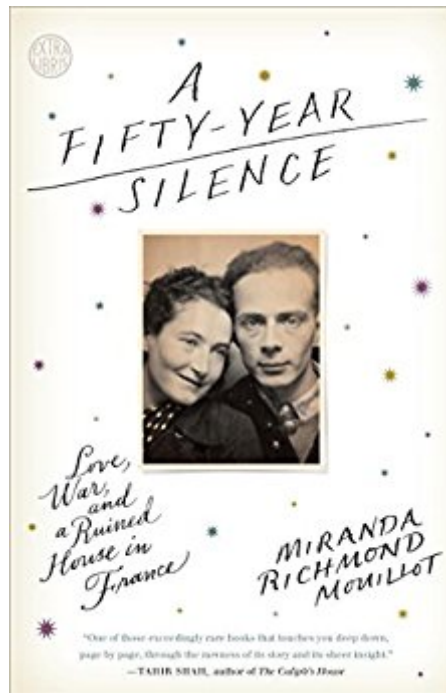




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# A Fifty-Year Silence: Love, War, And A Ruined House In France



## Synopsis

A young woman moves across an ocean to uncover the truth about her grandparents' mysterious estrangement and pieces together the extraordinary story of their wartime experiences. In 1948, after surviving World War II by escaping Nazi-occupied France for refugee camps in Switzerland, Miranda's grandparents, Anna and Armand, bought an old stone house in a remote, picturesque village in the South of France. Five years later, Anna packed her bags and walked out on Armand, taking the typewriter and their children. Aside from one brief encounter, the two never saw or spoke to each other again, never remarried, and never revealed what had divided them forever. A Fifty-Year Silence is the deeply involving account of Miranda Richmond Mouillot's journey to find out what happened between her grandmother, a physician, and her grandfather, an interpreter at the Nuremberg Trials, who refused to utter his wife's name aloud after she left him. To discover the roots of their embittered and entrenched silence, Miranda abandons her plans for the future and moves to their stone house, now a crumbling ruin; immerses herself in letters, archival materials, and secondary sources; and teases stories out of her reticent, and declining, grandparents. As she reconstructs how Anna and Armand braved overwhelming odds and how the knowledge her grandfather acquired at Nuremberg destroyed their relationship, Miranda wrestles with the legacy of trauma, the burden of history, and the complexities of memory. She also finds herself learning how not only to survive but to thrive--making a home in the village and falling in love. With warmth, humor, and rich, evocative details that bring her grandparents' outsize characters and their daily struggles vividly to life, A Fifty-Year Silence is a heartbreaking, uplifting love story spanning two continents and three generations.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

One cannot imagine the chaos and daily struggle to survive Europe during World War II. The author documented the struggle of her grandparents and outcomes that could of been predicted by the very nature of the individuals. A book one cannot put down until completed and enjoyed and the future revealed.

But I will be sharing this book w family and friends. Powerful and stark, yet somehow lovely and light. I keep thinking of the word hopeful as in full of hope.

This is a real love story, infused with the reality of incredible pain and yet promise in the future. The author has written a superb account of her grandparents lives and the deep connection she had with each of them. I was deeply touched.

A very touching and eye opening story of courage and humanity during an inhuman time in our history. Highly recommend.

Amazing story...speaks to influences on DNA by past emotional history!

Very interesting story. Liked the book.

Intersting, loved the history but very slow reading.

Loved the book. Loved the author's determination to find out the story of her grandparents "silence" and pain. I love the truth of history and I think this came across.

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