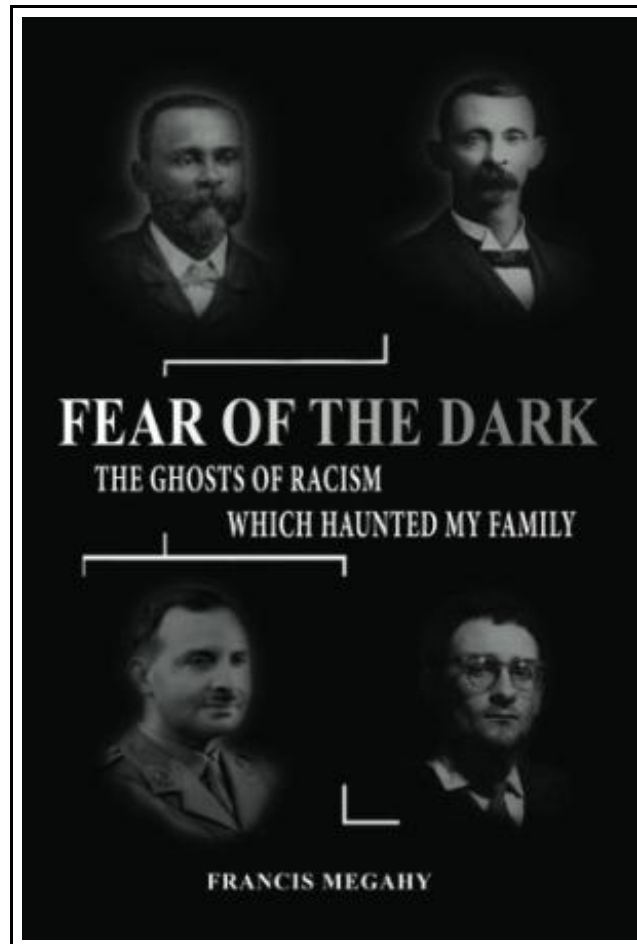


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*(Rebecca Bechtelar)*

## FEAR OF THE DARK: EXORCISING THE GHOSTS OF RACISM WHICH HAUNTED MY FAMILY



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Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, United States, 2012. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 230 x 154 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.Our identity, our self-image, is built up through our childhood, our youth, into a mosaic of all we have learned about the world, about ourselves and our position in it. But what if a key part part of that information suddenly turns out to be false? What if, for instance, one of our parents turns out not to be the person we thought they were, but someone else altogether? I always thought that my father was a Canadian, of Irish descent. But in my middle age, long after he had been taken from the world by a car accident, and after my mother had died, I made the astonishing discovery that he was in fact not Canadian at all, that his entire life story as I and my mother and her family understood it, was a fabrication, a lie, that he was from the Caribbean, and that his real ancestry was African. Black. You may ask, didn t you know your father? In a literal sense, of course I did. But in more existential terms - who was he really ? - no, I didn t. You may ask, didn t he look black? Well, his appearance was.ambiguous. The facts I stumbled on about his life were not. In a lifelong effort to avoid the shackles of racism by constantly re-creating himself, my father went to four medical schools and for several decades shuttled his life backwards and forwards between the Caribbean, the US, Europe and Canada. He demonstrated extraordinary resilience, ingenuity and determination in his pretense to be white - but what was the price he paid? And if my father wasn t who...



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