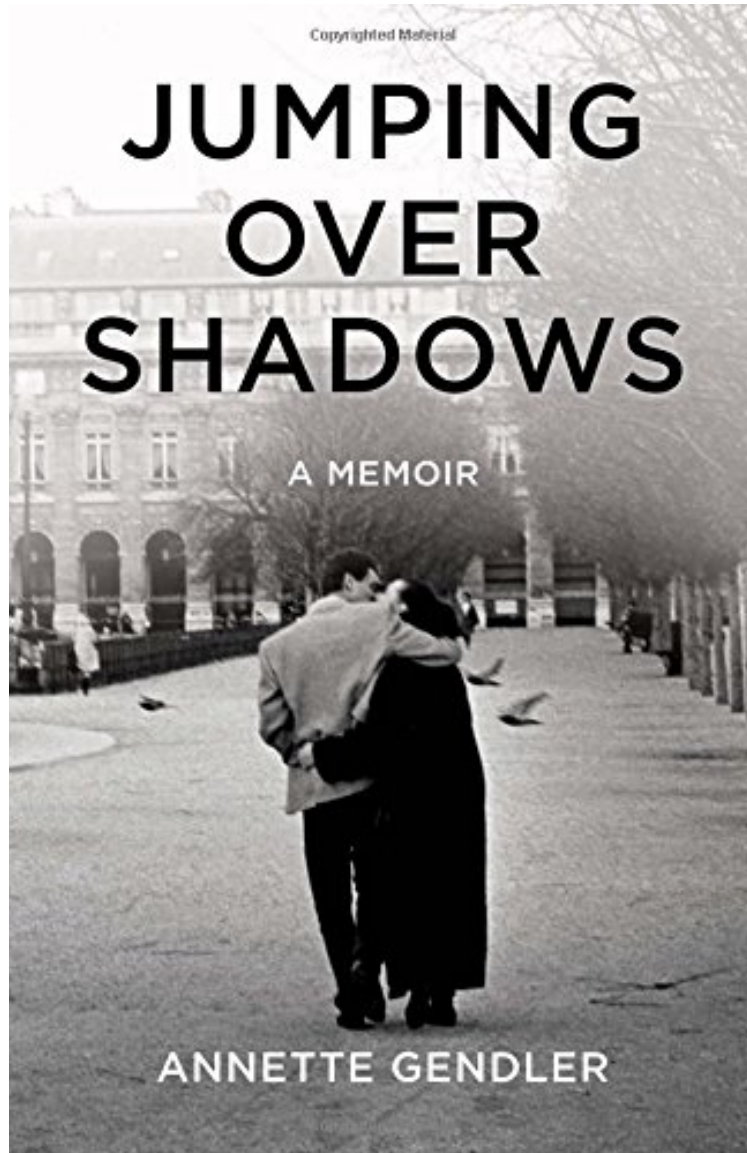


[FREE] Jumping Over Shadows: A Memoir

Jumping Over Shadows: A Memoir

Annette Gendler

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Annette Gendler : Jumping Over Shadows: A Memoir before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Jumping Over Shadows: A Memoir:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An irresistible tale of love across the generations, and moreBy Mary FillmoreI began reading this wonderful book on an international flight, sure that I would read for a bit and then take a nap. Impossible! Such is the spell Annette Gendler weaves that I simply couldn't put the book down. Her story of falling in love as a German Gentile with an Orthodox Jewish man is remarkable in itself -- and the echo of that love in

