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34 Rue Neuve

My Grandmother's Tobacco Shop

Author: William Irigoyen

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William Irigoyen, an award-winning ARTE journalist, blends investigative reporting and historical storytelling to uncover a forgotten, deeply compelling tale of courage and secrecy during World War II.

In 2014, journalist William Irigoyen uncovers a few forgotten lines written by his grandmother. This coincidence gives rise to a gripping family investigation that dives into the hidden history of Lyon, long celebrated as the "capital of the French Resistance." At 34 rue Neuve, during World War II, Mireille Poulet, a Jewish woman registered by the Vichy regime, runs a tobacco shop while secretly playing a key role in a Resistance network linked to the OSS. For over a year, she eludes Nazi counter-intelligence. Her buried story raises unsettling questions about courage, silence, and memory.
