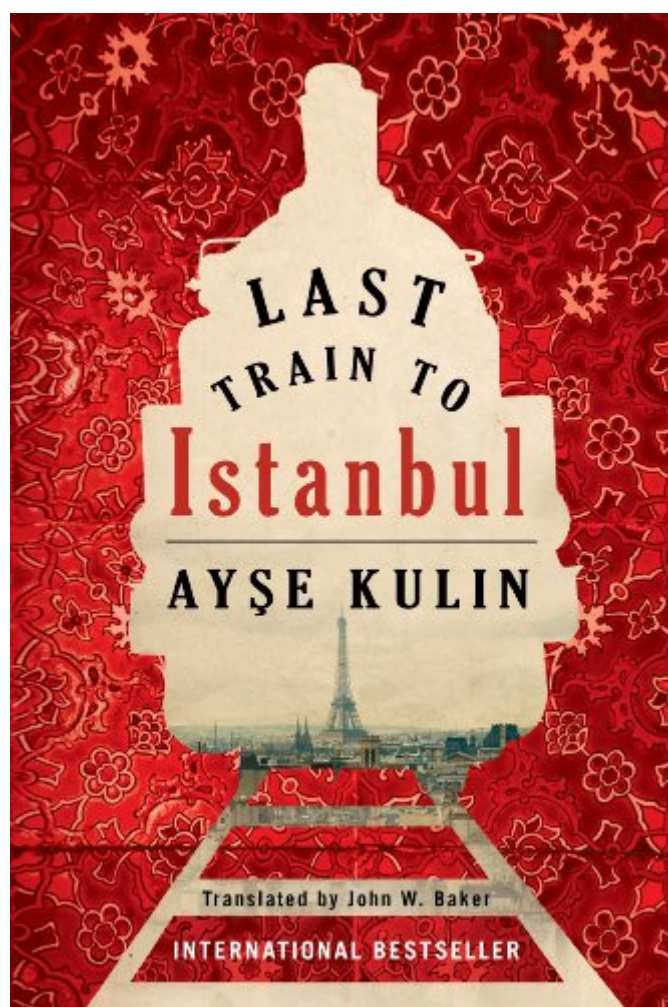


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# Last Train To Istanbul: A Novel



## Synopsis

International bestseller by one of Turkey's most beloved authors. As the daughter of one of Turkey's last Ottoman pashas, Selva could win the heart of any man in Ankara. Yet the spirited young beauty only has eyes for Rafael Alfandari, the handsome Jewish son of an esteemed court physician. In defiance of their families, they marry, fleeing to Paris to build a new life. But when the Nazis invade France, the exiled lovers will learn that nothing—not war, not politics, not even religion—can break the bonds of family. For after they learn that Selva is but one of their fellow citizens trapped in France, a handful of brave Turkish diplomats hatch a plan to spirit the Alfandaris and hundreds of innocents, many of whom are Jewish, to safety. Together, they must traverse a war-torn continent, crossing enemy lines and risking everything in a desperate bid for freedom. From Ankara to Paris, Cairo, and Berlin, *Last Train to Istanbul* is an uplifting tale of love and adventure from Turkey's beloved bestselling novelist Ayşe Kulin.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I received this book *Last Train to Istanbul* from the Vine Program. I picked this book as it stated it was a story from the World War II area a time that I lived through. It also involved inter marriage of a

Moslem girl and Jewish boy which was a big event that divided families. This book was written by Ayse Kulin a novel about the difficult time during the War. She is Turkish and it was published in 2002 and translated to English by John Baker in 2006, this book will be available in October 2013. My book was an advance Reader's copy and published by crossing. From the first pages I was engrossed and could not stop reading. There are 434 pages to this paperback book and I enjoyed every page. From the very beginning I was drawn into the lives of the two families in Turkey, the girls Sabiha and Selva were Moslem and Rafo who was Jewish. Sabiha married Macit a Moselm government worker. Selva married Rafo against her parent's wishes and the couple fled to France to start a new life. This was in 1938 the beginning of Hitler's reign over Europe. The story covers both girls and the life they led during this time. Sabiha missed her sister and tried to keep in touch with her through her husband Macit when he was sent to France on government business. Turkey was trying to stay out of the war and stay neutral and it was a difficult for everyone. When Hitler took over France Selva and Rafo were living in Marseilles in southern France and thought they would be safe. They soon found out they had to be registered as Turkey citizens and became friends with the Turkey Consulate in Marseilles. Then one day Rafo was picked up by the Gestapo and Selva frantically recruited the help of the Turkey Consulate in both Marseilles and Paris and he was released.

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