



SUITE FRANÇAISE

STORM IN JUNE

EMMANUEL MOYNOT

based on the book by
IRÈNE NÉMIROVSKY



SUITE FRANÇAISE

SUITE FRANÇAISE: Storm in June
(After the novel by Irène Némirovsky)
Translation © 2015 by David Homel

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d'après Suite Française d'Irène Némirovsky © 2004 Editions Denoël

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STORM IN JUNE

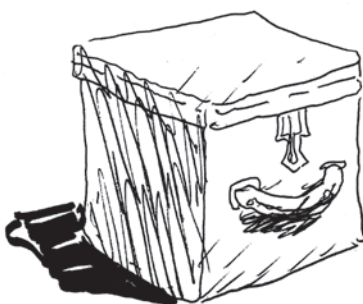
EMMANUEL MOYNOT

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gray tones

CHANTAL QUILLEC



Arsenal Pulp Press

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ORIGINAL PUBLISHER'S NOTE

The novel *Suite Française*, written between 1940 and 1942, was not published until 2004, but it went on to earn author Irène Némirovsky the first Prix Renaudot, a prestigious literary award, given posthumously. This essential book that has changed the lives of readers all over the world would not have seen the light of day without an extraordinary chain of historical events, including pure luck, chance meetings, and individual sacrifice and effort.

Irène Némirovsky was born in Kiev in 1903. The daughter of a Jewish Ukrainian banker and raised with a love of French culture, she was sixteen when she and her family settled in Paris. Ten years later, her novel *David Golder* thrust her to the forefront of the French literary scene. The dozen books and short stories she wrote over the following decade earned her admiration and caused controversy too, with their violent lucidity and cruel descriptions of a world destined to disappear.

The Occupation and the Vichy regime's anti-Semitic laws put an end to her brilliant career. Irène was forbidden from publishing and reduced to selling her writing under a pseudonym to the newspapers that would still print her. She retreated to the Burgundy village of Issy-l'Évêque with her husband, Michel Epstein, and their two daughters, Denise and Élisabeth. To help fill the void created by exile, Irène began an extraordinary project. She would tell the story of the war as it was unfolding in five volumes taken straight from current events.

Two novels were born, written in her cramped handwriting in a leather-bound notebook, *Storm in June* (*Tempête en juin*) and *Dolce*, under the series title *Suite française*. That headlong creative period was halted when she was arrested by French police on July 13, 1942. She was sent to Auschwitz and died there, from typhus it is believed, a month later.

Arrested along with her, Michel Epstein had just enough time to tell Denise, the older daughter, never to let the red suitcase out of her sight, for it held her mother's famous notebook. He, too, ended up in Auschwitz, where he died in the gas chambers shortly after his arrival. The two little girls were spared by a German officer who refused to carry out the Vichy regime's orders. Moved from basement to convent, from a Catholic residence to the homes of families willing to extend charity, they survived the war, mostly due to the generosity of Albin Michel, their mother's publisher, who continued to help them financially.

For half a century, the two sisters held on to the precious suitcase without opening it, afraid they would discover their mother's personal diary. At the end of the 1980s, when Élisabeth was working for the publisher Denoël and writing a book about her mother, *Le Mirador*, Denise decided to finally open the notebook. She found herself with an archeologist's task: untangling the woven threads of blue ink on her mother's Rosetta stone. She then reassembled the two major parts of a lost work that would bring their author back to public prominence.

A few more meetings and the favorable hand of circumstance were needed before the two novels landed on Olivier Rubinstein's desk. At the time he was the director of Denoël publishing, and he immediately agreed to put out both books in one volume, using the title *Suite française*.

The rest of the story is well known: an enthusiastic and emotional response, praise from critics, prestigious awards, translations in thirty-eight countries, the *Times of London's* Book of the Year in 2006, and a million and a half copies sold in the United States. At age seventy-five, Denise Epstein, who had outlived her younger sister, took up her cause and traveled the world to revive her mother's reputation, a victim of the Holocaust. She dedicated the rest of her life to that quest and died in 2013. She would not see the film, *Suite Française*, that British director Saul Dibb would make of *Dolce*, the second part of *Suite*, nor this adaptation of *Storm in June*.

We dedicate it to her with all our hearts.

