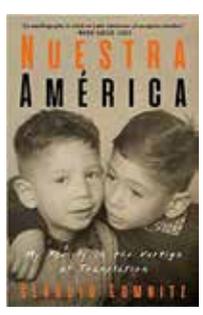


# A masterpiece of historical and personal investigation, perfect for anyone trying to uncover their family's past.

NUUESTRA AMÉRICA

celebrity friends: Audrey Hepburn, Jacqueline Kennedy, the Duchess of Alba, and the Windsors, among them.  
A lively history of a spirited woman.

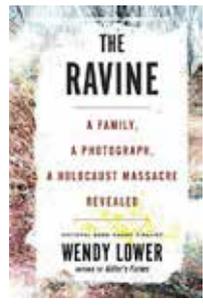


**NUUESTRA AMÉRICA**  
**My Family in the Vertigo of Translation**  
*Lomnitz, Claudio*  
Other Press (352 pp.)  
\$27.99 | Feb. 9, 2021  
978-1-63542-071-5



The noted anthropologist and historian takes his rich family history and builds a narrative of universal significance. “Like the medieval Jew,” writes Lomnitz, “today’s migrant is at once a demeaned witness and a key economic player. Necessary, but always made to feel dispensable.” Born in Chile in 1957, the author, a professor at Columbia University, understands the plight of migrants: His maternal grandparents, seeing the terrors of rising anti-Semitism across Europe (and especially in Romania, where the peasantry and the government alike mounted murderous pogroms), brought his mother to Colombia in 1936. As if enacting a scene from a Gabriel García Márquez novel, having been brought up speaking four languages, the imposition of a fifth, Spanish, caused her to abandon “trying to find any consistency between all these languages, and [she] just stopped talking altogether.” In a whirl of new lands—Peru, Israel, the U.S., and Mexico among them—Lomnitz’s ancestors were observers and actors alike. Selling goods door to door on first arriving, they became masters of local geography and political organizing, with one busily turning from journalism to teaching to activism, daring to invoke Trotsky in a time when Stalin’s oppression was at its apex. Along his skillfully constructed narrative path, Lomnitz pauses to ponder such matters as the meaning of his name. “Names, like passports, often contain a trace of fear,” he writes, with his own first name chosen so that he might blend into a Chile that was not altogether innocent of anti-Semitism, his middle name honoring a dead uncle, and a secret Hebrew name added in for good measure. There is no end of intriguing anecdotes in these pages, and in a world of chaos, Lomnitz builds deep meaning from a comparatively small community of blood kin and friends. “We are no longer governed by tradition,” he writes, “so we can’t simply rely on a collective past. For this reason family history is again relevant.”

**A masterpiece of historical and personal investigation, perfect for anyone trying to uncover their family's past.**



**THE RAVINE**  
**A Family, a Photograph, a Holocaust Massacre Revealed**  
*Lower, Wendy*  
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (272 pp.)  
\$28.00 | Feb. 16, 2021  
978-0-544-82869-8

The author of *Hitler's Furies* returns with an account of how a disturbing Holocaust photograph turned into a humanitarian research project.

In 2009, Lower, the director of the Mgrublian Center for Human Rights at Claremont McKenna College, was on a mission to find documentation that would bring Bernhard Frank, “the highest-ranking SS officer known to be alive in Germany at that time,” to justice. During her research, she came across a photo showing a group of men executing a woman and a boy “at the edge of a ravine.” That discovery became the focal point for a seven-year investigative odyssey dedicated to tracking down and identifying the shooters as well as the photographer and, more importantly, the victims. Lower traveled to the scene of the crime, a forest on the outskirts of a Ukrainian town called Miropol. Research in Germany led her to ascertain that the victims “were the remnant of a [Jewish] community being destroyed after the first wave of [Nazi] killings in the summer of 1941.” Based on “hundreds of testimonies of Germans, Slovaks, and Ukrainians [who] passed through or resided in Miropol, and of the one Jewish survivor,” writes the author, “I was able to reconstruct events just before, during, and after the photograph was taken.” She later discovered that the photographer was a member of the Slovakian resistance and that the perpetrators were Ukrainian policemen who collaborated with the Nazis and met harsh fates. The author’s expansive research in Soviet archives and Jewish genealogical databases led her to identify and interview possible family members who had managed to escape the Holocaust. The profundity of Lower’s commitment to justice is both admirable and evident. Meticulously researched and thoughtfully written, her book is a testimonial to the power of countering ignorance with education and the importance of restoring the dignity of personhood to those erased by genocide.

**An intelligent and restoratively compassionate historical excavation.**