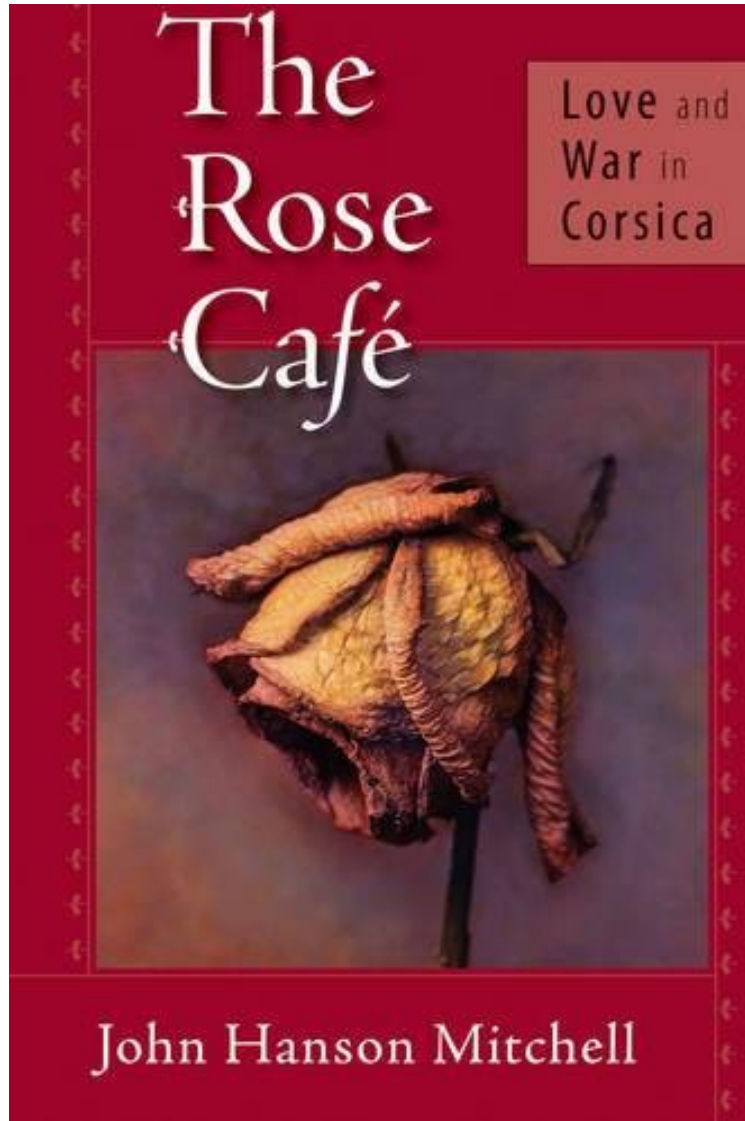


(Download ebook) The Rose Café: Love and War in Corsica

## The Rose Café: Love and War in Corsica

*John Hanson Mitchell*

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**John Hanson Mitchell : The Rose Café: Love and War in Corsica** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Rose Café: Love and War in Corsica:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Satisfying memoir of 60s CorsicaBy JoyceMemoir of young American study abroad student who finds staying in Europe, particularly a summer in Corsica,more rewarding than risking draft and Vietnam. He has a good eye for characters and detail.5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Cafe SocietyBy Christian SchlectAt the highest literary level for a personal memoir. After the passage of

decades, a gifted American writer looks back on a formative period of months he spent on Corsica when he was twenty and at a time when the emotional scars arising from World War II were as yet unhealed. Clear, precise prose on the goings-on associated with the small, isolated but ever-interesting Cafe Rose. Aspiring writers would especially benefit from receiving this book as a present -- if not buying it themselves. (I sadly admit to being unaware of John Hanson Mitchell prior to reading this fine work.) 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great read for travelers to Corsica. By S. Shankland Though somewhat dated, this book gives a good sense of the rhythm of life and the turning of seasons in a small Corsican town, before the advent of mega tourism, yachting clubs and all-night discos. The book feels slow paced but that is surely intentional and part of the charm. While mostly devoid of plot, the book provides a fascinating and lyrical glimpse into European culture in the 1960s. Definitely worth reading, particularly for those lucky enough to travel to the "island of beauty."

John Hanson Mitchell recounts his time in the isolated backcountry of Corsica in 1962. While working (illegally) at the Rose Café in Ile Rouse, Mitchell spent his days observing the lives of the regulars: a local group of card players, colorful reprobates from the continent, and a younger crowd of fellow students, all spellbound by the lush charms of the island. Depicting the pivotal role that his time in Corsica played in his own development as a writer, Mitchell captures the rhythms and intrigues of a life lived elsewhere.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . Avoiding military service in Vietnam, American author Mitchell spent six months working in the kitchen of the Rose Café on the French Mediterranean island of Corsica, a season of which he recounts in this powerful memoir. A restaurant "at a remove from the village ... where any local could retreat," the Rose Café is populated by a great number of characters—including owners Jean-Pierre and Micheline, Mitchell's love interest Marie and a wealthy, mysterious foreigner called "Le Baron"—who don't do a whole lot: eat, drink, play cards, swim, argue, fall in love and share what they know of the island's history. What makes this story remarkable is the way Mitchell allows each character to reveal their experience of World War II, ended just 15 years before; some nights, Mitchell hears "a terrible scream from one of the upstairs rooms, a guest awakened by the all-too-real nightmare of the past war." The tale of a lone Nazi shot down in a friend's garden makes for one searing anecdote; others involve entertaining if dubious tales from French resistance fighters (as one Corsican woman tells him, "'after liberation, all of a sudden half of the males in France were in the resistance' "). The juxtaposition of the beautiful island's vitality and the horrors it so recently survived are captured well in Mitchell's precise and evocative prose, making this well worth reading for fans of memoirs, Old World European culture and WWII narratives. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Say the name "Corsica" and images of inscrutable spies, nefarious gangsters, and internecine warfare taking place within a sultry island setting come to mind—and with good reason, as Mitchell so vibrantly conveys in his Graham Greene-like memoir of his days spent as a young college student exploring the unfathomable intricacies of life in the polyglot culture of this shadowy Mediterranean haven. The time was 1962, and as an American student abroad, Mitchell was keenly aware of the looming military crisis in Southeast Asia, while around him, Europe was still tentatively reeling from the aftereffects of World War II. Taking a job as a busboy-cum-cook at a local restaurant, Mitchell capitalized on his fly-on-the-wall status to observe and consider the kaleidoscopic cast of characters that used the cafe as a safe harbor from the exigencies of the outside world. With an acute sense of character and precise flair for dramatic detail, Mitchell's picaresque memoir renders this seductively vaporous world in crystalline prose. Carol Haggas Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved "One of our finest guides . . . He shows us how we can cease our wanderings and come to know a place." "The juxtaposition of the beautiful island's vitality . . . [is] captured well in Mitchell's precise and evocative prose." "Mitchell is a master of sensual detail. His Corsican idyll, youth's paradise lost, enchants, still vivid and affecting some 40 summers gone."