

Naomi Ragen's new novel ***The Enemy Beside Me***, is based on historical events that occurred in Lithuania in 1941. The plot revolves around Milia Gottstein-Lasker. Milia's grandfather founded the Survivor's Campaign, an organization that hunts for Nazi war criminals who have escaped justice. After her father's death, Milia makes The Survivor's Campaign her life's mission. Milia lives outside of Tel Aviv and her husband Julius is a prominent surgeon. She is also a mother and grandmother who tries to juggle all parts of her very full life. Milia is stunned when Julius leaves her for another woman.

Dr. Darius Vidas is a lifelong Lithuanian. Darius is a divorced college history professor and a popular author. He grew up believing that his grandfather risked his life hiding a Jewish family and helping them escape from Nazis. As part of a Holocaust Remembrance initiative Darius is organizing a program to involve young people throughout Lithuania in remembering Lithuania's Jewish communities. Darius invites Milia to be the keynote speaker and to interact with students in several schools. Milia welcomes the chance to speak uncensored and plans to openly address the distortion of Lithuania's history. The Lithuanians have long buried their secrets of Nazi collaboration. Almost the entire Lithuanian Jewish community, including Milia's family, was slaughtered at the hands of their neighbors and not in concentration camps. Milia knows that Lithuanian young people are not being told the truth. She will read from notarized first-hand accounts that cannot be denied. The descriptions of torture and mass murder are disturbing, but they are essential to the plot.

Romance blooms between Milia and Darius as they explore his country and learn about each other's Lithuanian families. Milia is very conflicted about the feelings she has for Darius, but she cannot deny their mutual attraction. Multiple fascinating storylines lighten the mood of ***The Enemy Beside Me***. Ragen does not shun controversy in her novels. She's like a good friend who will always tell you the truth.