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A coming-of-age story about losing your dreams—and finding new ones in Paris

A summer in Paris as a nanny should be a dream job for 18-year-old Julie, but it feels more like a consolation prize after not getting into the Art Institute of Chicago, her dream school. Her mom wants her to come back to Texas and attend a state college in the fall, but Julie isn't sure what she wants anymore. Being a nanny to lively, fashion-minded Genevieve turns out to be fun and good for meeting a trio of intriguing guys. Also, Genevieve's mother Claire manages an art gallery and Julie gets drawn into the Paris art scene. The situation heats up when a new, previously unknown work by Modigliani, one of Julie's favorite artists, is discovered and acquired by the gallery. Julie's affections are pulled in different directions while she tries to discover if the new Modigliani is real or a forgery, or painted by Modigliani's mistress, Jeanne Hébuterne. Can the story of Modigliani and Jeanne provide any clues that will help guide her own path?

Paris, Modigliani Me Details

Date : Published November 15th 2015 by Luminis Books, Inc. (first published October 1st 2015)

ISBN : 9781941311912

Author : Jacqueline Kolosov

Format : Paperback 300 pages

Genre : Young Adult

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From Reader Review Paris, Modigliani Me for online ebook

Gail Folkins says

This captivating novel spans age groups as readers follow Julie on her journey of Paris, family, and romance. Woven throughout are insights on the art world as Julie becomes immersed in discoveries of self and the City of Light.

Quinn says

Tracy Richardson says

I loved exploring Paris with Julie. Kolosov's descriptions are detailed and apt and like the artist protagonist, Kolosov draws a vivid picture of the characters and the city. The trio of young men Julie encounters add just the right touch of romance. The parallels between Julie's search for self and the life of Jeanne Hebuterne, Modigliani's mistress and muse, added depth and interest to the novel.

Mika says

I enjoyed this book the most in the beginning. I can say the story remained 'cute' throughout all three parts, but it ended being like one of those Mary-Kate and Ashley movies where they travel to Europe. While nostalgic and adorable, it lost its heart and plot line toward the end.

Stephanie says

I wanted to love this book, but I just didn't. I felt like she wrote the book while looking at a tourist map of Paris. Idk I'm not sure I really enjoyed it at all. Not a bad book just not for me. If you love urban planning and cities you will appreciate Kolosov's extremely descriptive depictions of the city of Paris.

Lily Cooper says

A cute and light read

Jessie Burroughs says

Just okay. 2.5 stars.

Really slow start, and a little too pretentious overall. It became way more interesting towards the middle when it actually does get to the plot points about who painted the artwork assumed to be a Modigliani, about the direction Julie decides to go with her life, which boy she picks to be with, and how she resolves some unfinished business with her absent father. I did like the characters, although for how her age and how clever she was supposed to be, and how young and innocent Genevieve was meant to be it was like they switched roles at the end because Genevieve was a lot more adult, and Julie was just making stupid choices. I was glad that there were consequences for her actions, but really she got away with murder so to speak.

All in all I didn't really care about the doll house, the 'fashion', and the love interests were terrible. The one I liked just fell off the radar and she ended up with the safe choice. I really didn't buy the love story, either one. And how in the hell do you lose your head so easily as to fail at babysitting on multiple occasions on account of a boy? Also, I think this book would be more enjoyable if you follow the art references.

Facepalm worthy for sure, but the charm is in there somewhere if you make it past part 1.

Charlotte says

I'd like to add a disclaimer that Paris, Modigliani & Me (PMM) does not necessarily deserve the connotation of a two-star rating in comparison to other books I have given this status. I genuinely enjoyed reading it for the most and it did not give me the Reader's Block that bad books usually do. It was magically written at times and had a stunning setting of Paris. However, it fell flat in its characters and plot.

Right off the bat, I took issue with the ten-year-old character of Genevieve acting like she was a mature twenty-something. It wasn't enough that the other characters would jokingly say that she was highly mature for her age, I wanted some actual proof that they weren't just delusionally babysitting some grown-up fashion student. As for the romantic interests--there were one too many. That definitely went for a lot of characters in this book: there was quite a packed character list, but I was able to keep up with it (however, I read this book steadily on the daily over vacation and if I were back at school right now only reading while I was about to fall asleep in bed, I definitely would not have been able to keep up.) All of the characters lacked an element that made them real enough to be likable. The only character that actually entranced me was Madame Dupont, mostly a deus ex machina character (let's be real, most of them were.) I sympathized for Julie, but I also wanted to hit her for being so dumb sometimes. Essentially, the lackluster characters who still all seemed aimless and undeveloped by the end made me dislike PMM.

