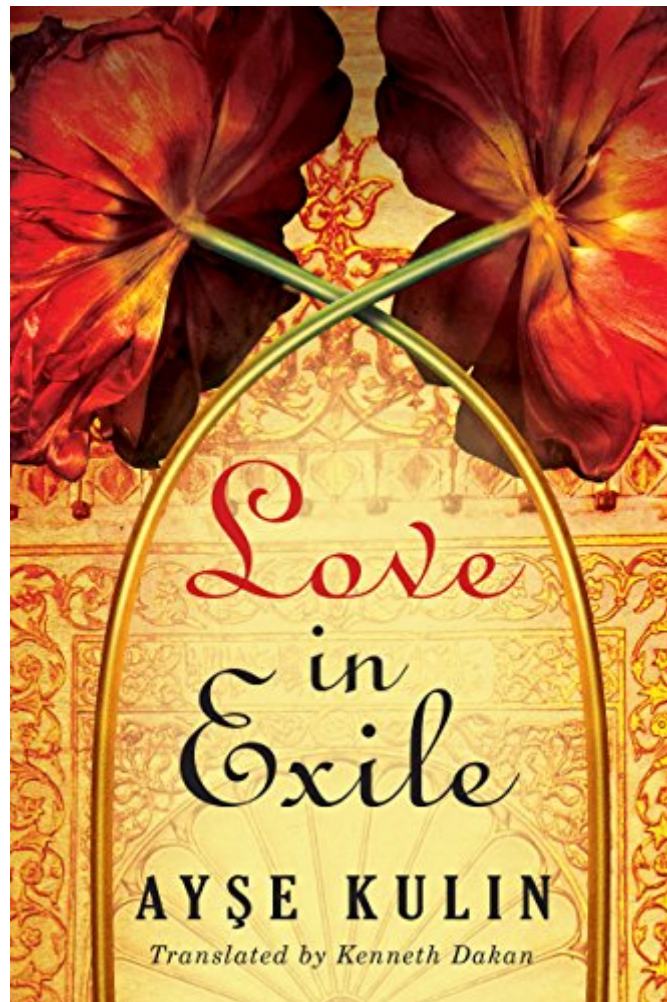


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Love In Exile



Synopsis

The bestselling author of *Last Train to Istanbul* returns with a tale of love defying all boundaries. Sabahat, a beautiful young Muslim woman, is known in her family for her intelligence, drive, and stubbornness. She believes there is more in store for her life than a good marriage and convinces her parents to let her pursue her education, rare for young Turkish women in the 1920s. But no one—least of all Sabahat herself—expects that in the course of her studies she will fall for a handsome Armenian student named Aram. After precious moments alone together, their love begins to blossom. Try as she might to simplify her life and move on, Sabahat has no choice but to follow her heart's desire. But Aram is Christian, and neither family approves. With only hope to guide their way, they defy age-old traditions, cross into dangerous territory, and risk everything to find their way back to each other. One of Turkey's most beloved authors brings us an evocative story of two star-crossed lovers inspired by her own family's history.

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Customer Reviews

Ayşe Kulin is great when writing historical fiction. *Love and Exile* proves that. It is a much better novel than her *Last Train to Istanbul* (which was also good); maybe it is because *Love and Exile* is

based on the true story of her family. The love affair between an Armenian boy and a Muslim girl (who is the aunt of Kulin herself) at the beginning of the century is in the core of the novel. The portraits of minorities of Istanbul during Ottoman Empire, the foundation of young Turkish Republic details and many vivid, lovable, three dimensional characters make Love and Exile one of the best historical novels in modern Turkish literature ever. Well don Kulin, well done.

In her new novel, Love in Exile, Ayse Kulin tells a very personal story: the story of how her parents came to be together. Against the backdrop of political and societal change in Turkey, Kulin manages to spin a sweeping saga of individuals both bound to and pulled away from one another by the bonds of family and love. Overall, I enjoyed this book. At times, though, the historical information presented tended to bog down my reading. I also found myself questioning the author when a new family was introduced into the narrative because I was unable to connect the family with the main protagonists of the story. In the end, however, the author tied together this story in a beautiful way. If you love learning about how history impacts the daily lives of regular people and would like to learn more about the roots of modern-day Turkey, you will enjoy this book. Thanks to NetGalley for providing a a complementary e-ARC for review purposes.

I enjoyed this book mostly because it was deeper than so many books out there today. The author writes with intelligence and beautiful word and sentence usage. I loved learning about such a fascinating country as Turkey in a time of complete change and turnover of history. My only trouble with this book was the numerous characters to try to remember and keep in order of who they are in relation to the others. Because the names are not typical (in English) it is often difficult to understand at first if the person is even male or female. That frustrated me at first, but I hung in there and was ever so glad I did as it was a book worth reading!

It was fascinating to me to get a glimpse of family life in Turkey and the interactions of 4 generations living together in the same home. The heartache of falling in love with someone of a different religion and the anguish it caused all the families.

Biography of the author's family up to her birth. Excellent read for learning about Turkish culture in the early 20th Century as it went through cultural and social change. The main story line focuses on the author's great aunt, a Muslim, who fell in love with an Armenian Christian man, a social taboo in that day. Though the title is "Love", it is a clean read with no sex or graphic violence. The author

shows us complex characters and injects lots of humor throughout. This is a good read if you are looking for a "no stress" type of book and enjoy learning about other cultures. I was a bit disappointed that the author leaves the main story line at loose ends, but at least she tells us what happened in the epilogue. I cannot wait for the continuation of the story in Joy and Sorrow, which as of yet has not been translated into English.

A wonderfully sweeping historical novel which is totally captivating in the way it transports the reader into the period and location of early 20th century Turkey. The characterization is also very expertly conveyed and I find not find the large number of important characters a problem as the author weaves the story in such a way that we never really lose track of who's who.

A very interesting true story from which one learned much about the 20thC history of Turkey and its former empire. The author held my attention but the jumping from one story to another was sometimes frustrating as the connections between stories were not always clear to me. The translation was fairly good.

Really interesting book. Sometimes can be a little difficult to keep track of characters as there are a lot of characters and it moves through some different time periods. Also, the characters you think the story will revolve around doesn't quite. But overall a good read.

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