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When We Argued All Night

By Mattison, Alice.

Harper Perennial. 1 Paperback(s), 2012. soft. Book Condition: New. Two young men are swimming naked in an Adirondack lake when they hear a motor; a car appears and two women get out, one with an orange scarf around her head. It's 1936, in this novel from the author of Nothing Is Quite Forgotten in Brooklyn; New York is suffering through the Great Depression, frightening things are happening in Europe, and Brooklyn boys Artie Saltzman and Harold Abramovitz are unsure about everything, including jobs, lefty politics, and women. After this time in the mountains, nothing will be quite the same. Through World War II and then the McCarthy era, through work, marriages, and life with children, Artie and Harold always turn to each otherfor solace or for another good argument. And when Artie's daughter Brenda comes of age during the 1960s, her struggles with jobs, love, and friendship in yet another period of political turmoil recall Artie and Harold's youth. "[Alice] Mattison always operates in both close-up and wide angle, and here the effect is often dazzling. Her prose is so crisp that along with all the pleasures of fiction she manages to deliver the particular intellectual satisfactions of an essay...

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