

Letter in Response to Review of Katrin Himmler's book. "Out of the Attic: Family Memoirs of a Nazi Past" by SaraKay Smullens

As a psychotherapist who has practiced for over 25 years, I well know how difficult it is to come to grips with realities of parental pathologies and their resulting evils. There are reasons for this: Even after their parents' death, adult sons and daughters on an unconscious level fear that exposing parental truths severs an emotional umbilical cord and leads to their own deaths. And so denials flourish. The Nazis and their like in varied societies aren't "ordinary men" living in "certain circumstances." People remember what is not too painful and easily spin and cover up the rest. Ms. Himmler's description of loving parents and grandparents is pure denial and cover-up. I have read that many Nazis also loved their pets. Perhaps they even watered their plants.