her great aunt's life under the Nazis is uncanny. Gender explores and recounts both in a compelling yet careful way. As a Gentile writer who has also written about the Holocaust and the persecution of Jewish people, I admire the delicacy with which she approaches this extremely sensitive subject. What I particularly appreciated about the memoir was the way Gendler interweaves her personal story in this moment, with story of a prior generation, and the larger story of what was happening in Germany during the Nazi period. For every step she takes inward, she also takes a step outward, so that personal events are depicted and experienced in a larger context. This admirable book is not only well conceived but well written. Wholeheartedly recommended. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Compelling love story interwoven with history
By Elizabeth Garber
My review is based not only on being a reader but also as a memoir writer who met Annette at an artist residency and who read earlier drafts of this memoir. Jumping over Shadows skillfully and compellingly interweaves her own love story with her grandparents lives in Nazi occupied Czechoslovakia in the 1930s as well as history and culture of Jews in Europe and Israel. Annette reveals her love story in a series of quiet building blocks of realizations, as the deepening of their love leads to her commitment to convert to Judaism. She offers us an intimate window into her younger self as she wrestled with discovering anti-Semitism in her friends in Germany, and faced the despair of her future in-laws when considering a German gentile daughter in law. Her narrative is fluid and seamless, rewarding her readers with vividly detailed scenes. I won't forget the train ride she recreated of her grandparents and her father as a boy, standing packed into freight cars with Czech Germans being shipped into a decimated Germany after the war, and dropped into a cold rainy night in the middle of nowhere. I won't forget the first car ride with the man she would eventually marry, driving in the dark on a summer night, as he asked her about her father who had died just weeks before. It has been an honor to accompany Annette Gendler on her life journey. I also have to add that my 87 mother read an earlier draft, then read the book in two days, and said it really was a great read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. My Favorite Memoir of the Year
By SunHee Y.
Annette Gendler's first memoir, *Jumping Over Shadows* has been my favorite memoir of the year. The book captures the beautiful love story with Annette who is German-American and Harry, the narrator's husband who is descendent of Holocaust survivors. The story gets richer with the narrator's journey to understand the depth of family history, culture, and religion. *Jumping Over Shadows* has broadened my knowledge of life as a Jew in Czechoslovakia before WWII, and family dynamics after the Holocaust. The power of Annette's memoir, *Jumping Over Shadows*, I personally believe, is the consistency of her resilient voice throughout the entire book. Annette is a great writer and a charming storyteller. Writing a family story is very difficult and complicated to illustrate, yet Annette did it so skillfully! It's definitely worth reading!

History was repeating itself when Annette Gendler fell in love with a Jewish man in Germany in 1985. Her Great-Aunt Resi had been married to a Jew in Czechoslovakia before World War II a marriage that, while happy, created tremendous difficulties for the extended family once the Nazis took over their hometown in 1938, and ultimately did not survive the pressures of the time. Annette and Harry's love, meanwhile, was the ultimate nightmare for Harry's family of Holocaust survivors. Weighed down by the burdens of their family histories, Annette and Harry kept their relationship secret for three years, until they could forge a path into the future and create a new life in Chicago. As time went on, however, Annette found a spiritual home in Judaism a choice that paved the way toward acceptance by Harry's family, and redemption for some of the wounds of her own family's past.

Interwoven with the story of Gendler's great-aunt and illustrated with family photographs, the author's story offers an intimate and interesting . . . look at one woman's life choices and their outcomes . . . [a] candid and heartfelt memoir. Kirkus Piercing. The silver lining of hope, faith, and healing will leave readers stirred. Redbook Magazine "In this extraordinary work, Annette Gendler illuminates the borders and meeting points between Judaism and Christianity, Germans and Jews, American Jews and Israeli Jews. Writing with eloquent precision, she reminds us why converts to Judaism are among the most precious gifts to the Jewish people. This book confirms Annette Gendler as an indispensable Jewish voice for our time." Yossi Klein Halevi, author of *Like Dreamers*, Senior fellow, Shalom Hartman Institute, Jerusalem "The ghosts of the past haunt a woman's search for herself in this thoughtful, poignant memoir about the transformative power of love and faith. Hillary Jordan, author of *Mudbound* and *When She Woke* "Jumping Over Shadows is a compelling, gracefully written memoir about the impact of the past on the present. The narrative is centered on the author and her future husband's secret love affair as it bears on their struggle to come to terms with their families' tragic personal histories. An intimate, dramatic, and profoundly human story. Michael Steinberg, Author of *Still Pitching*, Founding Editor of *Fourth Genre: Explorations in Nonfiction* About the Author Annette Gendler is a writer and photographer. Her work has appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Tablet Magazine*, *Bella Grace*, and *Artful Blogging*, to name a few. She served as the 2014-2015 writer-in-residence at the Hemingway Birthplace Home in Oak Park, Illinois. Born in New Jersey, she grew up in Munich, Germany, and lives in Chicago with her husband and three children. Visit her at www.annettegendler.com.