

THE
Secret Life *of*
Dorothy Soames

A Memoir

JUSTINE COWAN

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SOURCE MATERIALS AND SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

I would never have been able to piece together my mother's story if she had not taken the heroic step of writing down the details of her painful childhood. I was able to corroborate her account with various sources, including the archival files maintained by Coram and the London Metropolitan Archives, along with interviews of former foundlings and historians.

The Foundling Museum was indispensable in my efforts to reconstruct the daily lives of foundlings, particularly its Foundling Voices project, which is based on interviews with seventy-four men and women who grew up in the care of the hospital in the twentieth century, between 1912 and 1954.

I also read dozens of books, articles, pamphlets, and other materials most of which I have listed below, but a handful deserve special mention. They were my constant companions, always within reach, their pages dog-eared, their margins filled with my illegible scribbles: *Orphans of Empire: The Fate of London's Foundlings*, by Helen Berry; *Coram's Children: The London Foundling Hospital in the Eighteenth Century*, by Ruth McClure; and *London's Forgotten Children: Thomas Coram and the Foundling Hospital*, by Gillian Pugh.

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