



# Kindred

*Steve Robinson*

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## **Kindred** Steve Robinson

Jefferson Tayte is good at finding people who don't want to be found. For years he has followed faint genealogical trails to reunite families—and uncover long-hidden secrets. But Tayte is a loner, a man with no ties of his own; his true identity is the most elusive case of his career.

But that could all be about to change. Now Tayte has in his possession the beginnings of a new trail—clues his late mentor had started to gather—that might at last lead to his own family. With Professor Jean Summer, his partner in genealogical sleuthing, he travels to Munich to pick up the scent. But the hunt takes them deep into dangerous territory: the sinister secrets of World War II Germany, and those who must keep them buried at any cost.

When their investigations threaten to undermine a fascist organisation, Tayte and Summer know time is running out. Can they find their way to the dark heart of a deadly history before they become its latest victims?

## **Kindred Details**

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Author : Steve Robinson

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## **From Reader Review Kindred for online ebook**

### **Kath Middleton says**

I'm a great fan of the genealogical super-sleuth, Jefferson Tayte and this fifth book in the series is going to have readers on the edge of their seats. JT has been able to solve many a difficult and even dangerous case but the mystery of his own origins has always eluded him. All he knew was that his mother gave him away for his own good. His late friend and mentor, Marcus Brown, left some clues which have led JT and his friend Jean to Germany. His digging around stirs up a hornets' nest of Neo-Nazis who want their secrets to remain buried. It becomes obvious that there's a distinct possibility that Tayte will not like the answers, even if he manages to find them.

We switch smoothly back and forth between present day and wartime Germany, and try, with JT and Jean, to piece together the jigsaw of clues they obtain from various sources, including an old man who suffers from a bad heart. It's touch and go – and the outcome is not what I imagined! This is not going to let fans of Jefferson Tayte down and I think it could stand alone as a novel for those who haven't read the earlier books. There's a good outcome and I finished it with a smile. It's great having ends tied up but knowing there's more to come. Thanks to the publisher and Netgalley for the opportunity to read this book.

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### **Mary Couch pike says**

**Loved them all. Jefferson Tayte rocks!**

Your books have kept me from sleeping.  
Especially the last one. Second guessing the plots and always wrong made me all the more intrigued.  
I have read a lot of different fictional books. Tayte has made me a huge fan. Looking forward to the next.

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### **Sadie says**

Absolutely loved this book! It was my first "genealogy mystery. I've always been fascinated by genealogy but wish I were from a country like England where the records have been kept for hundreds of years. Much more fascinating! This book was right up my alley.

Granted, it took a bit of suspension of disbelief that a mild-mannered researcher could get caught up in something so dangerous. Still, the mystery was too intriguing for me to care. I blew through all the books in the series in no time flat and started searching for others in this genre, while I wait for Steve Robinson's next book to be released. (And, yes, I've pre-ordered it!)

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### **John says**

This was the fifth in the Jefferson Tayte genealogical mystery series and possibly the best. JT is a

professional genealogist who was adopted and has never been able to learn the identity of his own parents. But now he has a solid clue that his mother was in Munich, Germany in 1963. With that JT and his friend, Dr. Jean Summers, are off to Munich where his mother had been photographed in front of the former Hitler Youth headquarters. Their research soon leads to a warning from a fascist group who don't want certain facts to be revealed. As with the other books in this series the story moves between present day events and those in the past. In this case we get a fascinating glimpse into the point of view of a German soldier during World War two. With danger lurking around every corner the story leads to a shocking conclusion. You do not have to be a genealogist to enjoy this or any of the other books in the series. I highly recommend them all.

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### **Darlene says**

Ohhhh..this was a good one!

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### **Alice says**

Well done mystery going back between present WWII. Nice blend of history. In my opinion best in series so far.

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### **Renee says**

Another enjoyable, fast-paced adventure with JT & Jean. Has JT finally solved his own personal genealogical mystery?

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### **John Purvis says**

“Kindred” eBook was published in 2016 and was written by Steve Robinson ([http://www.steve-robinson.me/Welcome....](http://www.steve-robinson.me/Welcome...)). Mr. Robinson has published five novels, all in his “Jefferson Tayte Genealogical Mystery” series. This is the latest in that series.

