



Date : 02/01/2020

Pages : 96

Format cm : 13 x 19

Prix : 13.0

EAN : 9782021435092

That's What My Mother Would Say

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Publisher : Seuil

Category : Literature and Fiction

Genres : Novels/Fiction

Keywords : Balzac

Pure, true, humble and timeless.

She had never really learned to speak French. But every Saturday evening she would watch the variety shows and sing along to the popular tunes of the day. Taking refuge in that magical musical moment, she would forget all her sufferings. She would forget that everyone thought of her as the village idiot, or as the little immigrant daughter of a widow bringing up five children.

Today, she is ninety-three and lives with her brother who reads to her every night from Balzac's *La peau de chagrin*. For him, reading was always the key to integration and social advancement.

Sales in France: 11 700 copies