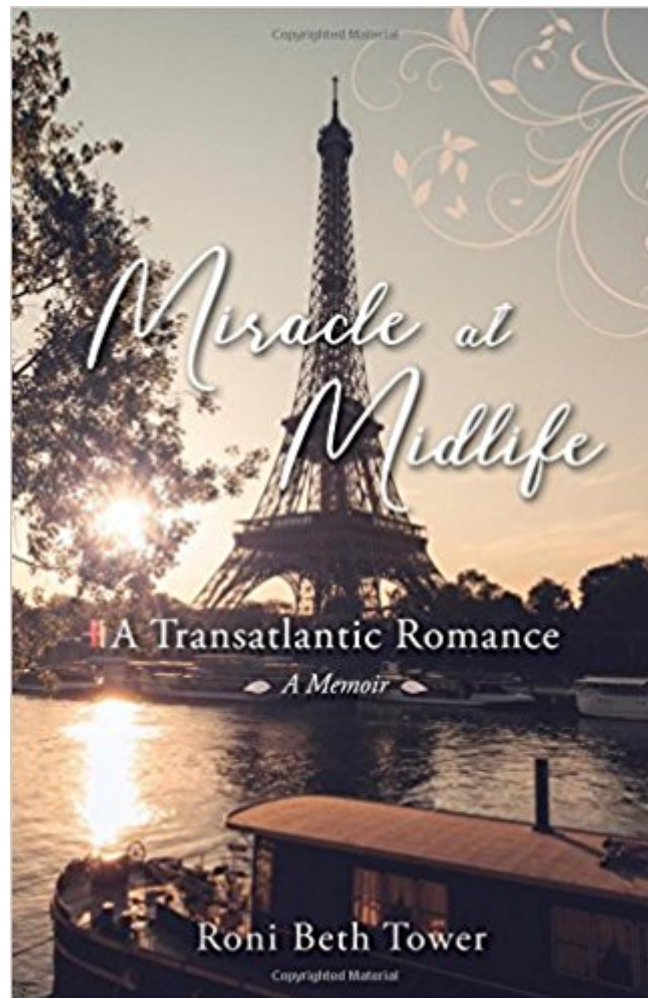




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# Miracle At Midlife: A Transatlantic Romance



## Synopsis

2017 Gold Medal IPPY Award in Autobiography/Memoir They first meet in Paris in the spring of 1996. David is a divorced American attorney living on a converted barge moored on the banks of the Seine; Roni Beth is an empty-nested clinical and research psychologist working from her home in Connecticut. Now in their fifties, both have signed off on loving again—until they meet each other. *Miracle at Midlife* tells the inspiring story of Roni Beth and David's intense and transformative transatlantic courtship. Along the way, David the loner, living amid the beauty, freedom, and pleasures of Paris, brings Roni Beth, a responsible and overextended professional haunted by earlier loss and trauma, back to her core as a woman, while she helps him reclaim connections that tie him to a larger world. They wrestle internal demons (mostly hers) and external threats (friends, family and different perspectives) as they share adventures in their respective worlds. Throughout their journey, stories of courage, joy and integrity bring hope and delight to those who wonder how romantic love appears and evolves; inspiration to people in mid-life who, knowingly or unknowingly, have completed a chapter in their lives and are ready to move on; and comfort to anyone who longs to wrestle and conquer the demons of fear, born of history or of the unknown, and win. Testimony that love is real.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“A wonderful, thoughtful and inspiring story of love and courage—the kind of tale that teaches us to take chances, and that we CAN overcome our own obstacles.” —Betsy Stone, PhD, clinical psychologist and author of *Happily Ever After* —Roni Beth Tower shares

her journey through life with wit, warmth, and insight. *Miracle at Midlife* is written with an eye for detail and for the ability to make the reader feel like a participant in this adventure. Following a romantic meeting in Paris, the author describes events that involve two continents. Subsequently, she was able to overcome many obstacles, and to reinvent herself as someone open to love and affection.

— Dorothy and Jerome L. Singer, Yale University

— “*Miracle at Midlife* is an honest, thoughtful and authentic memoir about a real love affair, in which the intimacies, conflicts, misunderstandings and resolutions of new love are explored. Roni Beth Tower writes with a compelling command of psychological process and insight, while ably injecting humor in the story of her transatlantic romance.

— Jeanne Bodin, author of *We, the American Women and Women Who Work*

— “*Miracle at Midlife* is a captivating memoir of a courageous woman’s physical and emotional journey from Connecticut to Paris, where a sometimes challenging love affair awaits. Roni Beth Tower’s vividly detailed story is candid and insightful about the joys of finding love in middle age, and the resilience required to voyage down new paths to personal fulfillment. Drawing on her experience as a clinical psychologist, she describes the passionate attraction that moves both lovers to modify and unite their lives. Tower’s gifts of lyrical language, emotional resonance, and psychological sensitivity offer a memorable narrative about achieving happiness at any age.”