I received a galley of this novel for review through <https://www.netgalley.com>. I categorize this novel as ‘PG’ because it contains scenes of Violence. This Mystery / Thriller novel is set mostly in contemporary Munich, Germany, but bounces between World War II flashbacks and the current time. The primary character is professional genealogist Jefferson Tayte. He is in Germany follow up on a lead that he hopes will help him find his birth parents.

Accompanying Tayte is Professor Jean Summer, his partner and love interest. Tayte and Summer interview an aging World War II survivor, Johann Langner. He was in the German SS and knew a fellow SS member, Volker Strobel, who has been labeled a war criminal. Tayte is convinced that Langner and Strobel have information that will lead him to identifying his parents.

Asking questions about Strobel, who has been in hiding since the end of the War, seems to stir up the anger

of those who still believe in the Nazi party. The effort by Tayte and Summer to ferret out information leading to Taytes ancestry slowly yields one small piece of information after another.

It comes down to whether Tayte will be able to find his family before he and Summer are forced to leave Munich. I thoroughly enjoyed the 7.5 hours I spent reading this 352 page novel. This is the second of Robinson's novels I have read and this is every bit as good as the first. I have dabbled in investigating my family ancestry, so I found an interesting link to the story. I liked the characters of both Tayte and Summer and look forward to reading more of their exploits. I give this novel a 5 out of 5.

Further book reviews I have written can be accessed at <http://johnpurvis.wordpress.com/blog/>.

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## **Anam Cara says**

This book is the fifth in the Jefferson Tayte series. In this book he researches his own family tree.

Tayte has a lead on who his biological parents are/were thanks to research done by his late mentor Marcus Brown. He is led to Germany based on a photo of a woman he believes to be his mother which was taken in Munich in 1973. There he meets with a 90+ year old SS officer named Johann Langer who tells him a story of friendship, love, and betrayal all set in Nazi Germany. Of course, gaining knowledge never comes easy for Tayte and there are people who do not want the truth concerning a fugitive war criminal to be revealed. He and Jean Summers are threatened, but his desire to know the truth about his "roots" outweighs the dangers he must face.

This was an amazing story. It was well told, bouncing back and forth between Tayte's interviews with Langer and Langer's memories of the past. The reason I gave it 4 stars was that for me personally it was hard to read.

I lived in Germany for 12 years over the 4 decades beginning in the 1970's, leaving for the last time in 2002. I spent time in the mountains where the prologue takes place - a place of death for an unnamed (at that point) character. I am familiar with areas of Munich mentioned and nearby towns. I know Dachau and have been to the town and taken visitors there although I never entered the concentration camp myself. I knew Americans who had liberated the camp in 1945 and having learned from their first-hand stories of what they found, I knew I could never go in myself. Perhaps that was wrong of me - imagination can be more intense than fact. But the horrors described to me were more than I wanted to face. I admit that there were parts of the "memories" in the book that I skimmed because I just couldn't bear to even read about what was happening to people during this war.

While reading, I kept notes and have now developed a limited family tree for Jefferson Tayte although I know he has more information than I have as some ancestral names were alluded to in the story, but not given to the reader. Having done genealogical research myself in Germany, I know how hard records can be to come by. I admit to some amazement at how quickly he was able to track down records in Bavaria. I wish it were that easy for the rest of us.

Although all was well in the end, I was left with a sense of darkness that I have not experienced in other Tayte novels. It could be the subject matter was too intense for me.

However, I would certainly recommend this book to others. I would just add the note that the reader should

be aware of the subject matter before beginning. The cover should be enough to alert the sensitive reader.

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## **The Cats Mother says**

I read the first four in this series a few years ago, enjoyed them and had marked this to buy soon, but too many other books jumped the queue. Then I received Book 7 from NetGalley, and given it's being published his week, and my OCD tendencies mean I am unable to read series out of order, had to get on with it - and no regrets for that.

