



We'll Always Have Paris: Sex & Love in the City of Light

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For more than a century, pilgrims from all over the world seeking romance and passion have made their way to the City of Light. The seductive lure of Paris has long been irresistible to lovers, artists, epicureans, and connoisseurs of the good life. Globe-trotting film critic and writer John Baxter heard her siren song and was bewitched. Now he offers readers a witty, audacious, scandalous behind-the-scenes excursion into the colorful all-night show that is Paris -- interweaving his own experience of falling in love, with a delightfully salacious tour of the sultry Parisian corners most guidebooks ignore: from the literary cafés of Hemingway, Fitzgerald, and de Beauvoir to the brothels where Dietrich and Duke Ellington held court, where Salvador Dali sated his fantasies, and Edward VII kept a sumptuous champagne bath for his favorite girls.

We'll Always Have Paris: Sex & Love in the City of Light Details

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From Reader Review We'll Always Have Paris: Sex & Love in the City of Light for online ebook

Dan Adams says

Interesting read on life living abroad in France, by John Baxter, a native-Australian who has moved to Paris and made France his new home, after falling in love with a fellow writer, a French national, with whom Mr. Baxter fathers a child and then, eventually marries. This book is chock-full of witticisms, literary and obtuse film references that will make you remember and smile; and somehow, strangely but oh-so enjoyably, the author's travelogue of sorts manages to keep coming round and round again to its central-theme: the long and storied history of "sex and love in the City of Light."

Carolyn says

I enjoyed reading this book because I love everything about Paris, however, it was a bit long-winded at times. It made a lot of references to fairly obscure authors, books, musicians, etc, many of which I had never heard of, and therefore, the references were lost on me. The storyline got lost among all the references and so the book felt choppy and I was getting tired of it by the end. Overall, I would still recommend this book to anyone that has an interest in Paris, although it wouldn't be my first pick.

Hester says

Memories of Paris by John Baxter, an Australian writer. As an Aussie, he brings a different spin to the essays-about-Paris-genre. I like his emphasis on Paris' naughty and erotic past, but it was not as interesting as I was hoping for. One of the most interesting passages was about a Catholic restaurant in Pigalle catering to the area's prostitutes that had shut down. This book, like "Paris to the Moon" involves the impending birth of a child and how different that is in Paris, but it does not have the same emphasis on family life in the city of lights. It does, however, show what Parisian intellectuals think an elegant dinner party should be in a chapter that had me giggling.

Kerry says

It's always disappointing when a book takes on topics that seem to be impossible to make boring and does so. Sex? Paris? What is going on? There is no excuse to write a book so bland!

Disorganized and uninteresting, it does not know if it wants to be a history of cinema and literature, a book about sex in Paris, or a memoir. It also cannot decide if it wants to be shockingly graphic or simply suggestive and chooses a lurid in-between area where no writing about sex should land.

The anecdotes about artists and writers lack vividness and plod along. The first-person stories are either too self-absorbed or without the warmth that should accompany a personal narrative. The writer's partner seems like a prop, even when pregnant with their child, rather than a real person. And though it should be

impossible to make Paris sound rather dull, this book manages to do so.

Karlito says

A lovely look at Paris from an outside who made it into a home. Fabulous verbiage and eloquence, while still remaining simple and witty. Showing Paris' two faces. The demure propriety, and the ecstatic reveller.

Kathleen says

I read this book before my trip to Paris, as I thought it would provide a little insight into daily life as a Parisian amidst the sexual history of Paris. The author did just that and it made my trip just a little more meaningful.

zespri says

The author of this book is apparently an acclaimed film critic and biographer. His extensive knowledge of film, the visual arts and books made this a very different and interesting view of Paris.

Interwoven with this cultural tour of Paris is the author's own journey of meeting his french partner and his moving to Paris from Australia. Quite a cultural jump, and one which he obviously does very successfully.

The book is full of literary quotes and behind the scenes anecdotes, though I guess that's pretty obvious from the book's title!

Michelle says

This was by no means a bad book, I just did not enjoy it nearly as much as I had hoped to, or as much as I have enjoyed other memoirs. I guess part of the problem is that it wasn't entirely a memoir. Instead, it focuses a lot on Paris history. And not just any history, but the raunchy history. And that topic doesn't offend me, but that is not what I picked up the bok for. So I have to be honest, I was disappointed. I was also annoyed with the name-dropping. So you are an Australian who knows lts of important people in Paris, congrats.