The Characters

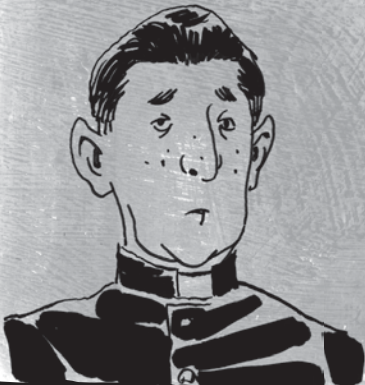
The Péricand Family



Charlotte Péricand
the mother



Adrien Péricand
the father



Father Philippe Péricand
the oldest son



Hubert Péricand
the second son



*Berhard and Jacqueline
the youngest children*



*Louis-Auguste Péricand
Adrien's father*



*Mme Craquant
Charlotte's mother*

The Corte Couple



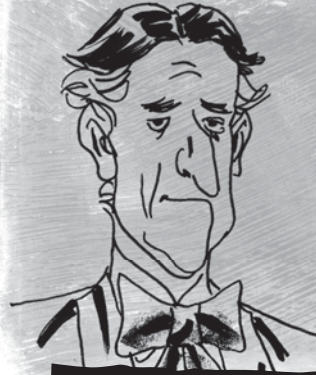
*Gabriel Corte
a writer*



*Florence
his mistress*



*Hortense Gaillard
the maid*



*Charlie Langelet
an aesthete*

The Michaud Family



*Jeanne Michaud
employee at the Corbin Bank*



*Maurice Michaud
employee at the Corbin Bank*



*Raoul Corbin
