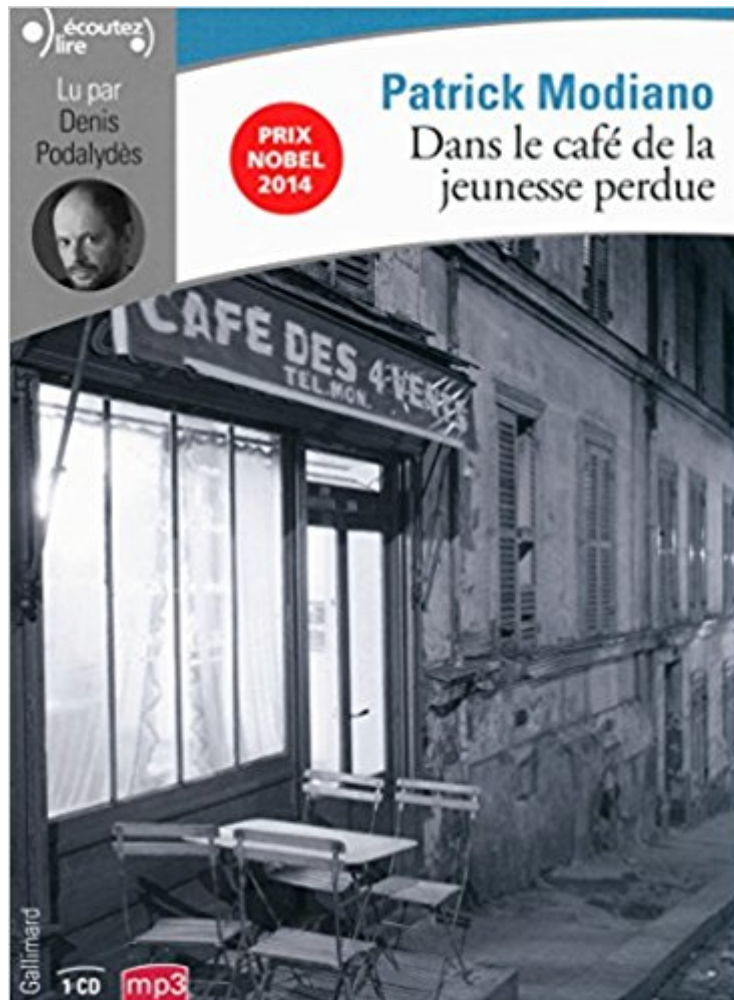




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Dans Le Café De La Jeunesse Perdue. MP3-CD (French Edition)



Synopsis

Patrick Modiano, né en 1945, est l'un des plus talentueux écrivains de sa génération. Explorateur du passé, il sait ressusciter avec une précision extrême l'atmosphère et les détails de lieux et d'époques révolues, comme le Paris de l'occupation, dans son premier roman, «La Place de l'Étoile», paru en 1968. Avec «Catherine Certitude», il nous fait pénétrer dans l'univers tendre d'une petite fille au nom étrange, dont l'enfance se déroule dans le quartier de la gare du Nord, à Paris, au cours des années 1960. Il est le quinzième écrivain français à recevoir la prestigieuse récompense, le Prix Nobel de littérature, le 9 octobre 2014. Grand prix de la Fondation Prince Pierre de Monaco (1984) Grand prix de Littérature Paul-Morand de l'Académie française (2000) Prix mondial de la Fondation Simone et Cino del Duca (2010) Prix Nobel de littérature (2014)

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Customer Reviews

Patrick Modiano's novel of 2007 has many of the fingerprints of his earlier work: an investigation into a past life, conducted at least in part by a private detective; an extraordinary feel for the dark corners and quarters of Paris; and, despite its precision of place, a pervasive sense of dislocation. But this time, the past does not seem to reach back as far as the German Occupation -- though it is hard to be sure, since the time period is nowhere mentioned and it is more than possible that what we are seeing is the legacy of that generation. "In the Café of Lost Youth" -- how evocative are Modiano's titles! And how well Gallimard/Folio backs them up with their cover photographs! In this case, the title is a kind of pun: a café to which one goes to lament one's lost youth, or one

