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### And Both Were Young and Anna and the French Kiss

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 <p>Author: L'Engle, Madeleine</p> <p>Title: <i>And Both Were Young</i></p> <p>Year of Publication: 2010 (Originally published 1949)</p> <p>Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux</p> <p>ISBN: 978-0374303648</p> <p># of pages: 256</p>	 <p>Author: Perkins, Stephanie</p> <p>Title: <i>Anna and the French Kiss</i></p> <p>Year of Publication: 2010</p> <p>Publisher: Dutton</p> <p>ISBN: 9780525423270</p> <p># of pages: 372</p>
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There are some books that just reach out and grab you. They tug at your heart strings matching with who you are in such a perfect way that it's like you found a sole mate. I've had many books do this throughout my reading life, but one of the romances that did this very early was Madeline L'Engle's *And Both Were Young*. Most people know L'Engle for her innovative science fiction such as *A Wrinkle in Time*, however very few know about this stand-alone realistic fiction title. Originally published in 1949 I first encountered a revised and updated edition from the 70s. This tattered and yellowed paperback is still one of the prized books in my collection. With pages falling out and a few greasy marks it shows the ravages of age but also the ravages of my constant reading. I was overjoyed in 2010 when a new hardback edition was published and promptly went out and bought two copies one to read and love to death and the other to hold in my "special collections" in pristine condition.

It really is hard to say why as a young teen I gravitated back again and again to the story of Flip. Taken to a Swiss boarding school Flip is homesick and greatly misses her father. Feeling like she will never fit in, Flip meets Paul, a French boy who is facing his own troubled past. As the pairs relationship grows so does Flip's contentment and she is able to finally embrace her new life. I guess I was first taken by the exotic location, at this time I had never been out of the country and the thought of a Swiss boarding school was the pinnacle of adventure and romance. I also however loved the romance of the book. I've always been a romantic at heart, so stories about finding true love appeal to that side of my nature. For the time however this book was very different, while many heroines lost themselves in

order to find love in this case Flip finds herself because of her love. This made Flip an very empowering character for me. I realized that you did not have to become someone else, but that a true love would serve to make you a better and stronger person. That vision of romance was so much more realistic and accessible to me as a young teen then the over the top romances of some of the series fiction that also permeated the book offerings of my younger years. No matter the specific reasons I read and reread this book and even reading it today I sigh at the lovely parts, cheer at the exciting parts, and cringe at the scary parts.

*And Both Were Young* has a found place in my heart that nothing will ever replace, but I must say that in 2010 (the same year the new hardback edition was published) I also read another book that made me get nostalgic. Perkins's *Anna and the French Kiss* had the same boarding school setting (this time in France) and the same believable love story that I had encountered so many years ago with *L'Engle*. As I read I found myself wishing that I was a teen again because this new book I knew would have ended up being as tattered and worn as my other paperback. Here was a book that I enjoyed as an adult but it really spoke to my past teenage self and I knew Anna was the perfect modern day Flip. In one perfect year old and new melded to give me two novels that will be on the top of my list of romantic favorites. So this editor offers not one but two fine examples of delightful stories that can speak to the starry-eyed teenager in all of us.

Editor's Choice Review by Rachel L. Wadham