



We came from Hamburg

Vivienne Ullrich

To be released December 2022

ISBN 978-1-98-859564-1

RRP \$25 • 148 × 210 mm

80 pp, soft cover, poetry

- Holocaust literature
- Jewish families in NZ
- Poems based on a true story of WWII refugees
- Author is a retired judge in Wellington

*For at the heart of HafenCity
lie the rusted rails leading
out of Hannoverscher Bahnhof,
where Paul and Irma and Alice Rosenbaum,
three out of 7692 men, women and children
were corralled by their fellow citizens,
recorded in ledgers, herded into wagons
and railroaded to their deaths.*

*No line in Indian ink drawn
on the stones of the earth
but Paul and Irma could not
cross without a visa:
Judisch, 'Israel' and 'Sara'
stamped in their passports.
Rendered Stateless.*

a story of secrets, persecution and escape

It is Hamburg, 1920. Abruptly Erna leaves her marriage and her three daughters, and disappears from the family. No one speaks of her again. One by one the other members of the Simon family begin to disappear, with death from natural causes and then as a response to what is happening in Germany with the rise of the Third Reich. The family is Jewish, they cannot stay.

During the war, what appears to be the remnant of the Simon family finds its way to New Zealand to start a new life. There are three: Wally, Liesl and Eric. Time passes and the family grows. Then one day an email arrives.

We came from Hamburg is a story of secrets, persecution and escape, and the elation of finding people half a century later who share a story you thought had been left behind.

Vivienne Ullrich KC is a retired Wellington lawyer and Family Court judge, who has an MA in Creative Writing from Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington. During the course she wrote the first draft of *We came from Hamburg*. It is her first book.

