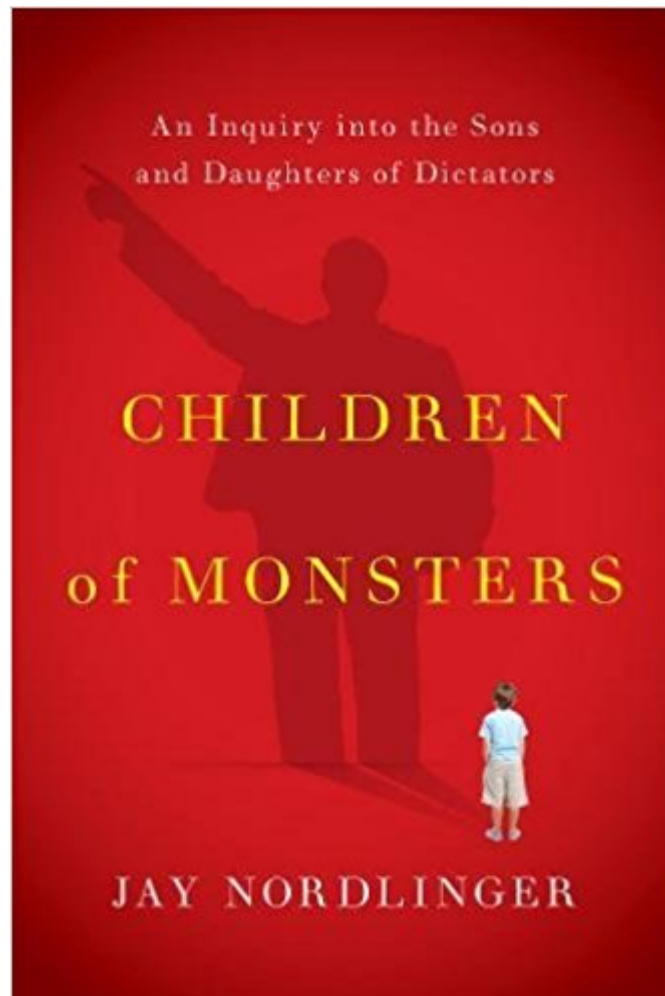




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Children Of Monsters: An Inquiry Into The Sons And Daughters Of Dictators



Synopsis

What's it like to be the son or daughter of a dictator? A monster on the Stalin level? What's it like to bear a name synonymous with oppression, terror, and evil? Jay Nordlinger set out to answer that question, and does so in this book. He surveys 20 dictators in all. They are the worst of the worst: Stalin, Mao, Idi Amin, Pol Pot, Saddam Hussein, and so on. The book is not about them, really, though of course they figure in it. It's about their children. Some of them are absolute loyalists. They admire, revere, or worship their father. Some of them actually succeed their father as dictator—as in North Korea, Syria, and Haiti. Some of them have doubts. A couple of them become full-blown dissenters, even defectors. A few of the daughters have the experience of having their husband killed by their father. Most of these children are rocked by war, prison, exile, or other upheaval. Obviously, the children have things in common. But they are also individuals, making of life what they can. The main thing they have in common is this: They have been dealt a very, very unusual hand. What would you do, if you were the offspring of an infamous dictator, who lords it over your country? An early reader of this book said, "There's an opera on every page": a drama, a tragedy (or even a comedy). Another reader said he had read the chapter on Bokassa "with my eyes on stalks." Meet these characters for yourself. Marvel, shudder, and ponder.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jay Nordlinger is a senior editor of "National Review." He writes about a variety of subjects,

including politics, foreign affairs, and the arts. He is music critic for "The New Criterion" and "City Arts" (New York), as well as for NR. He has won awards for his work on human rights, in particular. Some 100 pieces are gathered in "Here, There & Everywhere: Collected Writings of Jay Nordlinger." A native Michigander, the author lives in New York.

Really fantastic piece of work. Nordlinger offers a fascinating ride through the 'Heart of Darkness' of the world's worst dictators and how their children have coped with the realities of what they've done. No surprisingly, you have your enablers and your realists among them.

What if Hitler was your dad? What if your good, loving parent was your father, and he was Joseph Stalin? Why is the desire to kill one's son-in-law so widespread? Jay Nordlinger examines the offspring of 20 20th century dictators. They cover over a century of history, and span the globe. The stories are quite diverse, but also have much commonality. What struck me was how much these people might (or might not) have in common with the children of notorious criminals, the children of Hollywood celebrities, and the children of political families.

Great book. The author has a very candid and casual style so it doesn't read like a stuffy history book.

Jay is a captivating writer in his columns for various publications and the same is true for this book. An unusual topic which I found very interesting and allows one to learn a bit more about the "monsters" themselves too..

A must read that forces you to ponder what it would be like to grow up how these children did. But the book still manages to be a light read and could be brought on a vacation.

Gripping tales of the ghastly effects of having a murderous dictator as a father, a topic unexamined till now. Misfortunes proliferate in all sorts of unexpected directions, and the victims handle them, for the most part, catastrophically. Jay Nordlinger's style pulls the reader into the conversation, making it impossible to put the book down.

good book

On the one hand hilarious and on the other heart breaking. How history's dictators can form the lives of millions around the globes and the significant effect their power and personality has on their offspring. It was a brilliant read.

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