



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:

Mary Case:

People live in this new time of lifestyle always try and and must have the free time or they will get lot of stress from both daily life and work. So , once we ask do people have time, we will say absolutely indeed. People is human not really a huge robot. Then we request again, what kind of activity have you got when the spare time coming to you of course your answer will certainly unlimited right. Then ever try this one, reading guides. It can be your alternative within spending your spare time, the book you have read is actually In the Café of Lost Youth (New York Review Books Classics).

Kim McLoughlin:

In the Café of Lost Youth (New York Review Books Classics) can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nevertheless delivering the information. The copy writer giving his/her effort to set every word into delight arrangement in writing In the Café of Lost Youth (New York Review Books Classics) nevertheless doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource info that maybe you can be among it. This great information can easily drawn you into completely new stage of crucial thinking.

Matthew Gregg:

The book untitled In the Café of Lost Youth (New York Review Books Classics) contain a lot of information on it. The writer explains her idea with easy method. The language is very clear and understandable all the people, so do definitely not worry, you can easy to read this. The book was authored by famous author. The author brings you in the new period of time of literary works. You can easily read this book because you can keep reading your smart phone, or gadget, so you can read the book with anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can start their official web-site in addition to order it. Have a nice go through.

Thomas Busch:

Is it you actually who having spare time after that spend it whole day through watching television programs or just lying down on the bed? Do you need something new? This In the Café of Lost Youth (New York Review Books Classics) can be the answer, oh how comes? A fresh book you know. You are therefore out of date, spending your free time by reading in this brand-new era is common not a geek activity. So what these publications have than the others?

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