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A major international event: the publication of a lost masterpiece of World War II literature. Already a bestseller in England and France, with foreign rights sold to 11 other countries.

TO BE PUBLISHED BY KNOPF ON APRIL 18, 2006

SUITE FRANÇAISE

A NOVEL BY

Irène Némirovsky

BY THE EARLY 1940s, when Ukrainian-born Irène Némirovsky began working on what would become *Suite Française*—the first of a planned five-part novel—she was already a highly successful writer living in Paris. But she was also a Jew, and in 1942 she was arrested and deported to Auschwitz: a month later she was dead at the age of 39. Two years earlier, living in a small village in central France—where she, her husband, and their two small daughters had fled in a vain attempt to elude the Nazis—she'd begun her novel, a portrayal of a human drama in which she herself would become a victim. When she was arrested, she had completed two parts of the epic; her daughters took the manuscript with them into hiding.

Now, sixty-four years later, Irène Némirovsky's masterpiece is finally published.

**“Brilliant...magnificent...heart-wrenching.
Everything about this transcendent novel is miraculous,”**

says DONNA SEAMAN in her starred and boxed review for *Booklist*.

Némirovsky, a young Russian Jewish émigré, became a celebrated novelist in Paris at age 26 in 1929. She wrote eight more novels, then, even though she was certain that she wouldn't survive Germany's occupation of France, she embarked on a grandly symphonic, courageous, and scathing work about France's collaboration with the Nazis. She completed two of five planned movements before she was sent to Auschwitz, a heart-wrenching story meticulously documented in a supplemental section.

“As for Némirovsky's masterpiece, it begins with the tumultuous ‘Storm in June,’ in which diverse Parisians frantically evacuate Paris during the June 1940 German invasion. Némirovsky's gift for combining the panoramic with the intimate,

high emotion with stinging wit, is reminiscent of Turgenev, Babel, and Berberova. Acutely sensitive to class differences, and mordantly scornful of hypocrisy, she orchestrates a veritable carnival of cowardice, lies, larceny, and murder as a panicked populace drops all pretense of civilization. The second movement, ‘Dolce,’ evokes the eye of the storm in the village of Bussy, where German officers are billeted in French homes, and life and love resume.

“*Suite Française* is a magnificent novel of the insidious devastation of occupation, and Némirovsky is brilliant and heroic, summoning up profound empathy for all, including regretful German soldiers. Everything about this transcendent novel is miraculous.”

**“A heroic work...
gripping and wondrously literary,”**

says *Publishers Weekly* in a starred review.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH BY SANDRA SMITH • FIRST PRINTING 75,000 COPIES • \$25

Némirovsky's daughter and the translator of this novel will both be available for select interviews.



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