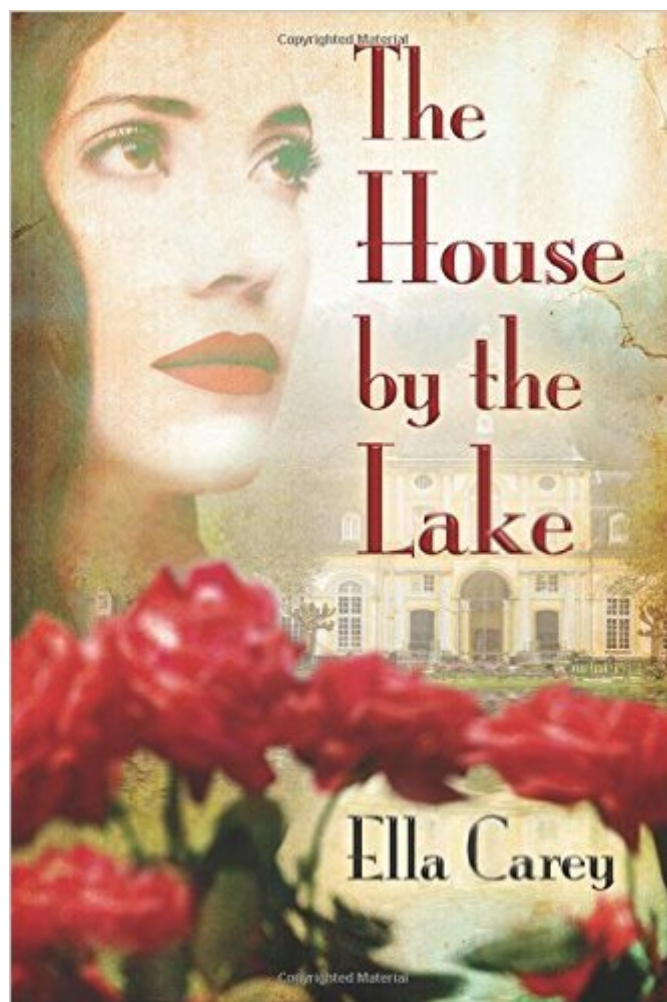


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# The House By The Lake



## Synopsis

Anna is content with her well-ordered life in San Francisco. But her world is turned upside down when her beloved grandfather, Max, reveals a startling secret: Anna is part of an aristocratic family who lost everything during World War II. What's more, Max was forced to leave behind a precious item over seventy years ago in their estate in old Prussia. It's now his ardent wish that Anna retrieve it. Anna burns with questions as she heads for Germany: What memento could be so important to her grandfather? And why did he keep their history hidden? As she searches for answers, she finds herself drawn to Wil, a man who may hold the key to unlock the mystery. Together they discover that her family's secrets are linked with an abandoned apartment in Paris, and these secrets go deeper than she ever imagined. Alternating between 1930s Europe and the present, *The House by the Lake* illuminates the destiny of a family caught in the tumult of history.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If you like historical fiction, then you will love *The House by the Lake* by Ella Carey. This is my first book by Ella Carey, and it won't be my last. This book is a beautifully written story that is both heartbreaking and hopeful at the same time. It is written in a way that just gets the reader emotionally involved. Anna is living in San Francisco, and leads a normal life. One day, her ninety-four year old grandfather, Max, reveals a secret from his past...he tells Anna that she is actually from an aristocratic family, but that the family lost everything during World War II. Anna is completely shocked, and is even more shocked when he asks Anna to go to Germany to retrieve

something he has hidden there more than seventy years ago. She does not understand why he never revealed this before, and she wonders why it suddenly so important to him. Curiosity and loyalty has her agreeing to do what he asked of her. After she arrives in Germany, she meets a man, Wil Jager, who helps her to do what she set out to accomplish. In the process, Anna learns more about her grandfather, and more secrets are revealed. The story alternates between the WWII era, and present day...and vividly explains what happened so long ago and why it is so important to Max. It is also a story about regrets, family, and following your heart. I truly couldn't read this book fast enough, and now that I've finished, I know it is a story that will stay with me for a long time. So many people don't know their family history, and after reading this, I can understand why. People that lived through that era often found it easier to stay silent and keep their heartache hidden rather than to talk about their history and reveal their pain. I highly recommend this book! I was given an advance digital copy of this book from Lake Union Publishing and NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

This is an amazing story that I loved from page one it is magical, emotional and is a joy to read as we slip back in time to Europe 1930's just before world war 2 the pressure that the men woman and families were under and the remarkable love story that is unfolded by a granddaughter in 2010 after the discovery of an apartment in Paris that had been locked up since the war. Anna Young runs a café in San Francisco she is very close to her grandfather Max who is 94 he has never spoken about his past and has destroyed any photos that he once had but when he reads an article in a newspaper about an apartment in Paris that has been discovered untouched since world war 2 he decides that it is time to talk to Anna and he asks her to return to his past and Germany to retrieve something that means so much to him. Anna is intrigued by what Max tells her and leaves for Germany to start her search but when she arrives she feels at home, there is a bond that is so strong and when she arrives at Schloss Siegel Max's old family palace it is very run down but she sees the beauty and feels the past, but she needs help and that comes in the form of the Lawyer who handles the estate Wil Jager and together they journey along a path that will uncover secrets about a love affair between Anna's grandfather Max Albrecht and Isabelle de Florian the granddaughter of the infamous Paris Courtesan Mathe de Florian once owner of the mysterious apartment in Paris. This is a beautifully written story that was a joy to read from start to finish there will be tears shed as you feel the emotions of the past and the present and as Anna learns so much about her family and the terror and hardships of the war years but also the love that runs so deep and as we see Anna and Wil get closer and the heartfelt joy that comes their way. This is the follow

on from the book *The Paris Time Capsule* which was awesome and I can recommend this book to anyone who wants to get lost in another time and marvel at the journey, truly grab yourself a drink and sit back for a fabulous journey this one will be on my keeper self and read many times over thank you MS Carey for another awesome story and the smiles it has brought me.

*The House by the Lake* by Ella Carey is a beautifully written story about Anna and her family's past. She must go on a treasure finding adventure to Germany for her 94-year old grandfather. At first, she is hesitant to go. She owns her own business in San Francisco and is afraid to leave her grandfather alone while she is gone. He all but begs her to go and she finally agrees. Once she gets to Germany, however, her life will never be the same. Carey gives readers an alternating view on this historical/contemporary romance. We see Anna's contemporary story, and we see the historical romance between Max, Anna's grandfather, and Isabelle, Max's first love, not Anna's grandmother. Anna is sent to Max's hometown and childhood home to retrieve an item from his past. She runs into some legal issues and seeks help from the good-looking, charming lawyer Wil. Anna and Wil get together to figure out what it was Max left in his childhood home. After they find the important, missing part of Max's past, tragedy strikes. Dealing with new developments, Anna is determined to save the falling down, dilapidated childhood home of her grandfather's. Through the alternating view between the German occupation of the 1930s and 2010, we see the grandeur of Max's home then and now and how beautiful it could become again. Anna discovers many things about her grandfather's past that surprises her and comforts her all at the same time. She is longing for the love that Max had. As she meets new family and discovers family secrets, Anna also discovers she has feelings for Wil and wonders if he feels the same. Not only do readers see a romance bud between Anna and Wil, but we see how Max and Isabelle meet, fall in love, and ultimately end. This beautiful love story will have readers rooting for Anna and Will and in tears for Max and Isabelle. This amazing story is beautifully written and will have you looking for more books by Ella Carey.

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