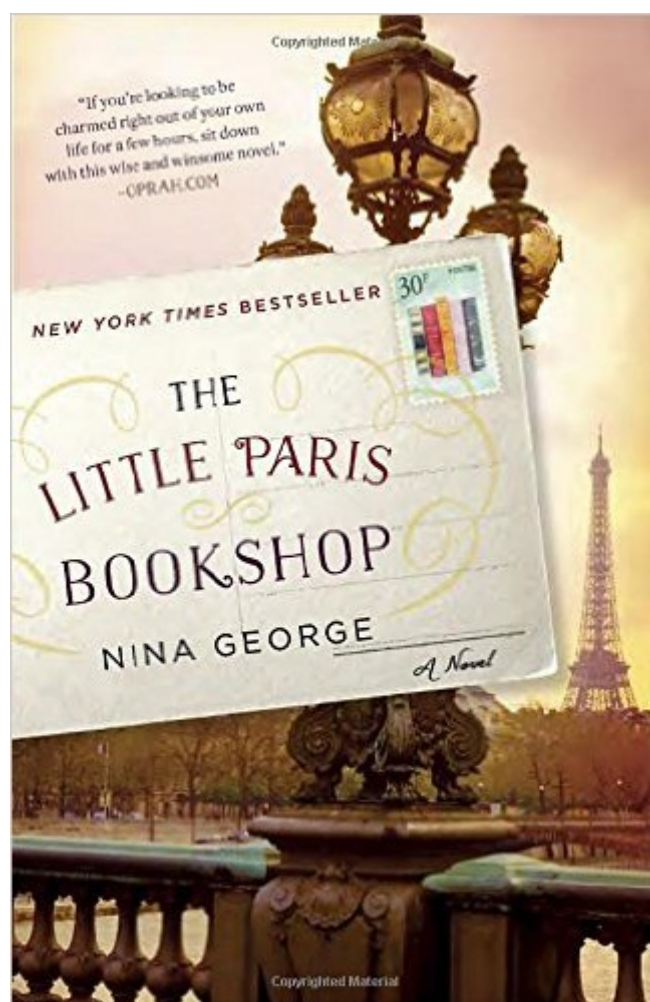


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The Little Paris Bookshop: A Novel



Synopsis

Monsieur Perdu can prescribe the perfect book for a broken heart. But can he fix his own? *À 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. From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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.

• The Little Paris Bookshop • by Nina George is a novel about deeply damaged characters and wisdom plus redemption. The main character is Monsieur Perdu (Jean) who bears the burden of lost love on his back for more than 20-years. His love, Manon, so he recollects, deserted him after a five-year long romance. At the time of their sporadic love affair, she was engaged to a farmer, Luc, whom she married while carrying on her relationship with Perdu. Perdu is so stricken that he closes off a room in his apartment, barely eats and spend his time on a 80'x15' barge he converted into a floating bookstore. His only companions are two cats and the customers who come to buy books and chat with him. He skillfully directs his customers to books that will address their troubles and concerns, yet is unable to heal himself. A new tenant moves into his building and the concierge (a very important figure in Paris apartment life) suggests that he donate a table to Catherine, the neighbor-to-be. Catherine discovers a sealed and unread letter addressed to Perdu and intimately coerces him into reading it. She is also the first woman in 20-years with whom Perdu has any physical contact (hugging, touching, but no sex). The contents of the letter prompt Perdu to set sail on his barge and as he leaves his mooring, Max, a brilliant young writer who has written one best-seller and befriended Perdu, mysteriously appears and jumps aboard the barge dropping all his possessions in the Seine. Max, we are told, wears earmuffs to block out city noises or perhaps other voices in his head. Other quirky characters join the barge along the waterways as they anchor in different towns on various tributaries: An Italian chief, another author, and a flamboyant singer.

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