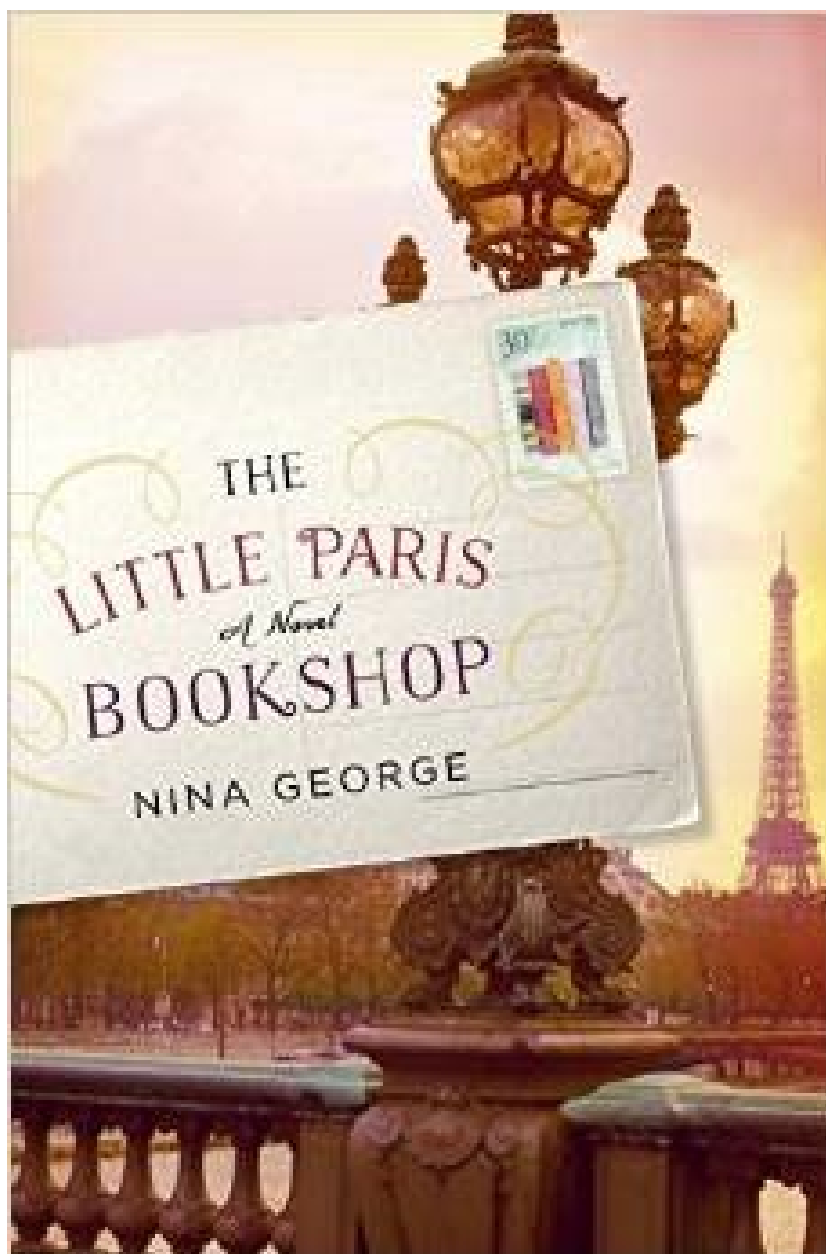


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**By:
Nina George**

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What people Say:

Jeffrey Keeten

People read for lots of different reasons. They want to be entertained. They want a book to explain what is wrong with them or a confirmation of what they think is wrong with their spouse. They read for information. They read for an experience outside themselves. They read to escape the drudgery of their lives.

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Sometimes I don't understand why people read at all because they don't seem to like much of what they read.

Are they reading the wrong things? Are they judgemental, narrow focused individuals? Are they frustrated writers? Maybe they can only like their perception of perfection, and any deviation from that by the author must be punished? Maybe they haven't read broadly enough? Maybe they miss the road maps that connect one book to many other books?

Maybe they need some time on the Literary Apothecary, and just maybe Jean Perdu can help them, but...then... maybe not.

I do know, and Jean Perdu would be very disappointed to discover this, that negative reviews get more likes and comments on Goodreads than positive reviews. People flock to these reviews and laud the reviewer for being so "honest." You would think that only negative reviews are honest reviews. There are reviewers on GR who love ripping classics apart, gleefully throwing the entrails of the book over their shoulders while they take bites out of the pulsing heart to the hearty applause of those who, for whatever reason, did not like the book. Maybe they didn't like the book because a teacher asked them to read it, or maybe the language is too archaic, or they perceive that the ideas expressed are too cliché (now, but not when the book was first printed). Whatever the reason, the expressions of hatred and dislike are...well...unbecoming of whom I perceive readers should be.