banker*



Arlette Corail
his mistress



Jean-Marie Michaud
a soldier



Madeleine Labarie
a farm girl

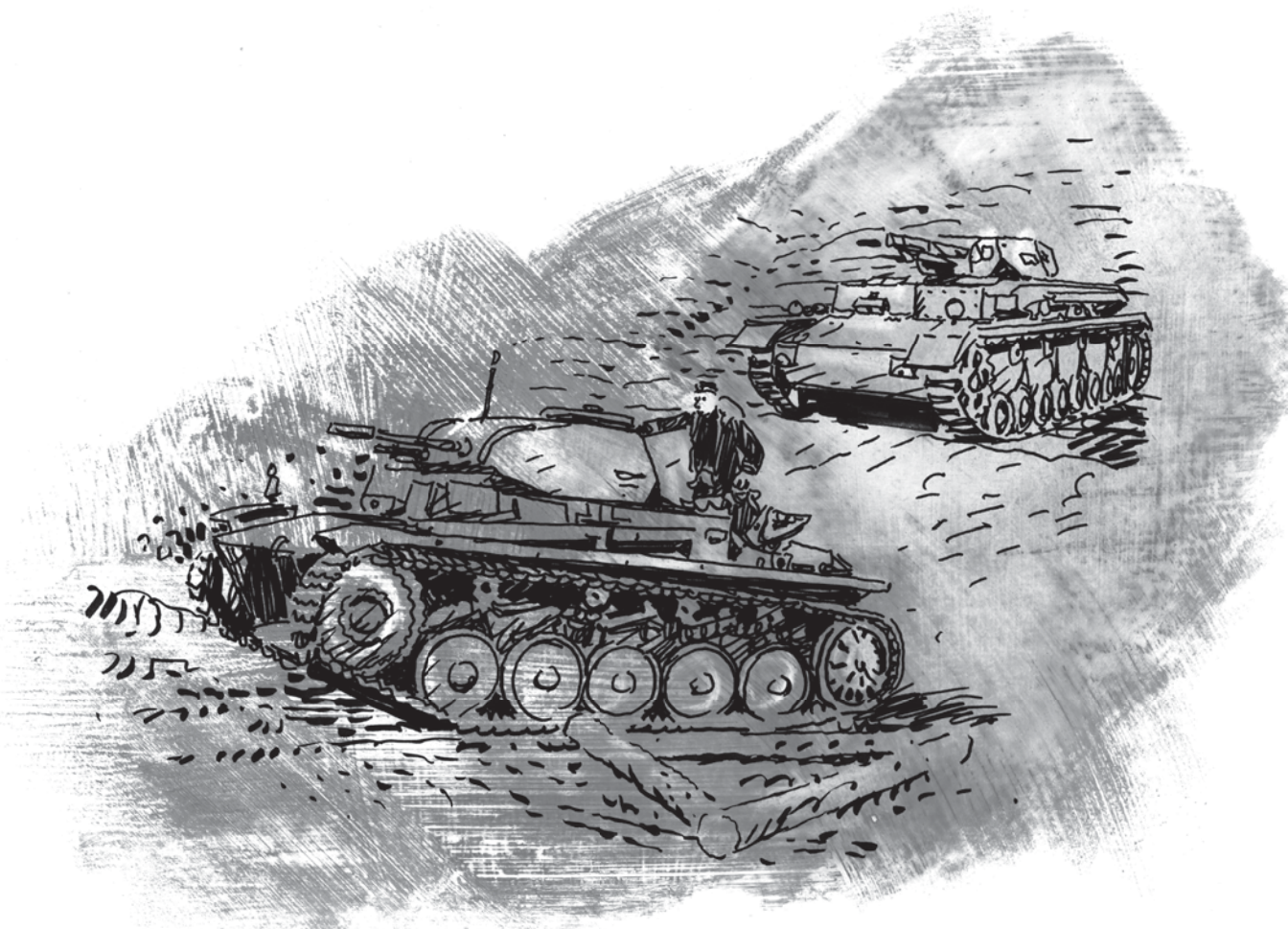


Cécile Labarie
her foster sister

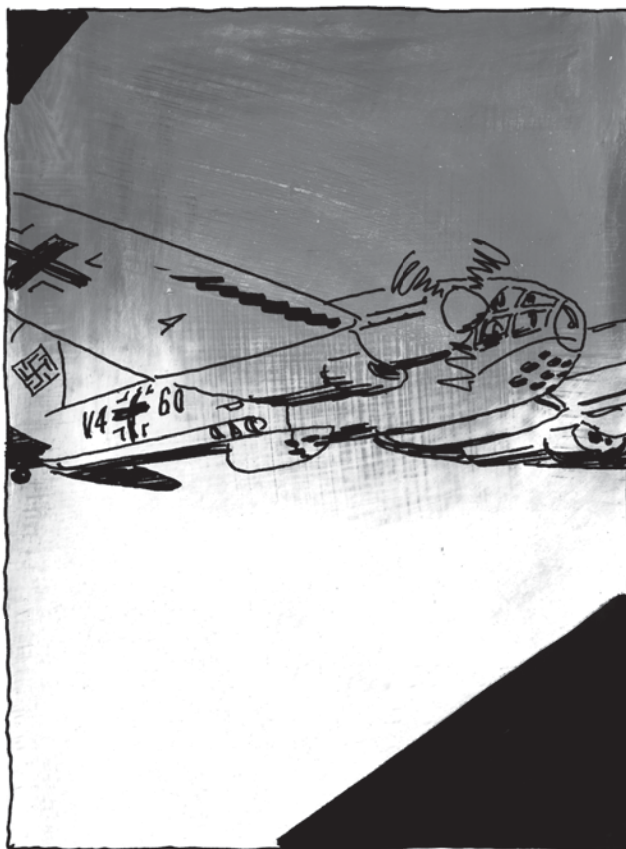
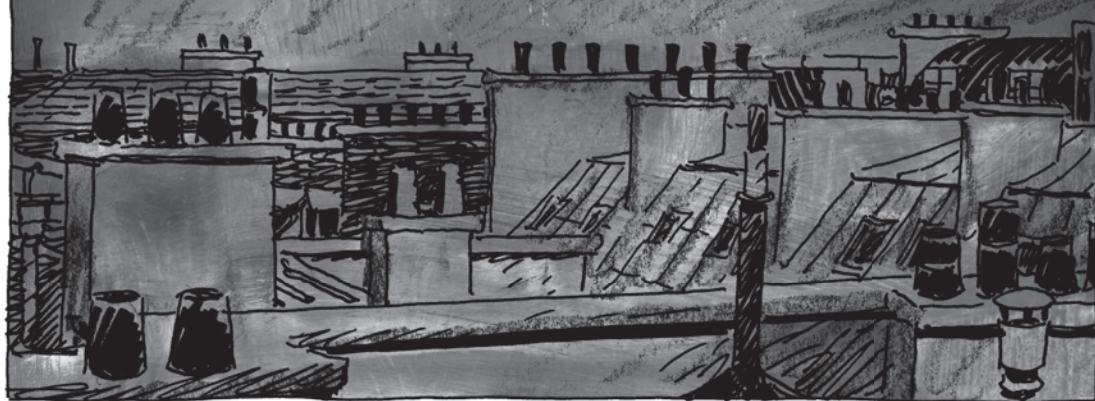
The Young Penitents of Passy



The War



PARIS, JUNE 4, 1940.





THE DUNKIRK EVACUATION WAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED. THE 335,000 MEN OF THE NORTHERN ARMY WERE SAVED...

... THANKS TO THE CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE NAVY, AIR FORCE, AND TIRELESS AND MAGNIFICENT BRITISH FORCES. FOR TWENTY DAYS, THE NORTHERN ARMY HELD THE ENEMY AT BAY ...

