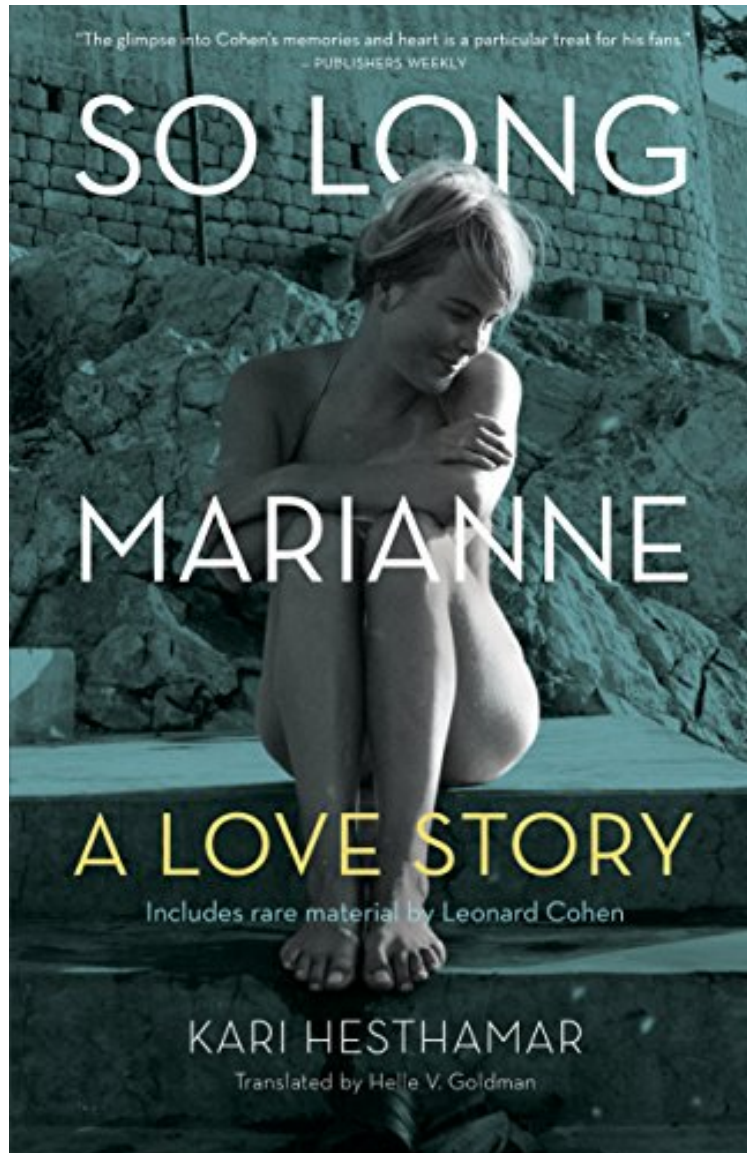


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## So Long, Marianne: A Love Story - includes rare material by Leonard Cohen

Von Kari Hesthamar

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**Von Kari Hesthamar : So Long, Marianne: A Love Story - includes rare material by Leonard Cohen** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised So Long, Marianne: A Love Story - includes rare material by Leonard Cohen:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 8 von 8 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.

Interessant für Cohen-Fans, aber keine Pflichtlektüre oder Lesevergnügen. Von Andreas Frintrup für Leonard Cohen Fans könnte man dieses Buch als Pflichtlektüre betrachten - es werden bisher unveröffentlichte (sehr persönliche) Ein- und Ausgangsbriefe und Gedichte lesbar und Eindrücke über LC aus der Perspektive seiner ehemaligen Muse Marianne Ihlen und weiterer Weggefährten aus der Zeit auf Hydra berichtet. Genau das und ein paar enthaltene Fotografien ist, was dieses Buch lesenswert macht. Eine Pflichtlektüre ist es dennoch nicht; es gibt genug andere Quellen, die mehr Informationswert haben und die holprige Übersetzung aus dem Norwegischen gepaart mit erheblichen Zeitsprünge und einem offensichtlich in großer Hektik fertiggestelltem letzten Buchdrittel machen die (englischsprachige) Lektüre nicht zu einem literarischen Vergnügen an sich. Der zeitliche Aufwand, die Beziehungsamplituden zwischen LC und Marianne darzustellen (und zu lesen) ist hoch, was auf rund 200 Seiten elaboriert wird, hätte auch wesentlich kondensierter dargestellt werden können: Eine unstete, psychisch bedingt stabile Marianne verfällt verschiedenen Männern, ignoriert konsequent eigene Bedürfnisse, kommt erst sehr spät in die Adoleszenz und bedarf verschiedenster spiritueller-psychologischer Hilfen, um zur Selbsterkenntnis zu gelangen. Zwischendurch erscheint sie mehrfach als Rabenmutter, die ein wenige Monate altes Kind alleine von Hydra nach Norwegen expediert, um monatelang eigenem Plaisir (u.a. mit LC) nachzugehen und ihren Sohn Axel Joachim später in ein englisches Internat (Summerhill) gibt, um Zeit für die Selbstfindung zu haben und dabei die Leiden des Kindes in der Ferne ignoriert resp. toleriert. An verschiedenen Stellen blitzt durch, wie LC, selbst nicht Vater des Kindes, dessen emotionaler Retter, Freund und streckenweise Finanzier wird. LC kommt durchgängig sehr gut weg und letztlich ist festzuhalten, dass dieses Buch seiner Huldigung mehr verpflichtet ist als der Namensgeberin des Titels. Kann man lesen, muss man aber nicht.

