



Impossible Love: Ascher Levy's Longing for Germany

By Frister, Roman.

Weidenfeld & Nicolson. 1 Cloth(s), 2002. hard. Book Condition: New. An old cardboard suitcase found in a flea market in Jaffa was the inspiration for this remarkable family biography. Stuffed full of hundreds of documents, from upholsterers' bills to a World War I certificate awarding the Iron Cross for bravery, the suitcase revealed the colorful history of the Levy family, at one time one of the richest and most respected Jewish families in Pomerania. As the author of *The Cap: The Price of a Life* assembles these scraps into a history of five generations, the Levys' search for a compromise between German patriotism and Jewish identity illuminates the love of country that often bound German Jews to their homeland. "Discussions through the generations concerning Germany as a fatherland, Israel as spiritual home and Zionism as a secular and religious movement suggest the painful complexity of Jewish attitudes toward country and heritage. The Levys question the meaning of assimilation itself: while asserting their rights as German businessmen, serving in German wars and investing in German state projects, fathers pressured children to maintain Jewish traditions and siblings struggled over Reform and Orthodox principles." *Publishers Weekly* 359.



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