The plot is sort of nonexistent, but the setting of Paris made up for it in this category. Kolosov has a way with literary description in this context. I found myself marking short quotes that struck chords within me:

"It's childhood one draws upon. The stories we'll read will help us understand that. And the stories we live" (30).

"Funny, I go halfway across the world and I find the girl-next-door" (61).

"And you, with your daisy-light laughter, were meant for happiness" (118).

While ultimately I would not recommend this book, if you're about to go on a trip to Paris or are dozing on the beach--then go for it!

Daniele Bechtold says

I thoroughly enjoyed this book, it had a great story, there were things that I wasn't in love with. But I loved the ending! Great spring break read

Erin says

Paris: The City of Light, The City of Love, and an escape for Julie after her dream school doesn't accept her into their art program.

Modigliani: An Italian artist with a sad story and a tragic family, Julie's favorite artist, and the intriguing topic of the painting mystery

Me: Meet Julie, a budding artist with an unrealized dream, an absent father, and a deep personal connection with the tragic life that was Amedeo Modigliani's.

Paris, Modigliani, and Me was a wonderful light reading novel, with interesting characters and a story that kept me entertained. The first thing that I will say is that this novel didn't pull me in like a great novel would. Now don't get me wrong, it was a good book, but in a light-reading-at-the-beach kind of way. This book in no way sucked me in, heart and soul, but it was an entertaining read for a boring Sunday.

The characters were good, in a basic sort of way; they weren't deeply layered, and the things you learned about them were, in essence, surface information. They weren't one-dimensional and boring, but they also weren't "oh my God I am in love with this character" level either.

Julie was interesting enough, though she was a little self-centered and naive. She tended to get on my nerves, especially when she was around Luc, who clearly was not the kind of person that you wanted to be around. Luc was not a good character. My spidey senses were tingling, telling me that this was not the sort of person Julie wanted to be around. Multiple people told her the same thing as well, which is what made her insistence on being around him all the more irritating.

Paul-Henri was strange, to say the least. I honestly don't know what to think of him. Sometimes he was nice to Julie, sometimes he was absolutely awful. Also, him and Luc's conflict; what was it? why did they hate each other so much? Why did we not find out? Everything would have made so much more sense if that whole thing had been explained.

Clay was probably my favorite character in this entire novel; he was sweet, funny, and great with Genevive, the girl Julie was babysitting. He was pretty much the epitome of what a stereotypical girl looks for in a guy.

The story itself was interesting. Julie is fascinated with Modigliani's work, and her fascination grows as she learns about his past, which she feels personally connected with. When a painting is found in Modigliani's style, Julie is determined to find out if he painted it, or if his wife did. Julie's story was slightly confusing at times; there were so many things going on that sometimes I was confused, and I have quite a few

unanswered questions that I really thought would be answered by the end of the novel. I will say that the novel does have one thing going for it, and that is the happy ending. I'm a sucker for happy endings, so thank you Ms. Kolosov for a happy ending, even if all of my questions were not answered.

Cherryl Northcutt Valdez says

I was very lucky to win this book! I loved the story of a girl coming of age and finding herself. Additionally, I have learned of another artist I had never heard and wish to broaden my knowledge of him, his life and work. If you have ever been to Paris, you should read this book and relive your visit.

Alicia says

I'm a sucker for any book that involves a traveling of any kind, so when I saw this book I had to buy it and see if it was a good one. I'm a romantic and any story set in Paris has a romantic air about it, at least in my mind. This book did not disappoint; it had a very romantic feel. The author described Paris in rich detail through Julie's eyes. The book really embodied the enchantment Paris casts upon people. For me reading about Julie's perspective of Paris and the art was like a walk down memory lane to me. Paris being a place that I've had the opportunity to visit; the book charmed me just as Paris had. I often had the feeling that I was back in Paris walking along the Seine or down the halls of the Louvre with Julie and Genevieve. The art and history the novel contained also charmed me.

The characters were well written and grounded wonderfully in reality. I loved the growth that Julie's character went through during her months in Paris. I did find her self-absorbed moments annoying, but I loved how she grew to realize how she behaved and started to change. Her fascination with Luc did not surprise me, as foreign guys often captivate American woman (me included). I just wished she hadn't spent so much time trying to convince herself he was her summer romance. Julie's journey to self-discovery was quite page turning. I loved the soul searching moments she had throughout the novel. Her connection to art and Modigliani also fascinated me. The romance and friendship between her and Clay was beautifully sweet and so very real. Her relationships with both Claire and Genevieve had the feel of a second family who had embarrassed her so completely. It was wonderful to see the relationships form and grow strong with the progression of the summer.