**Kurzbeschreibung** At 22, Marianne Ihlen travelled to the Greek island of Hydra with Norwegian writer Axel Jensen. While Axel wrote, Marianne kept house, until Axel abandoned her and their newborn son for another woman. One day while Marianne was shopping in a little grocery store, she walked a man who asked her to join him and some friends outside at their table. He introduced himself as Leonard Cohen, then a little-known Canadian poet. Complemented by previously unpublished poems, letters and photographs, *So Long*, Marianne is an intimate, honest account of Marianne's life story. *Pressestimmen* "Well Marianne it's come to this time when we are really so old and our bodies are falling apart and I think I will follow you very soon. Know that I am so close behind you that if you stretch out your hand, I think you can reach mine. But now, I just want to wish you a very good journey. Goodbye old friend. Endless love, see you down the road." -- Leonard Cohen, in a letter to Marianne shortly before her death in July 2016 "Richly textured and revealing . . . Readers will be drawn to Ihlen as representative of a young woman's struggles in the changing society and artistic milieu of her time. Her story will provide an additional perspective for those familiar with Cohen's work. Rare letters, poems, and photographs enhance the text." -- *Library Journal* "A vivid glimpse of life on the Greek island of Hydra where artists traveled to live, love, and escape convention in the heady '60s, with excursions to Norway, Montreal, and New York, this thoughtful story of a young woman finding her own way in and out of love is a good read in its own right. The glimpse into Cohen's memories and heart is a particular treat for his fans, and they will be pleased to find several previously unpublished poems." -- *Publishers Weekly* "A quirky and unusual addition to the Cohen files, with previously unpublished poems, letters, and photographs." -- *Booklist* "A bohemian time and place so tantalizingly evoked by the famous snap on the back cover of *Songs From a Room*, and a mythologized affair that received a lasting benediction from the song that provides the book with its title, are explored in greater depth than the standard biographies allow through interviews with both Ihlen and Cohen. As a considerable bonus, there are some hitherto unseen Cohen poems." -- *Montreal Gazette* "So Long, Marianne will appeal primarily to [Cohen's] legion of die-hard fans wanting to fill in biographical gaps and read some of his previously unpublished poems. Yet the book's great delight is Hesthamar's sun-drenched evocation of life in Hydra during the years of its transformation into a Bohemian idyll for poets, painters, and musicians from around the world." -- *Quill Quire* Well Marianne it's come to this time when we are really so old and our bodies are falling apart and I think I will follow you very soon. Know that I am so close behind you that if you stretch out your hand, I think you can reach mine. But now, I just want to wish you a very good journey. Goodbye old friend. Endless love, see you down the road. -- Leonard Cohen, in a letter to Marianne shortly before her death in July 2016 -Richly textured and revealing . . . Readers will be drawn to Ihlen as representative of a young woman's struggles in the changing society and artistic milieu of her time. Her story will provide an additional perspective for those familiar with Cohen's work. Rare letters, poems, and photographs enhance the text. -- *Library Journal* -A vivid glimpse of life on the Greek island of Hydra where artists traveled to live, love, and escape convention in the heady '60s, with excursions to Norway, Montreal, and New York, this thoughtful story of a young woman finding her own way in and out of love is a good read in its own right. The glimpse into Cohen's memories and heart is a particular treat for his fans, and they will be pleased to find several previously unpublished poems. -- *Publishers Weekly* -A quirky and unusual addition to the Cohen files, with previously unpublished poems, letters, and photographs. -- *Booklist* -A bohemian time and place so tantalizingly evoked by the famous snap on the back cover of *Songs From a Room*, and a mythologized affair that received a lasting

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