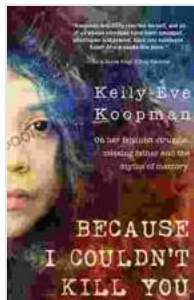


# On Her Feminist Struggle, Missing Father, and the Myths of Memory



**Because I Couldn't Kill You: On her feminist struggle, missing father and myths of memory** by Sarah Bridges

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1043 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 173 pages



Memory is a fickle thing. It can be a source of comfort and pain, a way to connect with the past and a way to escape from it. In her powerful and moving memoir, "The Missing Father," author and feminist critic Sarah Ahmed explores the complex relationship between memory, loss, and identity.

Ahmed's father left when she was a young girl, and she spent her childhood and adolescence longing for his return. As she grew older, she began to grapple with the ways in which his absence had shaped her. She realized that she had internalized many of the myths and stereotypes that society perpetuates about absent fathers. She believed that her father was a bad person, that he had abandoned her because he didn't love her, and that she was somehow flawed because she didn't have a father figure in her life.

Through her feminist studies, Ahmed began to challenge these myths. She learned that absent fathers are not always bad people, that they may have their own reasons for leaving, and that their children are not responsible for their choices. She also learned that there are many different ways to be a family, and that a traditional nuclear family is not the only healthy or acceptable option.

As Ahmed's understanding of her father evolved, so too did her memory of him. She began to see him as a complex and flawed human being, rather than as a monster. She also began to appreciate the positive aspects of her childhood, despite the challenges she faced. She realized that she had been loved and supported by her mother and siblings, and that she had a strong and resilient spirit.

"The Missing Father" is a deeply personal and introspective memoir that explores the complex and often contradictory emotions that accompany loss. Ahmed's writing is honest, raw, and thought-provoking. She challenges the reader to think about their own assumptions about family and fatherhood, and she invites them to consider the ways in which their own experiences have shaped their understanding of themselves and the world.

In the end, Ahmed's journey is one of healing and self-discovery. She comes to terms with her father's absence and the ways in which it has affected her. She also finds strength and resilience in her own identity as a woman and a feminist. "The Missing Father" is a powerful and inspiring story that will resonate with anyone who has ever experienced loss or who is struggling to come to terms with their own past.





***“ "The personal is political, and the story of my missing father is no exception. It is a story about the ways in which our personal experiences shape our understanding of the world, and how those experiences can be used to challenge and change the status quo." - Sarah Ahmed ”***

## **Themes in "The Missing Father"**

- **The impact of absent fathers on children.** Ahmed explores the complex and often contradictory emotions that children of absent fathers experience. She challenges the myths and stereotypes that society perpetuates about these children, and she argues that they deserve to be seen and understood as individuals.
- **The relationship between feminism and personal experience.** Ahmed argues that feminism is not just a theoretical framework, but a lived experience. She shows how her own experiences as a woman and a feminist have shaped her understanding of her father's absence and the ways in which it has affected her.
- **The power of memory and the importance of self-discovery.** Ahmed explores the ways in which memory can both comfort and hurt us. She argues that it is important to be honest with ourselves about our past, even if it is painful, and that this honesty can lead to self-discovery and healing.

## **Critical Reception**

"The Missing Father" has been praised by critics for its honesty, rawness, and thought-provoking insights. Here are some excerpts from reviews:

- "Ahmed's writing is both personal and political, and she challenges the reader to think about their own assumptions about family and fatherhood." - The New York Times
- "Ahmed's memoir is a powerful and inspiring story that will resonate with anyone who has ever experienced loss or who is struggling to come to terms with their own past." - Publishers Weekly
- "The Missing Father is a must-read for anyone interested in feminism, family relationships, or the power of memory." - Kirkus Reviews

## **About the Author**

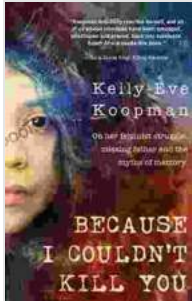
Sarah Ahmed is a British-Australian feminist writer, cultural theorist, and academic. She is Professor of Gender and Cultural Studies at the University of London. Ahmed is the author of several books, including "Queer Phenomenology: Orientations, Objects, Others" (2006), "The Promise of Happiness" (2010), and "Willful Subjects" (2014).

## **Image Credits**



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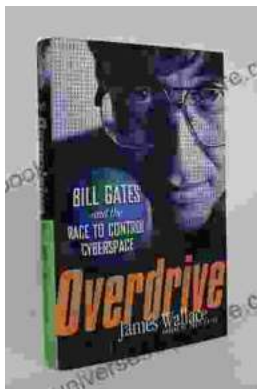
This article is based on the book "The Missing Father" by Sarah Ahmed, published by Duke University Press, 2023.



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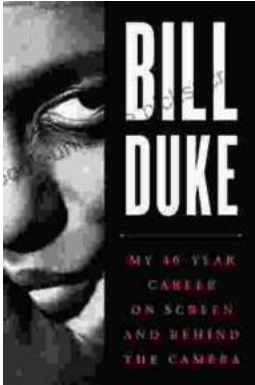
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