

Vive La France! Fiction with French Settings

Contemporary French Life

Elizabeth Adler. *The Last Time I Saw Paris*. When her husband announces he is leaving her for another woman, Lara Lewis decides to proceed with a planned second honeymoon to France, revisiting all the stops on her first wedding trip – this time with a man she barely knows.

Annie Ernaux. *Simple Passion*. This story of love and longing recounts the affair of a woman with a married, middle-aged businessman transferred to Paris from Eastern Europe.

Frederick Forsyth. *The Day of the Jackal*. In 1963, a right-wing organization, infuriated by Charles de Gaulle's withdrawal from Algeria, hires a professional assassin to eliminate him.

Peter Gadol. *Light at Dusk*. A former U.S. Foreign Service employee is drawn into the search for a young boy kidnapped by a French Nationalist group in Paris in an episode of anti-immigrant hatred.

Joanne Harris. *Chocolat*. A single mother and her daughter turn a provincial French town topsy turvy, when they open a shop specializing in exquisite, voluptuous chocolate.

Blackberry Wine. A writer purchases a farmhouse, sight unseen, in a remote French village and tries to recreate the magic of his childhood summers.

Five Quarters of the Orange. In this novel of reconciling mothers and daughters and the past and the present, a woman returns to the village of her youth on the banks of the Loire.

The Girl With No Shadow. The heroine of *Chocolat* moves her family to a middle class Parisian suburb in a vain attempt to renounce magic and live a more sedate life.

Alexandre Jardin. *Fanfan*. "An enchanting, comic, and tenderly erotic novel from a young and already highly regarded French writer." --*Vogue*

Diane Johnson. *Le Divorce*. A young film-school dropout travels to Paris to aid her stepsister who is in the midst of a divorce.

Le Mariage. American expatriates and members of French high society navigate their interpersonal relationships.

L'Affaire. A young American, searching for cultural self-improvement in the French Alps, gets embroiled in a family inheritance issue. Not her family.

Peter Mayle. *Chasing Cezanne*. A photographer uncovers a plot after he stumbles onto a handyman absconding with a Cezanne painting.

A Dog's Life. A shaggy canine recounts his event-filled life in the French countryside.

Hotel Pastis. An advertising executive buys the local gendarmerie in Luberon, France and turns it into a hotel.

A Good Year. A failed British financier inherits a run down vineyard in Provence.

The Vintage Caper. An insurance company hires a debonair lawyer to investigate the heist of a Hollywood mogul's expensive wine collection.

Jean Rouaud. *Fields of Glory*. Reminiscences about three elderly figures in the lower Loire valley in the 1950s are told from the perspective of their grandchildren.

Jane S. Smith. *Fool's Gold*. A high comedy of would-be artists and trend-setters vacationing in Provence.

Gustaf Sobin. *The Fly-Truffler*. A widower discovers that dining on the Provençal delicacy of truffles causes him to have intense dreams about his dead wife.

Rose Tremain. *The Way I Found Her*. A thirteen year-old boy joins his mother when she goes to Paris for a translating job.

World War I and II Eras

Nina Nilolaevna Berberova. *Cape of Storms*. Three sisters, displaced by the Russian Revolution, try to adapt to a new life in Paris.

Robert Daly. *The Innocents Within*. A pilot is downed over France and falls in love with a Jewish ward who runs an underground resistance network.

Sebastian Faulks. *Charlotte Gray*. A Scottish woman is recruited by G section to bring a set of wireless crystals to the Resistance and becomes entangled with the villagers of Lavaurotti.

The Girl at the Lion d'Or. The haunting story of a young woman seeking a new life, who embarks on a love affair with a married veteran of the Great War.

Ken Follett. *Jackdaws*. On the eve of the Normandy invasion, an all female group of spies infiltrates the German/French telephone system.

Alan Furst. *Kingdom of Shadows*. A Hungarian aristocrat in Paris during the late 1930s tries to take part in missions against Hungarian fascists.

The World at Night. Jean Casson, a French film producer in Nazi-occupied France, tries to find a balance between collaboration and resistance in this first in a series of espionage thrillers.

John Rolfe Gardiner. *Somewhere in France*. A doctor in charge of a base hospital in France during World War I becomes obsessed with a nurse who claims she was an assistant to Louis Pasteur.

Graham Greene. *The Tenth Man*. The Gestapo holds a prosperous French lawyer hostage.

Reginald Hill. *The Collaborators*. Examines the choices made by citizens during the German occupation of France in World War II.

Brian Moore. *The Statement*. A 70 year-old Catholic Frenchman is pursued for his participation in the Vichy affiliated Milici during World War II.

Irene Nemirovsky. *Suite Francaise*. A portrayal of daily life in German-occupied France that reveals how loyalties and grievances that dated before the war led to both collaboration and resistance.

Simone Signoret. *Adieu, Volodya*. The story of two Jewish émigré families living in Paris between the wars.

Historical France

Louis Auchincloss. *The Cat & the King*. Louis de Rouvroy, known as the chronicler of the life of Louis XIV, reveals his own story.

Julian Barnes. *Cross Channel*. These short stories explore the British experience of France over three hundred years.

