



The Mirador Dreamed Memories of Irene Nemirovsky by her Daughter

By Elisabeth Gille

NYRB Classics. Paperback. Condition: New. 256 pages. Dimensions: 7.9in. x 5.0in. x 0.6in. A New York Review Books Original Elisabeth Gille was only five when the Gestapo arrested her mother, and she grew up remembering next to nothing of her. Her mother was a figure, a name, Irène Nemirovsky, a once popular novelist, a Russian migrant from an immensely rich family, a Jew who didn't consider herself one and who even contributed to collaborationist periodicals, and a woman who died in Auschwitz because she was a Jew. To her daughter she was a tragic enigma and a stranger. It was to come to terms with that stranger that Gille wrote, in *The Mirador*, her mother's memoirs. The first part of the book, dated 1929, the year David Golder made Nemirovsky famous, takes us back to her difficult childhood in Kiev and St. Petersburg. Her father is doting, her mother a beautiful monster, while Irène herself is bookish and self-absorbed. There are pogroms and riots, parties and excursions, then revolution, from which the family flees to France, a country of moderation, freedom, and generosity, where at last she is happy. Some thirteen years later Irène picks up her pen again. Everything has...



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