

ANNA FODOROVÁ'S LITERARY ENGAGEMENT WITH THE TRAUMAS OF HER FAMILY

The autobiographical story *Lenka* (2020) and the novel *In the Blood* (2022)

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Anna Fodorová is the daughter of German-speaking author and journalist Lenka Reinerová (1916-2008) from Prague and the likewise German-speaking Yugoslav doctor, journalist, and author Theodor Balk (1900-1974), who were both communists. She was born in Belgrade in 1946 after her parents' return from exile and was already forced to contend with two dramatic events during her childhood: the vanishing of her mother's family during the Shoah and Lenka's 15-month incarceration by the Czechoslovak communist regime when Anna was only six years old. Accustomed to dealing with patients suffering from transgenerational traumata in her profession as a psychotherapist, Fodorová confronts her family's own twofold trauma in her authorial work. Her first book is an autobiographical report about her mother (*Lenka*, Labyrint 2020), the second a novel (*In the Blood*, Arachne Press 2022). The two texts offer differing and complementary perspectives and analyses not only of the complex relationship between mother and daughter, but also of the confrontation between the "first" and "second" generation of Holocaust victims and the concrete effects of intergenerational traumata. They thus engage with universal questions extending far beyond a pure portrait of author Lenka Reinerová.