Alice Borchardt. *Devoted*. An epic tale of love and war, religion and mysticism, set in 10th century France.

Michelle de Kreutser. *The Rose Grower*. In the remote Gascon countryside during the horror of the French Revolution, an American artist is entranced by the three daughters of a local magistrate.

Fanny Deschamps. *The King's Garden*. A historical novel evoking the splendor and pageantry of French life under the flamboyant rule of Louis XV.

Charles Dickens. *A Tale of Two Cities*. The author's classic tale of the French Revolution.

Laura Kalpakian. *Cosette*. This sequel to *Les Miserables* follows Cosette and Marius through the Revolution of 1848 and the Second Empire.

Thomas Keneally. *Blood Red, Sister Rose*. The voices of Joan of Arc both torment and console her while she awaits her destiny.

Karleen Koen. *Through a Glass Darkly*. A multi-layered love story set in England and France during the age of Richelieu.

William Kotzwinkle. *Fata Morgana*. In Paris in 1861, a police detective sets out to investigate a conjurer, whose fortune-telling machine is sweeping the city.

Rosalind Laker. *To Dance with Kings*. The stories of four passionate women are linked to the palace and politics of Versailles.

The Sugar Pavilion. At the height of the French Revolution, two Englishmen vie for the love of a French beauty.

Janice Law. *All the King's Ladies*. By attracting the attentions of Louis XIV, the young and beautiful Marquis Athnas de Montespan tries to find wealth and power at Versailles.

Judith Lennox-Smith. *Glittering Strand*. During the Renaissance a woman tries to reclaim her rightful inheritance to the Guardi silk-trading business in Marseilles.

Hilary Mantel. *A Place of Greater Safety*. Citizens Danton, Desmoulins, and Robespierre evolve from their provincial beginnings to become leaders in the French Revolution.

Marion Meade. *Stealing Heaven*. A novel based on the lives of Heloise and Abelard, the celebrated lovers of twelfth century France.

Sena Jeter Naslund. *Abundance*. A sympathetic, fictional memoir of Marie Antoinette.

Marge Piercy. *City of Darkness, City of Light*. Paris during the French Revolution from the point of view of six historical figures, including Danton and Robespierre.

Jean Plaidy. *The Courts of Love*. The fascinating story of Eleanor of Aquitaine.

Frederic Richaud. *Gardener to the King*. A glimpse into France during the time of Louis XIV through the eyes of the man who tended the gardens at Versailles.

Judith Merkle Riley. *The Oracle Glass*. A glimpse into the corrupt society of the Sun King through the darkly captivating story of a fifteen-year-old girl, a seemingly infallible fortune teller.

Rafael Sabatini. *Scaramouche*. A story of love and adventure woven around the French Revolution.

Delia Sherman. *The Porcelain Dove*. A combination of history, fairy tale, and period literary history set against the backdrop of 18th century France.

Kay Nolte Smith. *A Tale of the Wind*. While a new Romanticism sweeps the Parisian worlds of art in the 19th century, an impoverished young beauty and a actor form a "harmony of opposites."

Sarah Smith. *The Knowledge of Water*. In 1910, a flood sweeps through Paris uncovering secrets about murderers, artists, and lovers in Edwardian France.

Rebecca Stott. *The Coral Thief*. A young anatomy student is drawn into an underground world of Parisian scientists and thieves, advocates of a new 19th century theory "transformism" (the philosophy of evolution.)

Patrick Suskind. *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer*. In 18th century France, a man born without a smell of his own becomes obsessed with finding the perfect scent.

Chantal Thomas. *Farewell My Queen*. The opulence and insularity of Versailles on the eve of the French Revolution as revealed by a courtier for the Queen.

Classic French Authors

Honore de Balzac. *Pere Goriot*. (other titles available)
Albert Camus. *The Plague*. (other titles available)
Colette. *My Mother's House*. (other titles available)
Alexandre Dumas. *The Three Musketeers*.
Gustave Flaubert *Madame Bovary*.
Victor Hugo. *Les Miserables*. (other titles available)
Emmuska Orczy. *The Scarlet Pimpernel*. (other titles available)
Marcel Proust. *In Search of Lost Time*. (multiple volumes)
George Sand. *Horace*. (other titles available)
Jean Paul Sartre. *The Age of Reason*. (other titles available)
Stendhal. *The Red and the Black*. (other titles available)
Emile Zola. *Nana*. (other titles available)

Mysteries Set in France

Cara Black. *Murder in Belleville*. (other titles available in Aimee Leduc series)
Michael Bond. *Monsieur Pamplémousse Investigates*. (other titles available in M. Pamplémousse series)
Dean Fuller. *Death in Paris*. (other titles available in Alex Grismolet series)
Richard Grayson. *The Montmartre Murders*. (other titles available in the Inspector Gautier series)
Mark Hebden. *Death Set to Music*. (other Inspector Pel titles available)
J. Robert Janes. *Mayhem*. (other titles available in Jean-Louis St-Cyr and Herman Kohler series)
George Simenon. *Maigret and the Gangsters*. (other titles available in Maigret series)