This was an ok read; not one I plan on reading again, but not one that makes me feel like I wasted my time either. End of story.

Chris says

Another great book about Paris, especially about the Paris of the Lost Generation (1920s and 1930s). Though it's written from a modern era, by someone who loves Paris, especially the more risqué side of the city, and delights in exploring it's tawdry history. John Baxter also follows every romantic Paris-lovers dream ...

though a successful journalist and writer in LA, he chucks it all to marry a Parisian woman he dated long ago and reconnected with, and moves to Paris with her, living in a palatial apartment overlooking Notre Dame, and spending his days exploring Paris's very colorful streets, finding out where legendary whorehouses like Le Sphinx and the Chabonais were, or arranging to meet a former model of Man Ray's, or seeing the coffeeshops and neighborhoods where Hemingway roamed. Definitely a fun and quick read, almost like beach literature (even since it's a bit naughty), only it's non-fiction!

Alexa Rose says

Wow. Just wow. I didn't just read this book, I LIVED it. This book got me checking flight prices to Paris within the first few pages. I loved every second of this book. The quotations, the films and books mentioned, the Parisian lifestyle tips, everything EVERYTHING about this book was wonderful and I'd read it again in a heartbeat.

Jennell McHugh says

Great one-liners, anecdotes, insights! Do not be fooled by the title-- I've determined it more of a quip to what keeps the "City of Light" lit. Despite his career of critique, Baxter is extremely jolly and offers himself up to his readers. I spent the month of August dedicated to France and the enigmatic, expatriates and later-claimed luminaries evolving/deeeevolving there and this was a great almost travelogue-ish reflection.

Raquel says

I purchased this book as entertainment for my 9 hour flight to Paris, unfortunately, in my haste to the airport I forgot the book on my entry table. While meeting with a business contact at a cafe in the left bank, he introduces me to a gentleman who walks in. He's introduced to me as an Australian author who now resides in Paris with his French wife and daughter. This pleasant man joins us and remains chatting with me long after my business contact had departed. We had a wonderful conversation about Paris, literature, history and many more wonderful topics. He was a true pleasure!!! We exchanged business cards, promised to stay in contact and went on our merry ways. Upon my return home I find the book exactly where I left it. What a surprise when I examined the back of the book. I see the photo of John Baxter... the pleasant man I met in Paris via my business contact. It was pure Kismet!!!

John's love for the written word is palpable in everything he writes. We'll always have Paris is delightful, entertaining and packed with Paris history and interesting anecdotes from the people who lived there. I'd recommend this book to anyone and everyone, especially those who love Paris!

Molly Jean says

This book, the author's first book about Paris, is OK but not as good as his second book about Paris, "The Most Beautiful Walk in the World" (which I read first). He covered a lot of the same ground in the second book so this book quite often seemed like a rehash of old news. Sometimes he went on way too long,

specifically the Surrealists and Man Ray. And there were errors...even I know that the napkin over the head bit is done when one eats a roasted ortolan not when one sits down to a dinner of lampreys stewed in red wine. Still, the book has some very funny moments and the author's love of Paris comes shining through it all. Rehashed Paris is better than no Paris at all. I enjoyed the book enough to want to move on to his third book about the city which is called "Immoveable Feast: A Christmas in Paris".

Deb (Readerbuzz) Nance says

Baxter interweaves the tale of his love story with Marie-Do, his love story with Paris, and the story of love and sex in Paris in this book, *We'll Always Have Paris*.

In the end, I had mixed feelings about the book. The stories of Baxter's meetings with the famous and the infamous in Paris had a sense of boasting that I didn't like. The stories of love and sex in Paris' past felt raunchy, more than I wanted to know, at times. I liked it best when Baxter told the story of his love affair with Marie-Do, who later became his wife, and the day-to-day events in his life with Marie-Do and their daughter, Louise.

William says

Is it a book on the author's charming experiences with his own French love or is it an interesting excursion into the sex and love (mainly sex) trivia of Paris? Well, it's both, but it should be one or another. Either theme can make its own book; no need to intertwine. Baxter writes well, at least, and anyone interested in Paris may eventually want to try this quick read.
