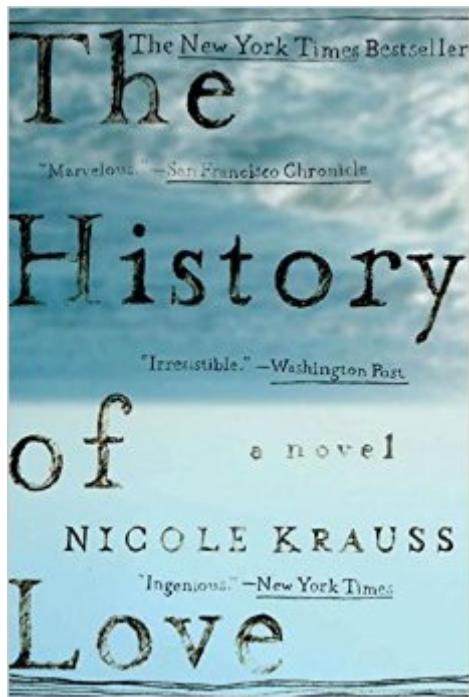


The book was found

# The History Of Love



## Synopsis

ONE OF THE MOST LOVED NOVELS OF THE DECADE. A long-lost book reappears, mysteriously connecting an old man searching for his son and a girl seeking a cure for her widowed mother's loneliness. Leo Gursky taps his radiator each evening to let his upstairs neighbor know he's still alive. But it wasn't always like this: in the Polish village of his youth, he fell in love and wrote a book. Sixty years later and half a world away, fourteen-year-old Alma, who was named after a character in that book, undertakes an adventure to find her namesake and save her family. With virtuosic skill and soaring imaginative power, Nicole Krauss gradually draws these stories together toward a climax of "extraordinary depth and beauty" (Newsday).

## Book Information

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company; 1st edition (May 17, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0393328627

ISBN-13: 978-0393328622

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.7 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (727 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #7,769 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #40 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Religious & Inspirational > Jewish #132 in Books > Literature & Fiction > World Literature #263 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Coming of Age

## Customer Reviews

Nicole Krauss's astonishing novel about a manuscript that survives the Holocaust, a flood, broken friendships, a plagiarist, misunderstanding, and obscurity has all the heart and intelligence of the best fiction being published today. Elderly Leo Gursky is afraid of dying unnoticed, and he plans his days so that people will see him and remember him. Among other schemes, he makes a scene in Starbucks and poses nude for a drawing class. Leo wasn't always this lonely. Decades before, in a small town that was then part of Poland, he fell in love with a girl named Alma. He wrote a book about her before the two fled at different times and circumstances to safety during World War II. Despite the disappointments in his life, Leo continues to write, convinced that he will die when this next book is finished. Meanwhile, a teenager also called Alma, named after a character in a book titled *The History of Love* by a Chilean named Litvinoff, finds herself in the heart of a mystery: her

mother is hired by a mysterious man named Jacob Marcus to translate *The History of Love* from Spanish. Since Alma's father passed away years before, her mother has been overcome with sadness, and Alma sets out to find Jacob Marcus as a possible suitor. Oblivious to Alma's quest, her brother Bird has decided he is one of thirty-six holy men, a "lamed vovnik", and might even be the Messiah. And then there's Litvinoff himself, in the past, with his personal story and connection to the manuscript and to Alma and to his own beloved Rosa. The stunning coup of this novel is how Krauss brings these diverse elements into a single, concluding moment. Krauss has complete command of a story that could get away from a lesser novelist. Witty, sometimes sadly funny, with unforgettable off-beat characters, the novel draws in the reader from the first page, although its true strength isn't evident until the last hundred pages. The comparison of *The History of Love* to Jonathan Safran Foer's *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* is inevitable, since the two authors are married and both books were published in 2005. While the two works echo each other in parts, use similar postmodern techniques, and concern themselves with related themes, Krauss and Foer are too good to be lumped together. Still, these seem like companion books. *The History of Love* is every bit as inventive and as emotionally riveting as Foer's novel - and vice versa - but it (as does Foer's novel) seems to wink at readers who have read both. Readers familiar with Foer's book will smile as Leo reveals that he is a retired locksmith who can open any door he wants. And the set-up of a young person, missing his/her dead father and searching New York for clues to solve a mystery will seem familiar. Beyond that, however, these books stand alone as remarkable works about people, both immigrants and natives, who are adrift in contemporary America. This exceptional novel deserves a wide readership. Highly recommended.

