

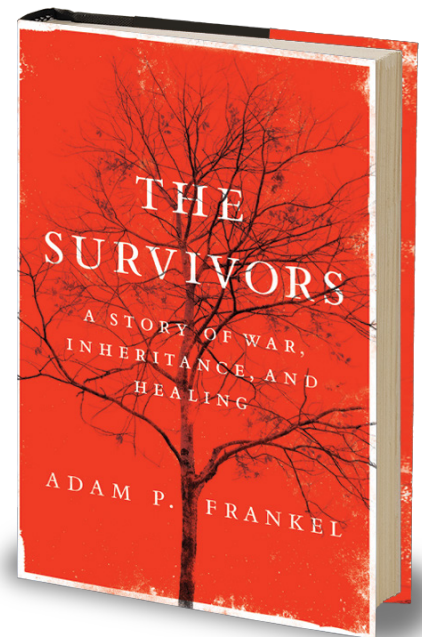
# THE SURVIVORS

A STORY OF WAR, INHERITANCE, AND HEALING

ADAM P. FRANKEL

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Intergenerational trauma can take different forms. In Adam's family, it's war trauma and mental illness. What are other forms of trauma that can be passed down from one generation to another?
2. Has your family experienced a trauma in an earlier generation and if so, how has it reverberated across the generations?
3. One of the themes of the book is family secrets. What are the ways secrets play a role in Adam's family from the Holocaust to the present day?
4. Is it okay to lie to your children or family members? What makes certain lies okay to tell and others impermissible?
5. Adam's mother tells him that she never intended to tell him the truth of his biological identity. Do you agree with her decision or should she have told Adam? When would have been the best time in Adam's life to disclose such a truth?
6. Have you ever learned something about yourself, your family, or someone else that has completely changed the way you look at them or your past?
7. How did World War II affect your own family?
8. One of the themes of the book is identity. Where do you think our sense of identity comes from? How much are we a product of our DNA, the people around us, or our experiences?
9. Adam's mother sees herself as a victim who was unable to make her own choices. To what extent do you think she was a victim and to what extent do you think she holds responsibility for her choices?
10. What are the different ways the theme of loyalty plays a role in the book, from the Holocaust to politics to Adam's relationships with his mother and family members?



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