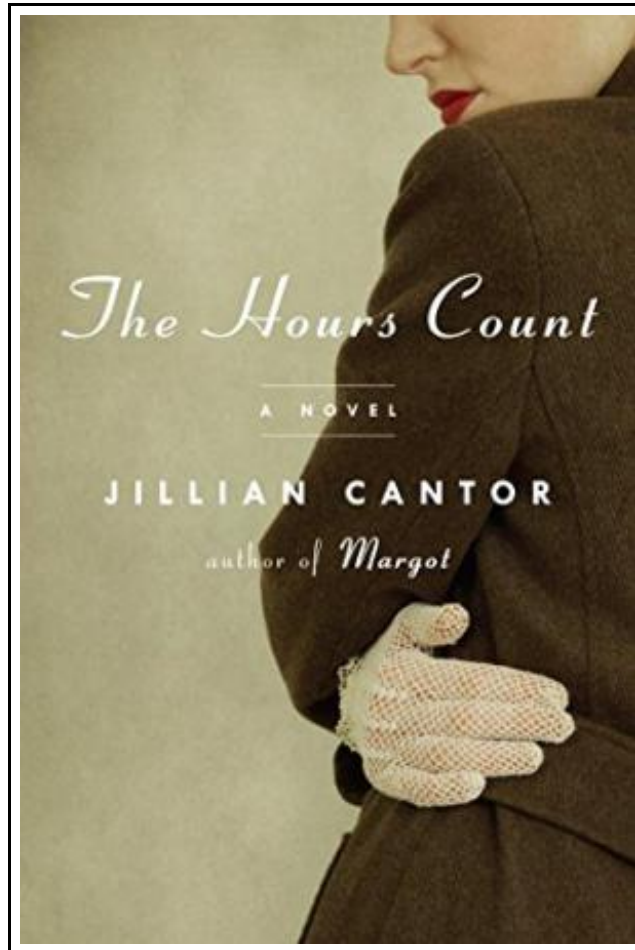# The Hours Count

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Reviews

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(Melany Bogisich)

THE HOURS COUNT

Riverhead/BOMC. 1 Cloth(s), 2015. hard. Book Condition: New. On June 19, 1953, Ethel and Julius Rosenberg were executed for conspiring to commit espionage. The day on which Ethel was first arrested in 1950, she left her two young sons with her neighbor and friend Millie Stein, and never came home to them again. Melding fact and fiction into a gripping historical novel, Jillian Cantor reimagines the life of that neighbor, as well as the lives of Ethel and Julius, an ordinary-seeming Jewish couple who became the only Americans put to death for spying during the Cold War. Cantor takes us back to 1947, as Millie Stein moves with her husband Ed and their toddler son David into an apartment on the 11th floor in Knickerbocker Village on New York's Lower East Side, where their new neighbors are the Rosenbergs. Struggling to care for David, who doesn't speak, and isolated from other "normal" families, Millie meets Jake, a psychologist who says he can help David, and befriends Ethel, also a young mother. Millie and Ethel's lives as friends, wives, mothers, and neighbors entwine, even as chaos begins to swirl around the Rosenbergs and the FBI closes in. Millie begins to question her own husband's political loyalty and her marriage, and whether she can trust Jake and the connection they have forged as they secretly work with David. Caught between Ed and Jake, both of whom have their own agendas, and desperate to help her friends, Millie is drawn into the dramatic course of history."[An] intriguing novel that intertwines facts about the Rosenbergs' into the life of an average American housewife."Library Journal (starred review)"This ambiguity and uncertainty feels true to life and results in a story that is filled with plenty of surprises, where the stakes feel impossibly high and stolen moments...

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