frequented by youths who have lost their way. In this case, both. The Condé is a small place not far from the university schools on the Rive Gauche, where the same clientele comes every day, and refer to one another by habitual nicknames. Most of them, like the first narrator, are of student age more or less, but there are some older men with them too, among them an author writing under the pen-name of Maurice Raphaëlle.^{*} There is one girl who always comes in by the small door in the shadows and sits on her own reading a book. Before long, the other regulars are asking her to join them; they give her a nickname: Louki. Our narrator watches her, but can learn very little about her. Suddenly, the narrator changes to a private detective, Pierre Caisley. He has been hired to find the young wife of a somewhat older man living in the suburb of Neuilly, whose maiden name was Jacqueline Delanque. As he learns more about her, it soon becomes apparent that she and Louki are one and the same. Caisley learns her address, but decides to leave her in peace. Now the narration switches to Jacqueline herself, dealing mostly with her adolescence, when she used to slip out of the apartment at night while her mother worked as an usher at the Moulin Rouge, haunting various cafés and all-night shops around Montmartre. The narrator of the last two parts is a young man called Roland, who becomes her lover. He occupies himself by writing a gazetteer of those areas of Paris belonging neither to one quarter nor another, what he calls "les zones neutres" or no-man's-lands. Indeed, the whole novel seems to occupy a no man's land. The feeling at the start seems that of the early sixties, but nowhere is this specified. Nothing is told in sequence, or even in the here and now, but slips freely back and forth over about a decade, seen in retrospect from many years later. Although the areas of Montmartre, Saint-Germain, and Neuilly are precisely described, the story seems to sprawl all over Paris, linked by lonely journeys in the last metro or midnight walks along deserted boulevards. In the background to what we know, there are always things that we do not, such as the background of characters like Maurice Raphaëlle, the mystery of Jacqueline's father, or what some of her older acquaintances do when not playing cards in a back room of the café. There is also the ghostly presence of the author: certainly in the young narrator who dropped out of school, probably in the young writer Roland and the private detective Caisley, and perhaps even in the disturbed character of Louki herself. And the biggest mystery of all: what happens to a youth and spirit once so full of promise that ends up just... lost.^{*} Knowing a little of Modiano's technique by now, I looked Maurice Raphaëlle up. He is indeed a real figure, Victor Le Page, rumored to have been a Gestapo collaborator and even torturer in the war. So there is one Occupation connection right there after all.

Du pur Modiano, quel plaisir de le suivre une fois encore j'adore cet auteur, a lire absolument!

Just as promised, the service is fast and the book is new.

Patrick Modiano is one of my favorite writers, and this is the book that started it for me. This is a novel with effortless shifts among the points of view of different characters, points in time, and locales. Each setting and portrait is engrossing enough to be the basis of its own novel. Modiano's obsession with Paris also comes through in this book - not the iconic Paris we see in travel books, but the streets and corners of a city where lonely characters struggle to create or escape their lives. Paris here has as much a role as any of the characters. His writing is also beautiful, with an easy, original way of conveying some delicate situations.

Beautifully told, sad story of a lost child of Paris in the 1980s, whose brief passage through their lives has left an indelible and unresolved impression on at least four men who knew her. Daughter of an unwed mother with a night job in Le Moulin Rouge, disappointed and ashamed because of her rejection of admission by the Lycée Jules-Ferry (her one attempt to escape her poor routine), Jacqueline Delanque drifts into a cocaine habit with a new, more sophisticated girlfriend, then drifts into the Café Condorcet where the habitual idlers baptize her "Louki"; she also allows herself to be pulled into an insipid marriage with the much older director of a real estate agency where she finds work as a temp, but finding no satisfaction in his house or his circle of friends, simply decides not to return there one night but to stay with a boyfriend almost as aimless as she. She is remembered years later by a former student in l'École de Mines, by the private investigator hired by her husband to find her, and by the boyfriend who perhaps, in his immature manner, also drifting, perhaps loved her. Besides all these people, the quartiers of Paris, each with its social class connotations, and their changing character since those days when "Louki" frequented the Café Condorcet, are characters in the novel.

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