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In the mid-1990s, Jennifer Teege, who was an undergraduate student in Israel watched Steven Spielberg's film Schindler's List. She hadn't seen the film in a movie theater and watched it in her rented room in Tel Aviv when it was broadcast on television.



Jennifer Teege

It was not until years later that Teege, a German-born black woman who was given up for adoption as a child, discovered that one of the central characters in the film, Amon Goeth, was her grandfather. Many viewers recall the figure of Goeth, the brutal commander of the Plaszow concentration camp in Poland - played in the film by Ralph Fiennes - from the scenes in which he shoots Jewish inmates from the porch of his home. But Teege, who had not been in touch with either her biological mother or biological grandmother for years, had no idea about the identity of her grandfather.

The discovery came like a bolt from the blue in the summer of 2008, when she was 38 years old, as she relates in the memoir "Amon," which was published in German in 2013 (co-authored with the German journalist Nikola Sellmair), and is due out in English this April under the title "My Grandfather Would Have Shot Me: A Black Woman Discovers Her Family's Nazi Past."