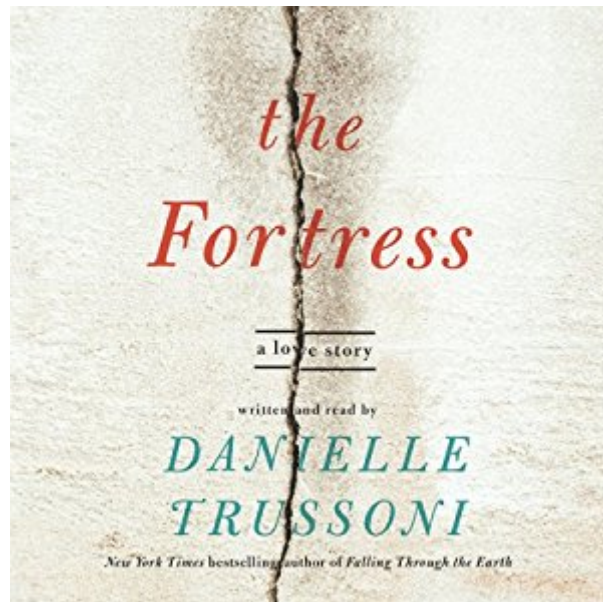


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The Fortress: A Love Story



Synopsis

The critically acclaimed, best-selling author of *Falling Through the Earth* and *Angelology* returns with this much-anticipated memoir of love and transformation in France. *The Fortress* is Peter Mayle meets *Eat, Pray, Love*, a gorgeously written account of one woman's journey to the other side of the romantic fairy tale. "If I had been another woman, I might have been skeptical. But I wasn't another woman. I was a woman ready to be swept away. I was a woman ready for her story to begin. As a writer, story was all that mattered. Rising action, dramatic complication, heroes and villains and dark plots. I believed I was the author of my life, that I controlled the narration." From their first kiss, 27-year-old writer Danielle Trussoni is spellbound by a novelist from Bulgaria. The two share a love of jazz and books and travel, passions that intensify their whirlwind romance. Eight years later, hopeful to renew their marriage, Danielle and her husband move to the south of France, to a picturesque medieval village in the Languedoc. It is here, in a haunted stone fortress built by the Knights Templar, that she comes to understand the dark, subterranean forces that have been following her all along. While Danielle and her husband eventually part, Danielle's time in the fortress brings precious wisdom about life and love that she could not have learned otherwise. Ultimately she finds the strength to overcome her illusions and start again. An incisive look at romantic love, *The Fortress* is one woman's fight to understand the complexities of her own heart, told by one of the best writers of her generation.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 10 hours and 1 minute

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Writers & Musicians #666 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Health, Mind & Body > Family &

Relationships

Customer Reviews

I was originally drawn into Trussoni's misshapen love story when she published a series of stories as a "True Love" column on The Rumpus. She indicated that she was in the process of crafting a memoir. As I eagerly awaited each new installment of the story of her and The Magician, I knew that this book was something worth waiting for; when the column was taken off the site and I found that the book had a publication date, I pre-ordered it immediately. Thus the wait began. Deftly weaving together the elements of her story, Trussoni effortlessly shifts from the heavy strangeness of La Commanderie "a fortress in rural France" to everything that brought her there and made her family what it was. She was instantly taken with Nikolai when she met him a decade earlier, and he swept her away with mysticism and passionate need. I'm a lot like Trussoni, and currently in the midst of writing a play based on a doomed relationship in which instinct and reality were set aside in favor of obsessive desire. So the timing of her memoir's publication could not have been better. She examines the repetitive pattern of gaslighting in which Nikolai not only lied to her but made her doubt her own perceptions, as well as the forces at work in her personality and past that allowed her to keep pushing aside her gut feelings and stay with him. Her children were, on the one hand, a powerful reason to stay together, and on the other bore the brunt of her ex-husband's callous whimsicality. As she comes to see his possessiveness play out in their daughter's life and his emotional hardness take form against her son, Trussoni "recognize[s], in [her] daughter, [her] own need to believe in the impossible.

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