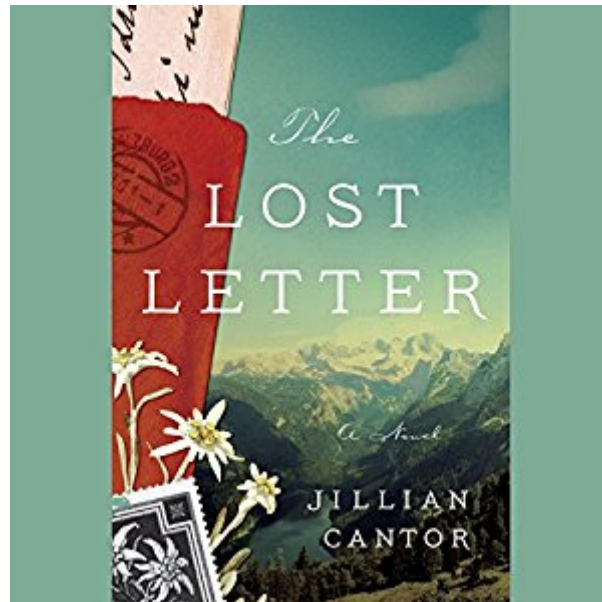


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# The Lost Letter: A Novel



## Synopsis

A historical novel of love and survival inspired by real resistance workers in World War II Austria and the mysterious love letter that connects generations of Jewish families. A heartbreaking, heartwarming story for fans of *The Nightingale*, *Lilac Girls*, and *Sarah's Key*. Austria, 1938. Kristoff is a young apprentice to a master Jewish stamp engraver. When his teacher disappears during Kristallnacht, Kristoff is forced to engrave stamps for the Germans and simultaneously works alongside Elena, his beloved teacher's fiery daughter, and with the Austrian resistance to send underground messages and forge papers. As he falls for Elena amid the brutal chaos of war, Kristoff must find a way to save her - and himself. Los Angeles, 1989. Katie Nelson is going through a divorce, and while cleaning out her house and life in the aftermath, she comes across the stamp collection of her father, who recently went into a nursing home. When an appraiser, Benjamin, discovers an unusual World War II-era Austrian stamp placed on an old love letter as he goes through her dad's collection, Katie and Benjamin are sent on a journey together that will uncover a story of passion and tragedy spanning decades and continents, behind the just fallen Berlin Wall. A romantic, poignant and addictive novel, *The Lost Letter* shows the lasting power of love.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 9 hours and 5 minutes

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Version: Unabridged

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## Customer Reviews

The story of a woman's unexpected journey and discovery of her family's past. The alternating stories move back and forth in time from 1938, Austria, under German occupation, to 1989, California. The novel takes place during the reunification of East and West Germany, is often

melodramatic and repetitive in style, but offers a wartime love story with a background of historical content. For young adults. Katie Nelson cares for her father who suffers from Alzheimer's disease. To help combat the expense, Katie requests an appraisal of her father's prized stamp collection. Philatelist, Ben Grossman, while accessing the collection, discovers an unusual stamp from Austria in the 1930's. Katie and Ben begin to investigate the origins of the stamp. Katie, though Jewish, has little tie to her Jewish roots. The curious discovery leads Katie on an unexpected journey into her family's past as she and Ben travel to Europe to unravel the tale. A slow relationship develops between Katie who is on the verge of an unwanted divorce and Ben, who suffers over the loss of his wife. In a specious vein, Cantor advances unnecessary sensationalism stating that Hohenschonhausen prison camp in the GDR was worse than Auschwitz death camp, in Poland. Over one million people were murdered in Auschwitz. Hohenschonhausen was a prison in the GDR, controlled by the East German Government and the Stasi, State Security Service. Some 250,000 East Germans, political opponents of the government, were sent to the prison who were then processed to other prisons; an estimated that some 20,000 prisoners died in Hohenschonhausen, facts the author should know.

I loved this book. It has different stories going on at different times, but they weave in and out of each other seamlessly. Katie and Benjamin (late 1980's early 1990's) travel on a journey to find out what happens to Elena and Kristoff (late 1930's Austria). Along the way they find out what life was and what it is to become. All of this happens because of a lost letter with a unusual stamp.

I am a huge fan of books involving WW2. Whether that be a memoir of some kind, or a novel. I read this book in about 24 hours because it is so good. Once you start, you have to find out how everything is connected and how it ends. A truly wonderful book.

This was a very special novel with rich character development. I couldn't put the book down reading until 3 am. A sensational story of memory, wartime injustice and unwavering love. Highly recommended.

I absolutely loved this book. Hard to put down as with all of her books. Reading this book is like a roller coaster of emotions. Highly recommend this book.

I read to be entertained and to learn. This book met both of those expectations. I found the use of

stamps to send messages, in the stamps themselves, to be intriguing.

I loved everything about this book. Finally, a book that wasn't predictable. The characters in the story became real to me. It was obvious the Author used personal experience and research to add to this book. Highly recommend! •

A warm-hearted story with sympathetic characters & a tie in to the past that I enjoyed. Satisfying ending.

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