For the record, every review I write is "honest." I don't shill for anyone, but I am a great lover of books, and maybe what I'm guilty of is enjoying what there is to savor in any book over what are perceived weaknesses.

Balzac had a character in

who wrote positive and negative reviews of the same book for different publications. It is easy to write a negative review he explains: simply take the strengths of any book and present them as weaknesses.

Diane

I think this is one of those books that is going to bring angry comments from readers who liked it a lot more than I did.

This novel just did not work for me. I thought it was disgustingly sweet, poorly plotted, filled with cliches and bad dialogue, and I could not finish it fast enough.

The sad thing is that I thought I was going to love this book. I had even saved it to read on my vacation – that's how special I thought it would be. I mean, the title has the words Paris and Bookshop in

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The sad thing is that I thought I was going to love this book. I had even saved it to read on my vacation – that's how special I thought it would be. I mean, the title has the words Paris and Bookshop in it. Come on! This was supposed to be my favorite novel of the summer!

The story is that Monsieur Perdu owns a floating bookshop on the Seine; he calls it the

because he can diagnose what is wrong with someone and prescribe the right book for them to read.

(Bonus points if you suspect that there is one such medicine, er book, for Perdu himself.)

Poor, sweet Monsieur Perdu has been heartbroken for the past 20 years, ever since the love of his life, Manon, suddenly left him, leaving only a letter. Did Perdu ever read the letter? OF COURSE NOT, YOU SILLY GOOSE. Otherwise there wouldn't be a novel!

Elyse

"There are books that are suitable for a million people, others for only hundred.

There even remedies --I mean books --that were written for only one person...A book is both medic and medicine at once. It makes a diagnosis as well as offering therapy".

Nina George's lyrical tribute to love, literature, people, living, dying, and all things French... was a privilege to read.

I hope I'm not the the only 1 person this book was written for -- but just in case:

"THANK YOU, *Nina George*.

My first memo

"There are books that are suitable for a million people, others for only hundred.

There even remedies --I mean books --that were written for only one person...A book

Rebecca

Sadly I didn't love this one like I was expecting. I loved the bookishness - from the Literary Apothecary to Perdu's ability - and the setting, plus there were some great quotes. However I struggled with the story and I lacked a connection to the characters. In theory, this book is perfect for me but I just feel like it was missing something - maybe just for me personally.

Megan

Absolutely perfect premise and storyline - I was hooked by that blurb. Unfortunately this book was not at all what I was expecting. I was hoping for a Parisian

but with a twist - an eccentric old gentleman selling books as medicine to those who are missing a certain something in their lives. As someone who's found solace and company in books ever since I was an awkward little girl, this appealed to me. Unfortunately, that's not what I got, and that book blurb ab

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but with a twist - an eccentric old gentleman selling books as medicine to those who are missing a certain something in their lives. As someone who's found solace and company in books ever since I was an awkward little girl, this appealed to me. Unfortunately, that's not what I got, and that book blurb about a literary apothecary only covers maybe 15% of the content of this book. The majority of this book is a sappy romance (if you can even call this a romance). It's more a glorification of infidelity and one man's inability to get over a tryst with a married woman that happened 20 years ago. It's chapter upon chapter of him moaning and groaning about how amazing this Manon woman was, without ever actually showing the reader even a shred of decency or charisma in her entire character.

I wrote so many little angry notes as I read (and then increasingly skimmed) this book. All of the high reviews absolutely boggle my mind because all I can feel is hoodwinked. There was some beautiful descriptive language, especially in reference to the Parisian landscapes and environment, but something was lost in translation. Halting dialogue and awkward phrasing made an already uncomfortable read even worse. Occasionally the author would just throw in the word "cock" abruptly and awkwardly, I suppose to convey a sense of romance and erotica to particular situations. Instead, this only caused reading to become suddenly jilted and tainted with a bunch of "cock"s in a spectacularly worded description of Paris. It's like the equivalent of a panoramic view of a gorgeous Paris landscape with an old man in a trench coat suddenly jumping out and flashing his junk at you, hollering "hoogalie boogalie!" It's quite the opposite of romance.

The only good that came out of me reading this drivel is that I inadvertently learned about book villages throughout Europe and the world (they cruise the book barge through one in Cuisery, France). So now I want to go visit some European book villages.

Other authors, a call to arms (or pens)! Please write the book I was expecting to read from this deceptive blurb: a novel about a mysterious dude who travels around on a boat filled with books he uses to treat and heal patients, a literary apothecary of sorts. Except, you know, make it about the

and their readers and not about some flighty, selfish chick the apothecary banged twenty years ago.