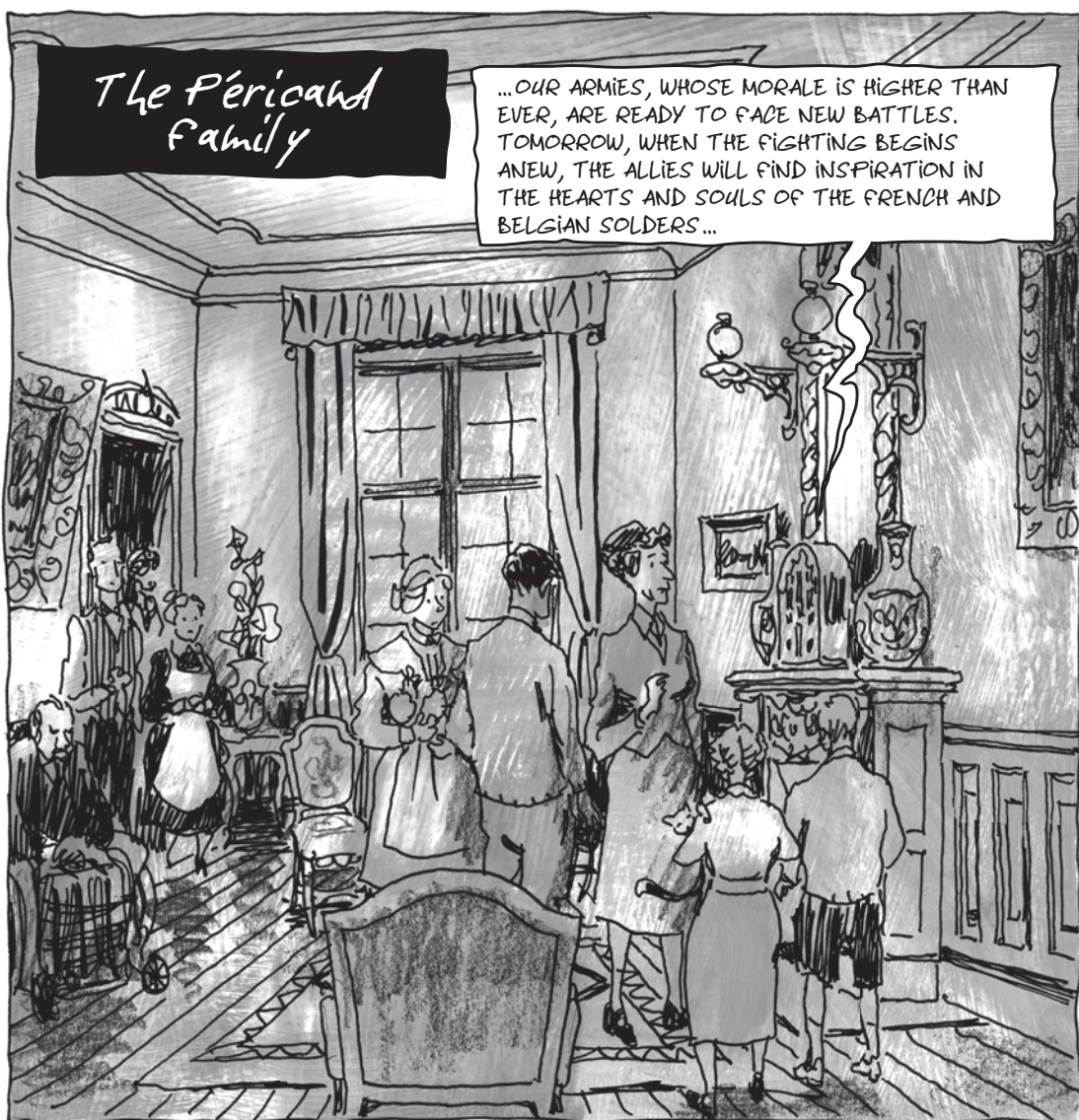
... WITH FREQUENT, HIGHLY EFFICIENT COUNTERATTACKS. THANKS TO THAT STRATEGY, THE ENEMY PAID FOR ITS TERRITORIAL GAINS WITH ENORMOUS LOSSES IN HUMAN LIVES AND EQUIPMENT ...



The Preparations

*The Péricard
Family*

...OUR ARMIES, WHOSE MORALE IS HIGHER THAN EVER, ARE READY TO FACE NEW BATTLES. TOMORROW, WHEN THE FIGHTING BEGINS ANEW, THE ALLIES WILL FIND INSPIRATION IN THE HEARTS AND SOULS OF THE FRENCH AND BELGIAN SOLDERS...



...THOUGH BETRAYED BY THE CAPITULATION OF KING LEOPOLD, THEY HAVE PROVIDED US WITH A MODEL AND AN EXAMPLE.



REALLY, MAMA, WHY DON'T THEY JUST MOBILIZE ALL THE MEN FROM SIXTEEN TO SIXTY—AND RIGHT AWAY??



LEAVE THAT FOR THE ADULTS TO DECIDE, HUBERT. GO WASH YOUR HANDS. WE'RE SITTING DOWN FOR DINNER.

AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR HAIR. IT'S ALWAYS IN YOUR EYES. JUST LOOK AT YOURSELF!



BERNARD, DON'T DRINK UNTIL YOU'VE HAD YOUR SOUP! JACQUILINE, DON'T BE A BABY. TAKE YOUR COD-LIVER OIL.