This book is very similar in both content and tone to Jonathan Safran Foer's latest book, *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*. It's interesting to note that Foer and Krauss are husband and wife. Summary, no spoilers: This novel is told from the point of view of several narrators. The first, and best narrator, (the parts that feature him are brilliant), is Leo Gursky. Leo lives by himself in New York. He was born in Poland, and fell in love with a girl named Alma. They vowed to spend their lives together. Due to the war, Leo and Alma were separated, and Leo has spent his life alone, pining for Alma. The other main narrator is a young girl also named Alma, who has lost her father to pancreatic cancer and lives with her young brother and mother. All have been terribly damaged by his death. Although we occasionally get other narrators, the story is essentially told by these two wounded individuals. Alma tries to find the woman for whom she was named, and Leo tries to become a part of the living world, and become a part of his son Isaac's life. And all of this centers

around a mysterious book entitled The History of Love. This is a gorgeous book. Like Foer's novel, this book is funny, sad, and quirky. At times a bit too quirky. I thought the chapters involving Leo were terrific. The book starts out with Leo's narration, and hence the book starts out on a powerful note. Although I enjoyed the character of young Alma, the chapters involving her were often odd, and sometimes slowed the pace of the story. Still, this book is worthy of 5 stars, and it would make a wonderful book club choice...there is a lot to discuss. So who has the better book, Foer or Krauss? My vote goes to Krauss, who wrote a page turner that has a better flow, and is more accessible than the Foer's work. Recommended.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Aloha: Love, Suite Love/Fixed by Love/Game of Love/It All Adds Up to Love (Inspirational Romance Collection) Love's Unending Legacy/Love's Unfolding Dream/Love Takes Wing/Love Finds a Home (Love Comes Softly Series 5-8) Love & Hip Hop: Unsung All Exclusive Access: New York Atlanta Hollywood Unauthorized Version (Love & Hip Hop, Vh1 Love & Hip Hop WEDDING, Love & Hip Hop ... Season 1 2 3 4 5 6 DVD Prime Instant Video) #Love #Coloring Book: #Love is Coloring Book #1 in the Adult Coloring Book Series Celebrating Love and Friendship (Coloring Books, Coloring Pencils) ... Series of Adult Coloring Books) (Volume 1) Love by the Numbers: How to Find Great Love or Reignite the Love You Have Through the Power of Numerology Love, Love, Love (Modern Classics) Love Me Until I Love Myself: Sage and Delilah's Love Story Alexander: The Great Leader and Hero of Macedonia and Ancient Greece (European History, Ancient History, Ancient Rome, Ancient Greece, Egyptian History, Roman Empire, Roman History) History: History of Money: Financial History: From Barter to "Bitcoin" - An Overview of Our: Economic History, Monetary System, & Currency Crisis (Digital ... Federal Reserve, Currency Crisis Book 1) The Official SAT Subject Tests in U.S. & World History Study Guide (Official Sat Subject Tests in U.S. History and World History) History on Film/Film on History (History: Concepts, Theories and Practice) Using Oral History in Community History Projects (Practices in Oral History) The 5 Love Languages: The Secret to Love that Lasts Adult Coloring Book of Love: 55 Pictures to Color on the Theme of Love (Hearts, Animals, Flowers, Trees, Valentine's Day and More Cute Designs) Love Is a Mix Tape: Life and Love, One Song at a Time A Call to Love: 10 Hymn Arrangements Based on the Theme of Love (Sacred Performer Collections) The Wait: A Powerful Practice for Finding the Love of Your Life and the Life You Love The Love Playbook: Rules for Love, Sex, and Happiness I Love My Dinosaur (Love Meez) I Love to Share (I Love to... Bedtime stories children's book collection) (Volume 7)

[Dmca](#)