



All the Light There Was: A Novel

By Nancy Kricorian

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On the day the Nazis march down the rue de Belleville, fourteen-year-old Maral Pegorian is living with her family in Paris, where, like many other Armenians who survived the genocide in their homeland, her parents have come to build a new life. The adults immediately set about gathering food and provisions, bracing for the deprivation they know all too well?but Maral, her brother Missak, and their close friends Zaven and Barkev are spurred to action of another sort, finding secret and not-so-secret ways to resist their oppressors.

When Zaven and Barkev flee to avoid conscription, Maral finally realizes that the Occupation is not simply a temporary outrage to be endured?and when only one brother returns after many fraught months, the contours of Maral's world are changed irrevocably.

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All the Light There Was: A Novel By Nancy Kricorian Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Part of the Armenian refugee community in Paris during WWII, teenager Maral knows not to make trouble when the Nazis occupy the city, and she's scared when her older brother joins the Resistance with his friend, Zaven. Even as bombs fall, spies are everywhere, her parents take in a Jewish child, and she is always hungry, Maral worries about getting a good haircut and plucking her eyebrows to be hot for Zaven when they secretly make love. Then he is deported to Buchenwald. The first-person narrative nails the blend of daily detail and political history, as Maral loses her naïveté and realizes that lies and secrecy are the highest good and honesty is betrayal. Her parents do not talk about the massacre that drove them from home, but it is always there. The period immediately after the war is just as intense. Zaven does not return. Can Maral forgive herself for kissing Andon, who wears a German Wehrmacht uniform? An important addition to the WWII fiction shelves, this is bound to spark discussion. --Hazel Rochman

Review

"Love blooms just as war tears two people apart . . . Kricorian's rendering makes good on its promise of drama [and] . . . her heroine's resilience is exciting."

—*The New York Times*

"*Beautifully conjured* . . . Kricorian's touch is light, but the residual impact of war is nonetheless palpable."

—*Eleanor J. Bader, In These Times*

"Moving . . . With a bittersweet love story, examples of everyday heroism, and a community refusing to give in to tyrants, Kricorian's work sheds even more light on the German occupation of France."

—*Library Journal*

"The first-person narrative nails the blend of daily detail and political history . . . An important addition to the WWII fiction shelves, this is bound to spark discussion."

—*Booklist*

"*All the Light There Was* offers a vivid picture of life for a minority family in occupied Paris, and author Kricorian effortlessly takes the reader from one year to the next . . . A pleasure to read."

—*Historical Novel Society*

"Immersive as quicksand."

—*Portland Book Review*

"Kricorian's treatment of family dynamics and love under extreme circumstances creates an emotional read."

—*Publishers Weekly*

"Nancy Kricorian is a gem, her work subtle and nuanced and moving. *All the Light There Was* brings Nazi-occupied Paris vividly, tragically, and heroically to life."

—Chris Bohjalian, author of *The Sandcastle Girls* and *Midwives*

From the Inside Flap

All the Light There Was is the story of an Armenian family's struggle to survive the Nazi occupation of Paris

in the 1940s—a lyrical, finely wrought tale of loyalty, love, and the many faces of resistance.

On the day the Nazis march down the rue de Belleville, fourteen-year-old Maral Pegorian is living with her family in Paris; like many other Armenians who survived the genocide in their homeland, they have come to Paris to build a new life. The adults immediately set about gathering food and provisions, bracing for the deprivation they know all too well. But the children—Maral, her brother Missak, and their close friend Zaven—are spurred to action of another sort, finding secret and not-so-secret ways to resist their oppressors. Only when Zaven flees with his brother Barkev to avoid conscription does Maral realize that the Occupation is not simply a temporary outrage to be endured. After many fraught months, just one brother returns, changing the contours of Maral's world completely.

Like Tatiana de Rosnay's *Sarah's Key* and Jenna Blum's *Those Who Save Us*, *All the Light There Was* is an unforgettable portrait of lives caught in the crosswinds of history.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mary Johnson:

Information is provisions for individuals to get better life, information today can get by anyone at everywhere. The information can be a information or any news even restricted. What people must be consider if those information which is within the former life are difficult to be find than now is taking seriously which one is suitable to believe or which one often the resource are convinced. If you have the unstable resource then you buy it as your main information there will be huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen within you if you take *All the Light There Was: A Novel* as the daily resource information.

Virginia Cherry:

All the Light There Was: A Novel can be one of your beginning books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this e-book has good vocabulary that can increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining but still delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort to put every word into delight arrangement in writing *All the Light There Was: A Novel* however doesn't forget the main point, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource facts that maybe you can be certainly one of it. This great information can drawn you into new stage of crucial thinking.

Keith Barnett:

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say that no reserve that offer you world in ten or fifteen moment right but this book already do that. So , this can be good reading book. Hello Mr. and Mrs. active do you still doubt this?

Rita Beatty:

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