

SELF-PORTRAIT WITH PARENTS

HOW ADOLESCENCE GALVANISED ME FOR A SINGLE-BREASTED ADULTHOOD

Patricia Tyerman

Key selling points

- “At once a vivid slice of social history, a bittersweet evocation of parent-child relations, and an unflinching portrait of living with cancer.” – David Kynaston
- With fascinating archival photographs, this is a candid account of growing up in the Fifties within a unique family.
- *Self-Portrait with Parents* asks the reader to think back to adolescence, to question how their past informed their present.

About the book

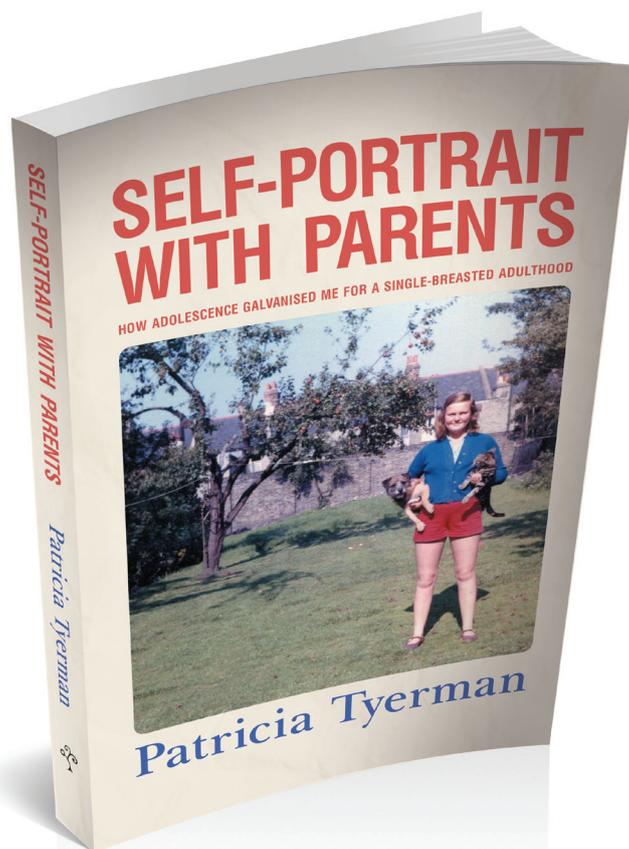
Self-Portrait with Parents combines original research with a personal understanding of Tyerman’s upbringing and its consequences. Looking back at her adolescence and exploring the largely unknown lives of her parents has helped her not only to recover from recurrent breast cancer but also to resist the powerfully negative reactions still common today.

Tyerman’s father, Donald, Oxford scholar from the impoverished north-east, wartime Fleet Street hero and BBC broadcaster, deputy editor of *The Times* and editor of the *Economist*, endured high responsibility without real power. Her mother, Margaret Gray, gave up several careers to look after five children and a husband disabled by childhood polio. Tyerman grew up with a father who couldn’t walk. Yet his passion was athletics. Her parents were indifferent to gender distinctions while the outside world valued Fifties femininity. This was hard for Tyerman then but now liberates her to resist assumptions about a loss of womanhood and sexuality.

About the author

Tyerman belongs to a weekly writers’ group and she divides her time between writing, playing the French Bassoon, seeing her grandsons and exploring London on foot and by bike.

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Breast cancer shocked her into asking how she would cope. What resources of body and mind had she inherited from her parents?

Book information

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