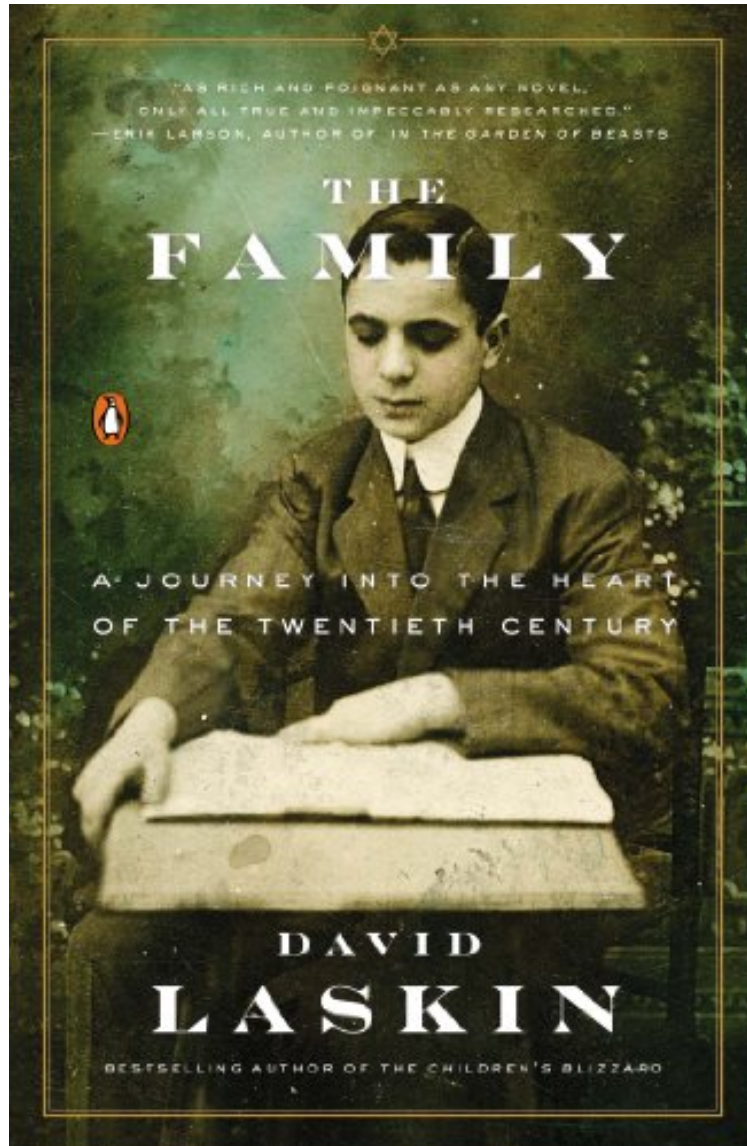


[Mobile book] The Family: A Journey into the Heart of the Twentieth Century

## The Family: A Journey into the Heart of the Twentieth Century

*David Laskin*

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#169933 in Books Laskin David 2014-09-02 2014-09-02 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.37 x .90 x 5.471, 1.00 #File Name: 0143125893400 pages The Family A Journey Into the Heart of the Twentieth Century | File size: 34.Mb

**David Laskin : The Family: A Journey into the Heart of the Twentieth Century** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Family: A Journey into the Heart of the Twentieth Century:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. An Astounding Book By West Palm Tennis Bum This meticulously researched and beautifully written book chronicles an amazing family whose experience spans the history of the 20th

century. It reads like a novel and I got so drawn into it that I had to keep reminding myself that this was all true. It is an epic story of triumph and tragedy that anyone could relate to and enjoy. The story is of a Russian Jewish family but, as another reviewer said, you don't have to be Jewish to love this book. It makes me want to read other family histories from other religious backgrounds and from other countries. I just hope they will be as well written as this one. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. An amazing work By Barry Well researched and well told. I felt as though I was reading about the missing details of my own family that had gone through many similar experiences - including a grandmother who picked up and left Poland for Palestine as a teen in the 1930s, relatives who did not make it out of Europe before WWII as well as ancestors who arrived in the US from Russia as children in the first decade of the twentieth century. The writer did an excellent job researching the historical details of Volozhin, Rakov and Vilna and incorporated those details into the story. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. One Family, 3 Stories...the future is hard to predict By Rubenstein Roy Great Book! David Laskin's family history is the history of the families of Israel. There is hardly a family in Israel (of European descent), that doesn't have a similar family story. But Laskin has done the research and the work, using all his writing skills to weave it all together in gripping narrative. David has given us the "big picture" from the bottom up, and shown us how choices matter. He has shown how families grow and multiply and how individuals' lives are affected by their decisions, big time! This is a book about people, lots of them, all from similar backgrounds who lead lives totally different, one from the other. If nothing else we see in this book how our destiny really is in our own hands. Too late, those who remained in Poland discovered, their bitter fate. Yogi Berra is said to have said, "the future is hard to predict." This book justifies Yogi's wisdom.

