



# 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:**

#### **Robin Gilbertson:**

Nowadays reading books be than want or need but also get a life style. This reading behavior give you lot of advantages. Associate programs you got of course the knowledge even the information inside the book that will improve your knowledge and information. The info you get based on what kind of guide you read, if you want attract knowledge just go with education and learning books but if you want sense happy read one along with theme for entertaining such as comic or novel. The All the Light There Was: A Novel is kind of reserve which is giving the reader capricious experience.

#### **David Creason:**

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Do you know? Many a lot of people spent many people free time just watching TV, or playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity honestly, that is look different you can read a book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent the whole day to reading a book. The book All the Light There Was: A Novel it is very good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy the particular e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book out of your smart phone. The price is not to fund but this book has high quality.

#### **Donna Salerno:**

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**Pamela Postma:**

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