Jefferson Tayte, genealogical investigator, is finally on the trail of his own family history. Travelling to Munich with his partner Jean, with only a photo of the mother who gave him up for adoption as a baby, he meets elderly art dealer Johann Langner, whose best friend during WW2 was notorious war criminal Volker Strobel, who is still alive and being hunted for his crimes. Threats from Neo-Nazis tell them they are on the right track. Johann tells them the story of how he got to know Volker and we follow his story in flashbacks, how he fell in love, endured the war, and finally fell out with his friend.

These books are all separate stories so probably could be read as standalones, but I've enjoyed seeing JT's character evolve. I don't really like war stories, so skimmed over the battle scenes, but Johann's story was crucial to the plot. You would think by now JT would know not to keep blundering into suspicious empty buildings, but he is always driven to get to the truth, no matter what, which I like. Jean also makes a great side-kick.

I had been contemplating skipping book 6, but with the revelations here, will just have to read the next two quickly!

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## **Diane Coto says**

I was very excited to read this book from the very start. You know why? I've been a loyal fan of this genealogical series and after all this time, Jefferson Tayte (JT), with the help of Professor Jean Summer, is finally investigating his own family's past. Up until his parents passed away, he'd had no idea they were his adoptive parents. But searching for and finding his own family, his own identity, had always eluded him. Once again, he's afraid he may lose ground as the man he needs to speak with is very old ... and dying. All JT had to go on was a picture of his mother from 1963 that she had left for him. His friend and mentor, Marcus Brown, who had died in a prior story, had been uncovering a lead on JT's actual family. It is that research that prompted JT and Jean to travel to Munich to speak with Johann Langner, a former soldier in Hitler's army. More than once, Johann asks JT if he's sure he wants to know his past no matter what. Then, Jean's life is threatened. Someone doesn't want the secrets of the past to become unburied. What are they hiding?

JT's research into his family's past is layered against the historical time period making this as much a historical fiction as a contemporary story. In particular, it goes back to the Holocaust, war crimes, and events at Dachau concentration camp. His partner in research, Jean Summer, is also someone he's developing a close relationship with. Yet this is not a romantic suspense. Perhaps romance will be in a future book in the series. I like their playful comradery and the author has crafted both of them with believable and likable personalities. The danger felt real and there was an unbelievable twist that left me breathless. This book can

be read as a standalone, but I've come to love JT after reading the four prior books in the series. I would suggest picking up the first, *In the Blood*, and starting there. It is a clean series for those that prefer no harsh language. Rating: 5 out of 5.

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### **Karen • The Book Return says**

Read my review on my blog here.

The Book Return Blog

Jefferson Tayte, an American genealogist is on the hunt for his birth parents. His search leads him to Germany where he must untangle his own roots by way of delving into the horrors of WWII.

Why everyone doesn't know about what a great author Steve Roberson is, I have no idea. He writes another fast paced multilayered novel. The entire story kept me guessing. Another five star novel that keeps me anticipating the next Jefferson Tayte novel.

I was given a copy of this book via netgalley in exchange for a honest review.

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### **Karolina Kat says**

The first part of this story unravels at a slower pace than other installments of Jefferson Tayte's mysteries, and the first impression may be a bit weaker compared to other books from the series. This is especially the case of the prologue, that can be solved quite quickly by any reader (a bit too quickly maybe).

The ultimate revelation and the 'end' of the journey is quite rewarding though and makes up for the slower start. Overall a very quick and entertaining crime/mystery book from Roberson.

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### **Tish says**

Having become interested in genealogy (my own) in the past couple of years, I thought a genealogical mystery would be right up my alley. And in fact, I enjoyed the story; the plot was exciting and moved right along and had enough surprises to keep me guessing. The main character, JT, is a professional genealogist (helps people research their family tree) who is now looking into his own family tree after finding out that he had been adopted as a baby. As they say, don't ask questions unless you really want the answer and the answers JT gets are not always pleasant ones. In case you think genealogy sounds rather boring, don't worry, this has plenty of action, suspense, and danger.

This turned out to be #5 in a series, which I didn't know when I requested it, but worked just fine as a standalone. I may go back and read some of the earlier ones, as I'd like to get to know JT's friend Marcus.

Thanks to the publisher and NetGalley for providing me a free ARC of this book.

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### **Leigh says**

Had me on tender hooks all the way!!