— Sybil Steinberg, Former Forecasts Editor, Publishers Weekly

— “Conquering the dual challenges of parenting herself as well as her adult children, Roni Beth Tower lives her transatlantic romance with consciousness and insight, as she decides to leave the safe shore of her home in Connecticut to create a new life with a man she meets in Paris when she is in her early 50’s. *Miracle at Midlife* is a classic love story set in modern times that draws on the author’s background as a psychologist as well as her wisdom as a woman. It is also a wonderful and moving story that will inspire everyone who reads it.”

— Shefali Tsabary, PhD, New York Times bestselling author and clinical psychologist

— “Roni Beth Tower’s *Miracle at Midlife* transports the reader across time and the Atlantic to the sights, tastes, and heady romance of Paris. Through a meeting of the minds, and with great passion, Roni rebirths herself and finds her soul mate. Her journey is at once moving, humorous, candid, and a gift.”

— Traci Stein, PhD, MPH, integrative medicine expert and award-winning author of *The Everything Guide to Integrative Pain Management*

— “A wonderful story (that) needed to be told demonstrates triumph for all of us who aspire, regardless of our age or doubts, and is a reminder to take life by the coat tails and fly. *Miracle at Midlife* by Roni Beth Tower, is a testimonial to pursuing a passion, to doing, completing, persevering, and to embracing life.”

— Camille Mancuso, Chatterbox column, Bucks County

Herald

“REMARKABLE! Roni Beth Tower starts with that most romantic ideal – an unexpected romantic encounter in Paris – and completely rediscovers and re-creates her own life as a result. In prose both literary and analytic, she glides us through this whirlwind courtship, which upends not only her own life, but that of many around her. Throughout this remarkable life transformation, Roni Beth remains a clear-eyed observer of this phenomenal occurrence, the chance for not just love, but a bold new chapter in one’s own life story. A thrilling story from beginning to end, one that reads like a beautiful novel.”

• Jack Thomas, Broadway Producer

“Roni Beth Tower shares a remarkable story about the renewal of hope after loss, and the elegance of destiny in love. Beautifully crafted and narrated, her story will captivate the senses and awaken the reader to the power of living with courage, vulnerability and most of all integrity.”

• Jennifer Lee, PhD, Clinical Psychologist & Co-Author of Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy for Anxious Children

“A page-turner from beginning to end, Roni Beth Tower’s remarkable memoir, *Miracle at Midlife: A Transatlantic Romance*, offers the reader a chance to experience both the sexual intensity of the romance novel and a clinician’s clear-eyed insights into the difficulties besetting many a cross-cultural relationship. The author would have it that we do not fall in love; rather we remove the obstacles to being in love. And the obstacles are everywhere! From contradictory styles of interaction to differing styles of parenting adult children and managing complex professional and social lives. This Francophile couldn’t put it down. Highly recommended.”

• Barbara Bracht Donsky, author of *Veronica’s Grave*

“*Miracle at Midlife*, a memoir, tells the inspiring tale of finding love after all hope is lost. Roni Beth and David are far past the point of searching for love, until it finds them. Both struggle with internal demons and threats to their relationship, but their love is a testimony that it is never too late for a second chance at finding true happiness. Romantic and real.”

• Inside Chic

[Tower] writes expansively, honestly, and joyfully [of the] blissful moments as well as the struggles that come with being part of a couple again after loss, divorces, and years of independence. . . . This is a thoughtful chronicle of taking risks and overcoming fears that offers readers hope of experiencing love later in life.”

• Publishers Weekly

“An insightful and introspective account.”

• Akron Beacon Journal

“An honest and inspiring journey. The poignant and memorable journey of their transatlantic romance will have readers of all ages hunting for their passport and planning an adventure to the city of love.”

• Buzzfeed

“She’s haunted by past loss and trauma in her life and she’s an overextended professional. [This is] a story about the renewal of hope after loss.”

• 2014 and Beyond

“Her journey felt like a dance or a song. Her history and

daily life were the background music, the constant throughout the story, while her relationship with David was the back and forth, the push and pull of the music that kept you wanting more."

•Midwest Ladies Who Lit• "Makes you think about how one person that you meet on the street could become your soul mate, it's truly the perfect love story. You could feel the emotions from Roni Beth from the time she meet David to where their future was headed. This book goes to prove that you have to take that leap of faith in order to find true love!"

•Holly Flora, Country Girl Bookaholic• "An inspiring and authentic love story. Through times of joy and hardship, the couple's pure devotion to each other shines through in Tower's effectively emotional writing. This moving memoir will bring hope and comfort to those who wonder how romance appears and evolves as we grow older."

