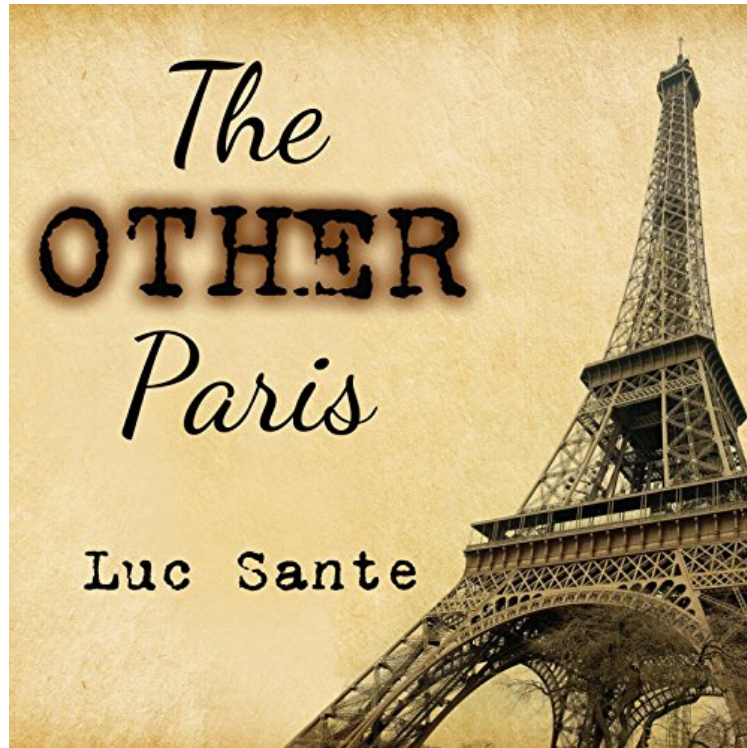


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## The Other Paris

*Luc Sante*

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**Luc Sante : The Other Paris** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Other Paris:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A wonderful book By ABGoldberg Beautifully written, it takes us to a Paris long gone. Sante perfectly captures the lively, motley, dangerous, even exotic city that once was, as different as can be from the still-beautiful but sanitized city we visit today. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A must for anyone who is a Francophile or a curious historian. By Jan Whitener Great pictures and having just spent 12 days in Paris was able to think about what we generally 'don't' see while in the city of Light. Not unlike the city I live in, Washington, DC. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Thought you knew Paris? By Jerry Sante brings to light that part of Paris that is often shunned, but essential to the richly woven fabric that continues to haunt most of us who have experienced this gem-of-a-city at least once in our lives as a flaneur. His respected research comes alive and often in poetic ways!

Paris, the City of Light. The city of the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre, of soft cheese and fresh baguettes. Or so tourist brochures would have you believe. In *The Other Paris: The People's City, Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries*, Luc Sante reveals the city's hidden past, its seamy underside—one populated by working and criminal classes that, though virtually extinct today, have shaped Paris over the past two centuries. Drawing on testimony from a great range of witnesses—from Balzac and Hugo to assorted boulevardiers, rabble-rousers, and tramps—Sante, whose thorough

research is matched only by the vividness of his narration, takes the reader on a whirlwind tour. Richly illustrated with more than three hundred images, *The Other Paris* scuttles through the knotted streets of pre-Haussmann Paris; through the improvised accommodations of the original bohemians; through the massive garbage dump at Montfaucon, active until 1849, in which, "at any given time the carcasses of 12,000 horses . . . were left to rot." A wildly lively survey of labor conditions, prostitution, drinking, crime, and popular entertainment, of the reporters, realiste singers, pamphleteers, and poets who chronicled their evolution, *The Other Paris* is a book meant to upend the story of the French capital, to reclaim the city from the bon vivants and the speculators, and to hold a light to the works and days of the forgotten poor.

"The elevation of the obscure and the overlooked, the discarded or hidden or marginal, to artistic status or cultural prominence has become a cottage industry for artists and writers of late, but as an anti-ghostbuster, Sante is in a class by himself . . . the pleasures to be had from the fruits of his research are considerable . . . [*The Other Paris*]'s great virtue is to send the reader down investigative paths of his own." Molly Haskell, *The New York Times Book* "'The city,' [Sante] insists, 'compact and curled within itself, a labyrinth had to be played like a game.' This is an idea I'll admit I love, not just in regard to Paris but also to the very essence of urban life . . . Sante is highlighting the law of unintended consequences, which brings us back to drive again. Throughout "*The Other Paris*," he invokes the figure of the flneur, which is to say the one who walks to connect to the city through the soles of his or her feet . . . Here, we see the sneaky genius of *The Other Paris*, which, like *Low Life*, conceals the complexity of its structure, masquerading as a popular history . . . until it reveals that it has been about circling all along." David L. Ulin, *Los Angeles Times* Sante's knowledge of the voluminous Paris literature is prodigious . . . his great gift is his ability to draw on the verbal photography of previous writers to send the reader back in time. Arthur Goldhammer, *BookForum* *The Other Paris* is both eulogy and paean to the matrixes of anarchy, creativity, crime, and serendipity that once gave shape to the City of Light. Anna Wiener, *The New Republic* [Sante] casts his lot with the ragpickers and streetwalkers, and his readers are better off for it. Dmitry Samarov, *The Chicago Tribune* [Sante] has written a wonderfully rich book, packed with information, lively in style, evoking the turbulence of a vanished time and city. Allan Massie, *The Wall Street Journal* This brilliant, beautifully written essay is the finest book I have ever read about Paris. Ever. Thank you, Luc Sante. Paul Auster Nowadays, the old, crowded, swarming, surly cities are at least half-forgotten. But in this great chronicle, Luc Sante recalls when Paris was rougher, when the poor, the tough, the unregulated, the underworld, thrived there; maybe the city was also less rough, in that there was room for nearly everyone all the way down the social ladder. Hanging over *The Other Paris* is the contemporary curse that perhaps hit Paris first, of cities that have become bland transnational stopping places for the privileged. Magisterial as ever, Sante returns us to the flavor, texture, savor, shouts, and clashes of the bygone city. Rebecca Solnit *The Other Paris* is a heartbreaking spectacle, immense in intellectual and political scope and emotional reach. Peopled by crooks and movie stars, gamblers and thinkers, the world's premier city of dreams is rendered, through Luc Sante's fine hand, historian's eye, and poet's heart, into a place we hardly knew—a world of hitherto unknown mysteries and realities. A grand journey in an epic work. Hilton Als "The good news is that Sante is a formidable guide to the Parisian past at ground and underground level . . . Sante ends his book with a hymn to flneurie, this lazy meandering pursuit of truth, drink and other goals, like the literary archaeology of a city that's no longer there. Following his path is worth the inevitable hangover." David D'Arcy, *San Francisco Chronicle* "Sante vividly captures this 'other' Paris . . . *The Other Paris* is immersive and enjoyable. The abundant pictures are fascinating." Sarah Grant, *Booklist* 'We have forgotten what a city was,' Luc Sante provocatively writes about Paris. By the last chapter of this absorbing book, we are convinced. Washerwomen and ragpickers, bohemians and clochards, anarchists and apaches, all play their part in this alternative urban history. This is not the *Gay Paree* of Maurice Chevalier, though he too makes an appearance. Witold Rybczynski All who love Paris will love this book. Kirkus s About the Author Coming soon...