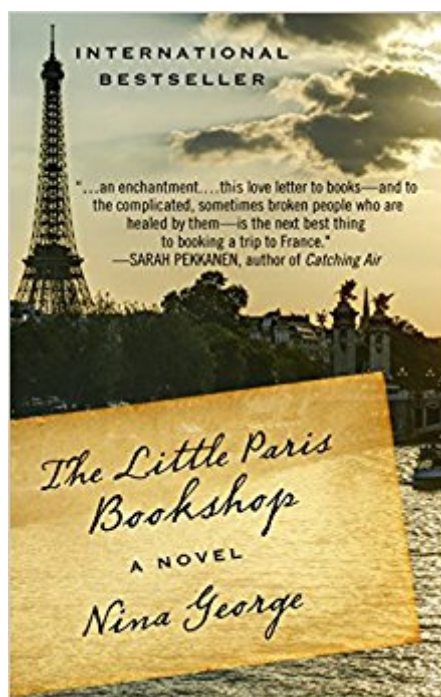


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The Little Paris Bookshop (Wheeler Large Print Book Series)



Synopsis

"There are books that are suitable for a million people, others for only a hundred. There are even remedies--I mean books--that were written for one person only...A book is both medic and medicine at once. It makes a diagnosis as well as offering therapy. Putting the right novels to the appropriate ailments: that's how I sell books." Monsieur Perdu calls himself a literary apothecary. From his floating bookstore in a barge on the Seine, he prescribes novels for the hardships of life. Using his intuitive feel for the exact book a reader needs, Perdu mends broken hearts and souls. The only person he can't seem to heal through literature is himself; he's still haunted by heartbreak after his great love disappeared. She left him with only a letter, which he has never opened. After Perdu is finally tempted to read the letter, he hauls anchor and departs on a mission to the south of France, hoping to make peace with his loss and discover the end of the story. Joined by a bestselling but blocked author and a lovelorn Italian chef, Perdu travels along the country's rivers, dispensing his wisdom and his books, showing that the literary world can take the human soul on a journey to heal itself. Internationally bestselling and filled with warmth and adventure, "The Little Paris Bookshop" is a love letter to books, meant for anyone who believes in the power of stories to shape people's lives.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Just finished "The Little Paris Bookshop..." about an hour ago, and I am still thinking about it. What

reader doesn't love a bookstore? And a book about a bookshop on a converted barge on the Seine in the heart of Paris was too appealing to not give this book a try. And, to make it even more intriguing is the notion of a bookseller who finds books to heal the reader. Monsieur Perdu doesn't push the latest bestseller, but seeks the right title for the right reader, and his uncanny ability to mend broken hearts through books is a lovely device that Nina George applies deftly to the narrative. Poor Perdu is mending every broken heart but his own it seems until the plot thickens and he begins to sort through Perdu's deep sorrow and the harm it has done him. Circumstances and a found letter take Perdu on a quest for lost love, and a trip on the Seine with an unusual cast of characters who seek elusive love, in its myriad guises, throughout the French countryside wherever the river takes them. Along the way, surprising revelations about profound joy and sorrow. It is an amazing journey. There are so many insightful quotes in this book, that it is dogeared already on my shelf and has drawn me into its pages twice. The most insightful is a summary in a sentence of what the online world has become. So perceptive! After the past is sorted out, will Perdu move into the future with grace and hope? Read the book, sail away, and perhaps discover a bit about yourself along the way. I certainly did.

This is a beautifully written book, as one critic said a love letter to books. The thoughtful reader well versed in literature will love it. There are great references to many books, some well known and some not (along with a very few fictional titles). The main character, Monsieur Perdu, acts as a therapist prescribing certain books for different patrons. A letter from a lost love which he has deliberately not opened for twenty years sends him on an odyssey accompanied by Max, a current writer. The book is rich in literary allusions and in probing of human emotions. It's not fast reading, but indeed it is captivating for knowledgeable readers who know books. After a quite satisfying read, you'll find a few French recipes and then a list of books which the fictional main character considers especially therapeutic. (My main disappointment in that list is that nothing by Ray Bradbury is included) If you're a book lover, you'll certainly love this one.

The little Paris Bookshop is a remarkably profound read for as light as it is. The bare skeleton of this book might be Monsieur Perdu's bookshop and his finally coming to terms with his own past, but there is a remarkable amount of psychology packed in every other page. As a reader it is always more enjoyable to read an author who loves books and is well read themselves. Nina George does not disappoint on this account, in fact as I read the book - and having worked in book stores and libraries myself, a novel about the healing and reconciling properties of books is in my opinion, a

true romance. We all know how satisfying it is to find a book that will suspend our griefs, realities, change our perceptions, lives or simply entertain us on a level we were until that moment unaware even existed. The little Paris Bookshop is an ode to those books and those moments and really overshadows a bit, Monsieur Perdu's own predicament. It is easier to have insight into the lives of others than it is to realize our own. My own father told me when I was young that a person can learn more about another in 5 minutes of conversation and Ms. George echoes that theory with Perdu's inherent intuition on what would be a good read that would help others. Of course the same man sealed away an entire room in his house for 20 years just to avoid reading a letter and the reader will pick up immediately on his own acute resistance to self-diagnosis. Naturally he will be propelled forward when his philanthropy to a neighbor creates an accidental intervention of sorts that forces him to address his past disappointments and heartbreaks to heal himself. That is the natural and perhaps not so innovative storyline, but really it is the books and the love of books and the life-altering consequences of books that make this story an enjoyable read and a soothing balm unto itself. And I loved her seemingly random yet deeply passionate reading list. This novel reminded me of so many moments and books in my past that were amazing moments all unto themselves.

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