

This is an incredibly moving and beautifully written memoir by journalist and member of the House of Lords, Daniel Finkelstein, of his mother's wartime experience at the hands of Hitler and his father's at the hands of Stalin. It is a roller coaster story of survival in the face of the unspeakable horrors of the Holocaust and purges, made all the more poignant (if that is even possible) by the little details of childhood lives shattered. We agreed that it would be wrong to say we enjoyed the book given its horrific content, but we were all glad we had read it. The book's epigraph, a quote from Finkelstein's grandfather, Alfred Wiener, summarised how important it is that books such as this are written and widely read - 'I'm prepared to forget, as long as everyone else remembers'.