•Westchester Magazine• "Her background as a psychologist makes Dr. Tower uniquely qualified to reflect on internal experience, interpersonal dynamics, and challenging choices. A passionate midlife love story will appeal to educated members of the Silent Generation, Baby Boomers, and Gen X-ers who came of age before rap music became the default for radio stations and MTV changed our experience of music forever. The National Center for Education Statistics counted over 30% of this portion of the US population in 2012 as college graduates – that is, over 94 million Americans."

•24symbols.com• "Fabulous Things: Top 5 Winter Reads: A memoir of raw and real romance, David and Roni, both in their fifties had signed off on love – that is, until they meet each other. A transatlantic tale set in Paris and Connecticut, this memoir is uplifting, inspiring and heart-warming. It tells a relatable story about overcoming personal demons and threats, courage, joy and integrity. A romantic autobiography, you'll love reading this for its emotional honesty."

•blackpepper.com.au

Roni Beth Tower grew up in Akron, Ohio, majored in religion at Barnard College, and earned her doctoral degree in clinical psychology from Yale University. Later in life she taught clinical psychology to graduate students at Teachers College, Columbia University. As a psychologist, she published seventeen articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals, six book chapters, three entries in Blackwell's The Encyclopedic Dictionary of Psychology, work for hire in three books edited by Mark Levine and Stephen Pollan, and one book review; presented her work at national and international professional conferences; was President of American Association for the Study of Mental Imagery and on the boards of Connecticut Psychological Association and Yale Alumni Fund. Miracles at Midlife is her first memoir. She and her husband live in Tarrytown, New York, within easy visiting distance of their six grandchildren. She loves yoga, dance, quilting, and bringing comfort and

joy to people.

You know it's a great book when you reach the end and want to read it again! That was my experience with Roni Beth Tower's *Miracle at Midlife*. I savored every moment reading this book! It brought me into a real, yet magical, world where love triumphs over all the odds stacked against it. Written in simple, elegant prose, this story is told with honesty, insight, sensitivity, and skill. Inner and outer landscapes are closely observed and beautifully described. I found the two main characters, Roni Beth and David, to be smart, compelling, inspiring, and fun. I enjoyed living in the world of their story and am hungry for more. I'm eagerly awaiting a sequel!

Dr. Tower's memoir is a unique gift on so many levels: it gives inspiration to those seeking love, to those struggling with family and friendship challenges, and even those facing major life changes. That's just about everyone!! Her incredibly thoughtful approach to each human interaction she faced, affected the outcome, and with positive results. As an additional bonus, "*Miracle at Midlife*" could be viewed not only as a guidebook to living, but also as a lovely encapsulation of France, particularly Paris. The reader becomes an invited voyeur, accompanying the prospective lovers to the beaches of Maine and Normandy, to intimate French hotels and restaurants, and even into their bedroom. We come away educated, not titillated ~ altogether, a fascinating memoir!!

We all have a story, and depending upon who's telling it and how it's being told, it could be mundane or magic. Roni Beth's story is magic! From the time she plans her re-entry into life through her destined meeting with David, her loves and fears, her triumphs and sorrows, and her steadfast inquiries into what really matters, we somehow find ourselves looking at Roni Beth and David's relationship as a mirror into our own lives. Her true and honest story leaves you hanging on to hope and love and all that life has to offer, even when we think it's too late. Beautifully written....

Dr. Tower has written an engaging and compelling memoir about her romance. Her story details the extraordinary ability she had to manage her career, family, and a Transatlantic romance with fluidity. Moreover, I highly respect and admire her openness and honesty as Roni Beth describes the many challenges they encountered over the course of time. This book immediately captured my interest and leaves me with wanting to know more about this talented person. My husband subsequently read and became quickly absorbed in this book also.

As a friend of Roni Beth and David, I found the book particularly stimulating. *Miracle at Midlife* added many levels to my appreciation of both of them and I was constantly fascinated to read about the challenges that they faced over the years. It is not only a study of a beautiful interaction between two thoughtful and sensitive people but also enables the reader to appreciate the cultural and behavioral differences between the United States and France. Paul Liptz

A charming book about finding love again in mid-life. The Paris setting makes this memoir even more romantic. I highly recommend for a delightful read.

Roni Beth Tower's story gives hope to those who think romance is only for the young. A psychologist's take on the ups and downs of finding love at a certain age. Very honest and inspiring, with a writing style that keeps you riveted. Lots of information on Paris for those unfamiliar, lots of delicious food references, lots of hers and David's personality traits revealed. Loved this book!

David and Roni Beth's story is beautiful to behold and told with elegance and grace. It's their story, but the author draws you in and takes you along on this difficult and tender journey. She explains the complexity, joy and challenges of their adventure without undue drama but with passion, a clear eye and amazing candor.

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