



In the Café of Lost Youth (New York Review Books Classics)

By Patrick Modiano

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In the Café of Lost Youth (New York Review Books Classics) By Patrick Modiano

NYRB Classics Original
Winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature

In the Café of Lost Youth is vintage Patrick Modiano, an absorbing evocation of a particular Paris of the 1950s, shadowy and shady, a secret world of writers, criminals, drinkers, and drifters. The novel, inspired in part by the circle (depicted in the photographs of Ed van der Elsken) of the notorious and charismatic Guy Debord, centers on the enigmatic, waiflike figure of Louki, who catches everyone's attention even as she eludes possession or comprehension. Through the eyes of four very different narrators, including Louki herself, we contemplate her character and her fate, while Modiano explores the themes of identity, memory, time, and forgetting that are at the heart of his spellbinding and deeply moving art.

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Editorial Review

Review

“[M]odiano at his height. In 1950s Paris, a young woman nicknamed Louki haunts a café called the Condé, casting a decided allure yet remaining mysterious and unknowable. A young hanger-on, the husband she abandoned, the detective searching for her—all try to grasp her and fail. Not unexpectedly, Modiano withholds her secret life to the end.” —*Library Journal*, starred review

“*In the Café of Lost Youth* is a kind of suspense story. It is a story about the many facets of a single woman but also, unquestionably, a story about the multiple worlds within Paris, a city that, as much as any individual human being, remains essentially unknowable. It casts a near hypnotic spell.” —Douglas Kennedy, *L'Express*

“Every area described is also imbued with layers of emotion. . . . Readers are left haunted by the cityscape Modiano paints.” —Henri Astier, *The Times Literary Supplement*

“Modiano’s books develop a different tone, one more mellow and melancholic, somewhere between sepia and film noir, more akin to the photographs of Henri Cartier-Bresson than to the work of other writers.” —Rachel Donadio, *The New York Times*

“[An] edge of mystery, of indirection, motivates [Modiano’s work] like an animating force...a vivid air of the conditional, which is, of course, the whole idea. For Modiano, memory, experience are fluid, fleeting, and even the stories we tell ourselves are subject to change. Our lives flicker past us like the afterimage of a photo; eventually, our attempts at constancy must fall away.” —David Ulin, *Los Angeles Times*

“Modiano is a pure original. He has transformed the novel into a laboratory for producing atmospheres, not situations—where everything must be inferred and nothing can be proved.” —Adam Thirwell, *The Guardian*

“Like W.G. Sebald, another European writer haunted by memory and by the history that took place just before he was born, Modiano combines a detective’s curiosity with an elegist’s melancholy.” —Adam Kirsch, *The New Republic*

“The genius of Modiano’s work lies in how it straddles the very real moral chaos of post-Vichy France and his creation of an idiosyncratic milieu. Patrick Modiano goes beyond the checklist accuracies of historical fiction, fashioning a lush fever dream filled with glamor, mystery, and despair.” —Karl Wolff, *New York Journal of Books*

“[C]arefully, artfully constructed...[an] impressive, accomplished work.” —M.A. Orthofer, *Complete Review*

About the Author

Patrick Modiano was born in the Boulogne-Billancourt suburb of Paris near the end of the Nazi occupation of France. He studied at the Lycée Henri-IV and the Sorbonne. As a teenager he took geometry lessons with the writer Raymond Queneau, who would play a key role in his development. He has written more than thirty works of fiction, including novels, children’s books, and the screenplay for Louis Malle’s film *Lacombe, Lucien*. In 2014, Modiano won the Nobel Prize in Literature.

Chris Clarke was born and raised in British Columbia, Canada, and lives and works in and around New York City. His published translations include work by Oulipo members Raymond Queneau and Olivier Salon. He currently teaches French and is translating a novel by Pierre Mac Orlan, which will be published in 2016.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kristi Jones:

Now a day folks who Living in the era just where everything reachable by talk with the internet and the resources included can be true or not call for people to be aware of each information they get. How many people to be smart in having any information nowadays? Of course the correct answer is reading a book. Looking at a book can help persons out of this uncertainty Information especially this In the Café of Lost Youth (New York Review Books Classics) book as this book offers you rich info and knowledge. Of course the info in this book hundred per-cent guarantees there is no doubt in it you know.

Kevin Blais:

Exactly why? Because this In the Café of Lost Youth (New York Review Books Classics) is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap it but latter it will jolt you with the secret the idea inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who all write the book in such wonderful way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning totally. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book have got such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking technique. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I have been you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

Eulalia Perry:

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