The author of *The Children's Blizzard* delivers an epic work of twentieth century history through the riveting story of one extraordinary Jewish family. In tracing the roots of this family his own family Laskin captures the epic sweep of the twentieth century. A modern-day scribe, Laskin honors the traditions, the lives, and the choices of his ancestors: revolutionaries and entrepreneurs, scholars and farmers, tycoons and truck drivers. The Family is a deeply personal, dramatic, and emotional account of people caught in a cataclysmic time in world history. A century and a half ago, a Torah scribe and his wife raised six children in a yeshivatown at the western fringe of the Russian empire. Bound by their customs and ancient faith, the pious couple expected their sons and daughter to carry family traditions into future generations. But the social and political crises of our time decreed otherwise. The torrent of history took the scribes' family down three very different roads. One branch immigrated to America and founded the fabulously successful Maidenform Bra Company; another went to Palestine as pioneers and participated in the contentious birth of the state of Israel; the third branch remained in Europe and suffered the onslaught of the Nazi occupation. With cinematic power and beauty, bestselling author David Laskin brings to life the upheavals of the twentieth century through the story of one family, three continents, two world wars, and the rise and fall of nations.

.com An Best Book of the Month, October 2013: Every writer, established or aspiring, has at one time or another looked around and decided, My life would make a great book. Some of them are sadly mistaken. But journalist David Laskin's life--or rather that of his forbears, three generations of a Russian Jewish family originally named HaKoen--has made a fantastic book. Despite its name, *The Family* is not about the Mafia, or the Mansons, but really about one particular, ordinary/extraordinary twentieth century shtetl clan. But you don't have to be Jewish to be fascinated by the six children of a Torah scribe on the western fringe of the Russian empire; they, like people everywhere, were buffeted by political and social and economic upheavals of their times. One branch of the family ended up in America as the prosperous founders of Maidenform lingerie; another repatriated to Israel; the third suffered the Holocaust. While I tended to favor the stories about the American branch (how can you not love a 4'11" Russian revolutionary, who, with her husband Wolf, invented the brassiere in 1924 and got filthy rich in ladies underwear in the depression?), the other HaKoen--turned-Cohen--provided plenty of educational entertainment as well. You think you know about the Russian revolution? Try seeing it through Laskin's ancestors' eyes. Likewise, WWII and Zionism. This is a great, big-hearted book about how time and place modifies family, whatever or wherever its roots. --Sara Nelson From Publishers Weekly Frequent newspaper contributor Laskin's relatives provide ample material for a gripping epic narrative, beginning in 1875 and spanning over a century. This readable and absorbing book looks at the experiences of Jews in this case all members of Laskin's family finding a fresh start in the United States, of those working to form a new country in Palestine, and of those trapped in Nazi-controlled Europe. His American ancestors' experiences were highlighted by his great-aunt, Itel, who founded the Maidenform Bra Company in 1922. And that quintessential American success story of a hard-working immigrant who makes good contrasts well with the account of her cousin Chaim's life in Palestine around the same time he found disillusionment there, rather than a land of milk and honey. The sections dealing with the grim toll that the Holocaust took on the family don't provide new insights into the Nazis' inhumanity; the horrors of the time gain more impact when conveyed through the stories of individual lives. Laskin (*The Children's Blizzard*) makes the most of the rich array of stories his research unearthed. Agent: Jill Kneerim, Kneerim, Williams, and Bloom Literary Agency. (Oct.) From Booklist This interesting and often moving family saga spans a century and a half, and three continents and touches most of the critical historical trends and events of the

nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Laskin's great-great-grandfather was a Torah scribe who raised six children in a nineteenth-century shtetl on the fringe of the Russian Empire. Eventually, those siblings and their descendants split along three different paths and destinies, and the recounting of their individual experiences also tells us much about Jewish history. One stream led to the U.S., where family members found great material prosperity. A second stream included those captivated by the ideal of Jewish redemption, and they pursued the Zionist ideal in Palestine, taking an active role in the creation of Israel. The remaining group stayed in Europe and was devastated by the Holocaust. Laskin (*The Children's Blizzard*, 2004) is a gifted writer who effectively blends family and world history in a deeply felt story filled with the joy and sadness that has characterized Jewish life in this period. --Jay Freeman