



Margot: a Novel

By Jillian Cantor

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“Inventive... Cantor’s ‘what-if’ story combines historical fiction with mounting suspense and romance, but above all, it is an ode to the adoration and competition between sisters.” — *O, the Oprah Magazine*

A story of sisters that imagines Anne Frank's sister Margot had survived World War II and was living in America.

Look out for Jillian Cantor's new book, *The Lost Letter*, on sale in June!

Anne Frank has long been a symbol of bravery and hope, but there were two sisters hidden in the annex, two young Jewish girls, one a cultural icon made famous by her published diary and the other, nearly forgotten.

In the spring of 1959, *The Diary of Anne Frank* has just come to the silver screen to great acclaim, and a young woman named Margie Franklin is working in Philadelphia as a secretary at a Jewish law firm. On the surface she lives a quiet life, but Margie has a secret: a life she once lived, a past and a religion she has denied, and a family and a country she left behind.

Margie Franklin is really Margot Frank, older sister of Anne, who did not die in Bergen-Belsen as reported, but who instead escaped the Nazis for America. But now, as her sister becomes a global icon, Margie’s carefully constructed American life begins to fall apart. A new relationship threatens to overtake the young love that sustained her during the war, and her past and present begin to collide. Margie is forced to come to terms with Margot, with the people she loved, and with a life swept up into the course of history.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

What if Anne Frank's sister Margot, instead of dying in Auschwitz, had survived and gone into hiding in America? Cantor's latest (after *The Transformation of Things*) posits this alternative scenario with a modern eye for symptoms of trauma and survivor's guilt. Wearing long sleeves even on hot days to cover her camp tattoo, Margot is passing as a gentile in 1950s America under the name Margie Franklin, avoiding both her father in Switzerland and her own tragic history. But after *The Diary of Anne Frank* is published by her dad and the movie version arrives in theaters, Margot's careful reconstruction of herself begins to fray. Joshua Rosenstein, the lawyer for whom she works as a secretary, asks for her help in finding Jews experiencing discrimination, further inflaming long-repressed memories. A troubled pair of love triangles figures in the book—one from Margot's teenage years in hiding and another in the law office; the first seems unfair to history and the second is a Holocaust survivor's version of Cinderella. But with Margot having been denied a happy ending in real life, Cantor is determined for her to find one here. Agent: Jessica Regel, Jean V. Naggar Literary Agency. (Sept.)

From [Booklist](#)

Everyone who's read *The Diary of Anne Frank* knows that Anne and her sister, Margot, died of typhus in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. But what if Margot didn't die? What if she somehow survived and immigrated to Philadelphia? What if she continued to hide? That's the premise of Cantor's (*The Transformation of Things*, 2010) daring new novel. It's 1959, after Anne's diary has been published, and the movie made. Margot—morphed into Margie Franklin, a Christian from Poland—works for a law firm, where she pines for her altruistic Jewish boss as they take on a Jewish discrimination case. Guilt-ridden Margie's life mirrors her attic days. She lives in a studio, eats minimally, and secretly keeps Shabbat. She covers her camp tattoo with sweaters. Throughout the book, Cantor drops a breadcrumb trail of Margot's life outside Anne's diary that leads to the reason why Margie covers her past. These morsels make the story believable. While Cantor occasionally overplays the drama (Margie is always tugging down her sweater sleeves), ultimately this story of sisterly rivalry, sacrifice, and love survives and thrives. --Laurie D. Borman

Review

"Inventive... Cantor's 'what-if' story combines historical fiction with mounting suspense and romance, but above all, it is an ode to the adoration and competition between sisters." — *O, the Oprah Magazine*

"A convincing, engaging might-have-been. Frankophiles will want to dig in." — *People*, 3 1/2 stars

"A marvelously wrought 'what-if' story of the survival of Anne Frank's sister and her hidden identity in a new country. Psychologically subtle, satisfyingly suspenseful, and sensitively written." – Margaret George, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Elizabeth I: A Novel*

"In this novel, a compassionate imagining of what might have happened had Margot Frank survived, Jillian Cantor provides more than a wistful what-if. She gives us a tour of the emotional nether land so often occupied by those who have survived the unimaginable and an example of extreme sibling competition—and love." — Jenna Blum, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Those Who Save Us* and *The Stormchasers*

"This beautifully told sister narrative is more than an intriguing what-if? It's a meditation on the nature of survivor guilt and the legacy of invisible wounds. *Margot* takes on big questions in an intimate story, and carefully considers whether it is possible to survive--and thrive-- after unspeakable horror. A moving,

affecting novel.” — Diana Abu-Jaber, author of *Crescent* and *Birds of Paradise*

“Cantor brilliantly channels Anne Frank’s sister Margot, who survives the Holocaust horrors to hide yet again, in America, trying to forget the terrible secret that brought her here. A haunting meditation on who we really are versus who we wish we had been, regret, loss and how we love in the face of sorrow. Glowing as a rare jewel, *Margot* is about discovering the truths of our lives, no matter what the cost.” — Caroline Leavitt, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Pictures of You* and *Is This Tomorrow*

“Using historical facts and people we know and love, Cantor fills in the lost details of their lives with her imagination, and reaps a beautiful and redeeming new conclusion for a terrible chapter in history. Immediate and realistic, *Margot* brings Anne Frank and her sister to new life, while giving one of them a chance at a better future. The novel not only feels like a prayer for Margot and Anne, but for the many voiceless men and women whose memory deserves recognition.” — Erika Robuck, author of *Call Me Zelda* and *Hemingway’s Girl*

“This is a haunting book—emotionally raw, beautifully written, and so close to the bone that it’s jarring to remember, when you come to the end, that Margot Frank isn’t really alive and well and waiting somewhere in Philadelphia to answer all your questions. Even knowing this was a work of fiction, I was still moved to tears at seeing Margot finally get the happy ending we all wish she’d had.” — Gwen Cooper, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Homer’s Odyssey* and *Love Saves the Day*

“The kind of story that will leave you breathless, both because of its ambitious subject matter and its deeply arresting storytelling. Cantor has created a stunning reimagining of Anne Frank’s sister, her journey to America and the complex terrain that became her womanhood. Part love story, part family mystery, this singular, bold, and elegantly paced story is rich with historical imagery, but the ingenious plot is all Cantor’s. *Margot* is the sort of book that remains with you long after the final page.” — Ilie Ruby, author of *The Salt* *God’s Daughter* and *The Language of Trees*

“Breathes life into a character we know only from her sister’s famous diary. *Margot* offers us the other teenaged girl who lived in hiding for two years in that annex. It honors the memory of a shadow, of a ghost and boldly explores how icons are made and what is lost in this process. *Margot* examines history vs. story and how we cling to the fictions we tell ourselves.” —T. Greenwood, author of *Two Rivers*, *Grace* and *Bodies of Water*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Pearl Sanders:

Have you spare time to get a day? What do you do when you have much more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity regarding spend your time. Any person spent their very own spare time to take a move, shopping, or went to typically the Mall. How about open or even read a book eligible Margot: a Novel? Maybe it is to get best activity for you. You recognize beside you can spend your time together with your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with the opinion or you have various other opinion?

Yvette Barstow:

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Clarence Danner:

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