the AuthorMartin Davidson is the commissioning editor for history and business programs at the BBC. He has two degrees from Oxford University. As a filmmaker specializing in historical and cultural subjects, he has produced and directed many documentaries for the

BBC, AE, and the History Channel. He lives in Oxford, England, with his family.