



Strangled in Paris: A Victor Legris Mystery

Claude Izner

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The coast of Normandy, France, 1894: A mysterious young woman is rescued by an anonymous man after a deadly shipwreck. Paris, a few months later: The body of a well-dressed woman in a velvet mask is found in the abattoir district of La Villette in Paris. Next to the brutally strangled corpse, the drunk watchman—who witnessed the crime but was too terrified to intervene—finds a pendant featuring a black unicorn. Newly married bookseller Victor Legris is asked by an acquaintance to solve the murder of Louise Fontane, but he is initially baffled by the case. Louise was poor, so where did her finery come from? And what is the significance of the black unicorn? Within days, two more murders startle Paris—both victims were well-respected and seemingly wealthy, both have been killed in a similar fashion, both men's apartments have been defaced and ransacked, and both were members of the Black Unicorn Society, an organization bent on finding the philosopher's stone. Victor and his assistant (and brother-in-law), Jojo, struggle to draw the connections between the murders. And they struggle to keep their sleuthing from their wives, who frown upon their interest in mysteries. As their secret investigation progresses, they discover that in belle époque Paris, young girls with no money or background are as ruthlessly preyed on as ever they were. . . . *Strangled in Paris* is the sixth installment in Claude Izner's mystery series starring Victor Legris.

Strangled in Paris: A Victor Legris Mystery Details

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Alain says

Ce livre est bien meilleur que le premier que j'avais lu du m?me auteur "Myst?re rue des Saints-P?res". L'intrigue est plus int?ressante et plus fournie. La description de la soci?t? parisienne et des conditions de vie ? cette ?poque est fouill?e. En conclusion, un bon moment de lecture pour se divertir.

Marts Mignolo says

È carino ma non è all'altezza dei primi secondo me, i personaggi nominati sono molti e non vengono approfonditi tutti bene, è un po' affrettato. Anche la sottotrama dei protagonisti è poco sviluppata.

Martina Sartor says

La descrizione della Parigi fin de siècle, è il 1894, è impeccabile e fa immergere il lettore perfettamente in un'atmosfera affascinante dove era normale incontrare personaggi come Emile Zola, Claude Débussey, il doganiere Rousseau.

Ormai ai personaggi sono affezionata e mi piace lo spazio sempre maggiore dato a Joseph che è davvero simpatico e 'figlio del suo tempo'. Ora devo andare avanti col seguito e sapere del bambino che deve nascere. Il giallo? Ma questo libro non si legge solo come giallo, altrimenti sarebbe un po' svilirlo.

Cecilia says

A fin de siècle mystery set in Paris. Two Parisian booksellers set about to solve the murder of a young woman. This is the first book I have read in this series which featured Victor Legris as the crime solver. I truly enjoyed the historic scenes of the Normandy coast, the Paris abbatoirs and the poorest Paris neighborhoods. However, I felt I would have connected to the main characters better had I read an early book in the series.

David says

This caught my eye in the library, and when I saw that the author is really two sisters who are secondhand booksellers on the Seine (aka "bouquinistes"), naturally I had to check it out. Then I read that the detectives own a bookshop in Paris, so that really sealed the deal. The best part was when the story moved to Paris and it became clear that much of the action was taking place in the street where my friends live. So I can picture the street, and it probably looks pretty nearly the same as it did when the book is taking place, which is added enjoyment. Throwing in lots of real details from the time period adds to the fun, too.

Having said all that, we're not talking high literary value here, folks: Nice serviceable prose that fits the genre, that's what you get. I don't think it's the translation, either: There's a kind of romance-novel side of the book that is off-putting, at least for me. If you like Paris, and history, you might give it a go.

Erin says

I'm a huge Francophile. I've spent months in Paris, I take French lessons, and have read countless books about and set in France and Paris, fictional and historical, including the previous five or six books in this series. If anyone is supposed to like these books, it's me.

Unfortunately, they just aren't that good. I don't know whether to attribute the poor writing to the translation or the fact that they are written by two sisters or a combination of both, but the stories have gotten progressively worse from book to book. The characters are all exactly the same as they were in book one, without any growth or depth; the dialogue is hokey; every mystery is solved by a character leaving a detailed letter admitting guilt and explaining every detail of the crime, or an overly long monologue of the same nature; everyone feels the need to burst into song at some point, and all the songs are footnoted, so the authors can show off their knowledge of French musical history? Admittedly, they do know a great deal about La Belle Epoque Paris. But the details they choose to include are bizarrely impersonal and don't add a ton to the story other than time-and-date references.

