

INTRODUCTION

One Step From Death is an historical suspense novel inspired by a true story. It parallels the lives of two families one of Polish aristocracy, the other of Russian decent. Nadia Larsen, the eldest daughter of Romuald and Nina Dabrowski, could not understand why her parents refused to speak of their past in Eastern Europe after World War II. From a small child in Israel, Nadia felt isolated and different from other families. She longed for grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins, family gatherings, and the feeling of belonging to one's ancestors. After the death of her father in 1982 and her marriage to an American, Nadia was compelled to uncover the unspoken truth of her parent's past. Yet it was her father's deception and heritage that rattled the foundation of her family. In actuality he was not the orphaned son of a Russian priest, but a Polish aristocrat whose great-great-grandfather was a close advisor to Nicholas I, the tsar of Russia of the Romanov family. It was the documents found in war records that made Nadia pursue the details of her father's life. This honorable and courageous man had turned his back on his birth right and family. For some hidden reason he disguised the truth of his origin even after the iron curtain fell.