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CONTACT: Suzanne Balaban, (212) 796 5895

suzanne@bmmworldwide.com

Danielle Gordon, (856) 361 4169

danielle@posthillpress.com

"The exclusion of women from the historical record meant that history was written with only half the story told."

— Gerda Lerner, pioneering woman historian

**New memoir reveals the lifelong struggles of the families of traumatized veterans.
Joining the minority of war memoirs written by women,
LITTLE AVALANCHES rectifies history.**

"Literary sirens on. A searing look at estrangement from a parent, with emphasis on healing through open, honest dialogue." — Bethanne Patrick, critic, *Los Angeles Times Books*

As featured in

TIME

"Like Ellis and her Dad, many people would love to find a way to restore contact." — Belinda Luscombe

**"A MASTERPIECE.
THERE'S NO OTHER BOOK OUT THERE LIKE THIS."**
— Pulitzer-Prize winning author Dale Maharidge

BECKY ELLIS LITTLE AVALANCHES

NEW YORK: January 8, 2024: *LITTLE AVALANCHES, A Memoir* (Regalo Press/Simon & Schuster; Hardcover; Pub date: 03/12/2024; ISBN 13: 9798888451663; 248pp; \$28.99 US) is a gorgeously written memoir of breathtaking scope that propels readers from the beaches of California in the early 70's to the battlefields of wartime Germany. Becky Ellis is the daughter of a highly decorated combat sergeant from the 104th Infantry Division, the heroic, decimated Timberwolves. As a young girl, she is forced to hide from phantom Nazis, subjected to dental procedures without pain medication, and exposed to life-threatening risk at sea.

A furtive thread of war is woven into our cultural fabric. While stitching one generation to the next it eludes detection. The families of traumatized soldiers refuse to be bound by the suffering of the past, much less pass it on to their children. Like everyone they strive for success and belonging, but they do so from behind a line of secrecy that ultimately leaves them separate and lonely. By unravelling the thread of war that runs through her family, Becky Ellis crosses that line of secrecy, not just for herself, but for millions of families for whom **LITTLE AVALANCHES** will expose a deep truth: no less than their veteran partners, **many partners and children of traumatized soldiers fight a lifelong battle to recover their humanity.**

The literary magic of **LITTLE AVALANCHES** is in the paradox of Ellis, a tender, curious woman, searching through generations of family history to uncover the truth of her brutalized and dehumanized father, and the compassion she marshals to escape his endless war and bring them to relational safety. By juxtaposing resistance and reverence, conflict and empathy, Ellis brings us to a deeper understanding of what it means to be human and complete. **Becky Ellis' account of a family redeemed is the "half of the story" that could have only been written by a woman.**



"In following Becky from her childhood fighting phantom Nazis, to her adult quest to understand her father's experience, we are offered a roadmap for the journey from victim to hero, from pain to compassion, and from isolation to connection. This book motivated me to consider how my grandfather's experience of World War II shaped my mother's childhood and, through her, my own."

— **Karestan C. Koenen**, Ph.D., Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health

"We children of World War II combat veterans are all sisters and brothers of the same father. That father was dark, brooding, sometimes violent. Countless books on that war have focused on men. In Little Avalanches, we hear from one daughter. Becky Ellis has produced a masterpiece. There's no other book out there like this--a daughter-father story of pain, and then in the end, redemption."

— **Dale Maharidge**, non-fiction Pulitzer Prize winner, and the author of *Bringing Mulligan Home: The Other Side of the Good War*, and the podcast, *The Dead Drink First*.

"Women and children have suffered for generations under the control and violence of men, fathers, and husbands. So great is the pain that the response of some daughters is to slam the door shut on their fathers and have nothing more to do with them. In this gripping and unique memoir, Little Avalanches, Becky Ellis does something different – she waits and keeps the door open. Her story details the confusion and agony of young children and mothers and the emotional 'ripping apart' and hopelessness they experience. For decades she tries to dialogue with her father. One day he talks, she listens and records. Questions are asked, answered, understood, and both are healed. Her resilience and curiosity transform a nightmare."

— **John Allan**, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Counseling Psychology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada.

"Becky Ellis cuts through the darkness with her memoir, Little Avalanches. Ellis is a brave and tireless storyteller who crosses an emotional and psychological minefield between herself and her war hero father. She emerges victorious on the other side, with childhood demons slayed and in possession of a mature compassion for herself and her father. This memoir reads like a novel. You won't be able to put it down."

— **Jennifer Lauck**, New York Times bestselling author of *Blackbird*

About the Author

Becky Ellis is a Timberwolf Pup. Daughter of a highly decorated World War II combat sergeant, she is a veteran of a war fought at home. She earned a BA in English Literature at UC Berkeley and has over twenty years of experience in the publishing industry. She teaches writing in Portland, Oregon, where she lives, plays, and has raised three daughters. *Little Avalanches* is her debut memoir.

About Regalo Press

Little Avalanches is a feature title at Gretchen Young's new Regalo Press. At Grand Central, **Gretchen Young** was editor of books from **Caroline Kennedy**, **Oscar Hijuelos**, and **John Lewis**. The guiding principle of Regalo Press is that the only thing better than creating a great book is harnessing that greatness in the service of others.

About BMM Worldwide

BMM Worldwide is a New York-based, literary development house that works with leading publishers, authors and agents across the areas of representation, publicity and branding. Clients include St. Martin's Press, W. W. Norton & Company, agent/author Betsy Lerner, Stanford University historian Stephen J. Zipperstein and biographer, Eric Metaxas.

#women #literary #memoir #history #estrangement #war #veterans #genealogy #militaryfamilies #familytrauma #healing

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