There are always a million spare characters, with first and last names, full back stories, and horribly convoluted attachments to the main plot. There will be a page devoted to the back story of an old maid, who will then walk to the door of her boss's bedroom, who she'll find reading a letter, from someone who died, whose death will then be investigated by the protagonist and series namesake, Victor Legris. It's like, get there faster!

I wish this series was better than it is. It has all the elements to make a great story, but too little actual talent to pull it off. And this is coming from someone who has a lifesize cardboard Parisian street lamp in their office for a touch of whimsy. Quelle dommage.

Toglietemi tutto, ma non i miei libri says

Questa serie mi piace molto per la sua ambientazione molto curata.

Si ha come l'impressione di essere fisicamente a Parigi!

Mi piace anche il fatto che alcune parti siano rimaste in lingua.

Il caso, come sempre, è ingarbugliato e si allaccia al passato.

Altro lato interessante del libro è che le vite dei protagonisti principali trovano largo spazio nella trama.

E Vikander says

Victor Legris, a photographer/bookseller, sleuths around the streets of Paris during the 19th century occult craze in search of the murderer of Lulu Fontane. Unlike most mysteries that have an air of dark weariness, this spritely delight of a novel is a fun read, despite the depressingly dark deeds at the root of this tale. Robust, sybaritic characters burst with life as the mystery unfolds at a brisk pace. Even the insults are

snappy, “either you are a simpleton, or you have a singularly eccentric sense of humor.” All loose ends are neatly tied in the perfect epilogue. What joyful mysteries!

A.N. Mignan says

What a disappointment. The beginning was so great: A storm in Normandy and a boat that sinks on the horizon, a woman found half dead on the beach, saved by an old hermit with a troubled past. The man finds the woman's secret journal. She's back from a long journey in the US. He decides to follow her to Paris after he has saved her life. Then, of course, murders start and the members of the Elzévir library are on it. To add to the mystery, there is the black unicorn and people searching for the philosopher's stone. But by the middle of the book, the story slows down and then we learn that the plot hinges elsewhere and that there is not much, if anything, to the US journey, boat accident and club of the black unicorn. Still a nice read overall, but I hoped for more.

Sara says

My fave so far. Our bookseller-sleuths & their families are changing in interesting ways. There's a mysterious beginning & a satisfying ending. Along the way we learn about the Catch-22s for women in 19th century France - horrific. At risk of a spoiler, I'll say no more.

Alex Reborn says

I tried, but this is just not working for me. The description of the book seemed very interesting, but after reading one third I just gave up. There are sooo many facts regarding the late 19th century just thrown at the reader... Names of people known from history are all put together in different circumstances and this strategy doesn't actually add anything to the story, even if the dates match. It's basically an encyclopedia of the period put together in a fictional story.

Next, there are numerous modern concerns inserted as being present in that time period and I don't really like this approach. For me it's very clear how modernity impregnates the pages, even if it's supposed to be historical fiction. The story covers subjects such as vegetarianism, labor and wage norms, everyday costs, overcrowding in sewing factories -- these are all real and present elements that we still discuss today, but the way we think about them is completely different. One error people commit when dealing with history is judging it by current ways of thinking and modern conceptions. It doesn't work like that and we have to understand history as it was, for the people living then. I think it's simply impractical to compare things in this manner.

Whatever story is told in this book fades because of the other elements that don't have anything to do with it. It feels clustered. So, this book definitely wasn't the right choice for me.

I received a copy of this book from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Sonya says

I really, really wanted to like this book, but in the end, I can't say more than it was just okay. As i was reading, I couldn't escape the feeling that I was late to a party where everyone else already knew each other very well--and I suppose that, given it's part of a series, that ought to be expected, but my fave pulp serial mystery men and women never leave me feeling so much on the outside looking in, so to speak.

As an editor, I felt like cutting at least half a dozen characters and reworking some of the translations. The book was originally written in French, and in parts, the translation was groan-worthy with its excessive "top o' the mornin' guvnah!" anglicizations. The ending was also kind of unsatisfying. Come to think of it, maybe "it was okay" is a bit on the generous side. It was--? I'm not even sure I'd recommend it to my nears and dears...

Emma says

VERDICT: Nice evocation of the setting, but too convoluted and many characters to be fully enjoyable.

my full review is here:

<https://wordsandpeace.com/2017/01/16/...>

RustyShack says

First pages: Man rescues a young woman, nearly drowned, then sexually assaults her while she's unconscious. This is presented as being unproblematic. DNF

Fredrick Danysh says

I'll admit that I found this one difficult to read. After several affluent people in Paris, newlywed Victor Legris takes up the search for the killer. A pendant of a black unicorn plays a role.
