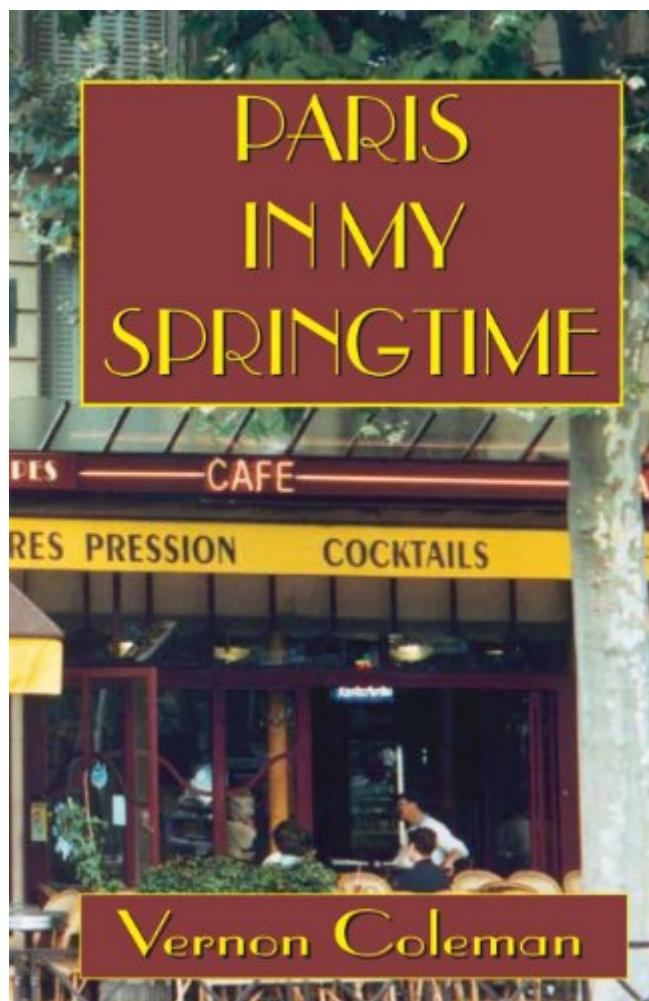


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Paris In My Springtime



Synopsis

"Paris in my Springtime' tells the story of what happened to a naive, inexperienced young man forced through illness at the start of medical school in 1963 to take an unplanned gap year. The colourful characters he meets and the unusual situations he finds himself in form the framework of this story, laced with amusing anecdotes that will keep you laughing. Highly entertaining." - Living France magazineIs this a novel? Or is it autobiography? The reader must decide. (Not easy...even the author's father got it wrong!) While sorting through old boxes the author finds a diary he kept during a stay in Paris in the 1960s. He had started medical school but been taken ill and had to abandon his studies for a while. He had two choices: a temporary job driving a fish delivery van or a trip to Paris. After much thought (lasting nearly a second) he chose to go to Paris. And this the story of what happened. Or is it? Who cares? As This England magazine says 'Coleman is a very funny writer' and that is probably all that really matters. Vernon Coleman is a qualified doctor who has earned his living as a professional author for over 30 years. His books have sold over two million copies in hardback and paperback in the UK and been translated into 24 languages. An award winning film was made of his novel Mrs Caldicot's Cabbage War and he is the author of the hugely popular bestselling Bilbury series. His bestselling medical books include Bodypower (the subject of three TV series and one radio series), How To Stop Your Doctor Killing You and many more. He is the author of over 100 books and a list of books available in Kindle form is available on his Author listing.What the papers say:Vernon Coleman writes brilliant books - The Good Book GuideColeman is a very funny writer - This EnglandNo thinking person can ignore him - The EcologistHe writes lucidly and wittily - Good HousekeepingSuperstar - Independent on SundayProbably one of the most brilliant men alive today - Irish TimesIt's impossible not to be impressed - Western Daily PressRevered guru of medicine - Nursing TimesMarvellously succinct, refreshingly sensible - The SpectatorKing of the media docs -The IndependentThe man is a national treasure - What Doctors Don't Tell Youetc etc

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Customer Reviews

The author is a British doctor and writer. In his first year of medical school he contracted hepatitis and was forced to stay out of college for a year. A professor arranged for a job in Paris so that he could perfect his French. The job was short-lived and he spent the remainder of his time in France as a part-time English instructor. The journal he kept during the year is the basis for this book. While living in Paris he spent a great deal of time in cafes observing life. He fell in love with a much-older, very married French woman. And he met many unusual people (French, English and American) and heard their life stories. Telling the nationalities apart is simple. The French are all wise, witty and happy because they KNOW HOW TO LIVE LIFE. The English are dour and naive. The Americans are either fat, obnoxious tourists (the norm) or wealthy, slightly shady eccentrics. The author has lived in Paris part-time for years. He admires the French and their way of life and probably has as much insight into their way of thinking as is possible for a foreigner. The book doesn't read like a journal and I'm hard pressed to believe that so many older people would confide their inner-most thoughts to a teenager or that an 18-year-old boy would listen if they did. But I could be wrong and (as one of the characters says) "if you aren't sure whether or not a thing is true, it might as well BE true." This is well-written and witty and will certainly be enjoyed by any reader who's interested in France and French culture

No violence - the first plus.. I enjoyed the portrayal of the various people involved. I particularly liked the re-visit, at the end, of those involved, where possible. Coleman didn't resort to the current faddish things like, "She tucked the strand of hair behind her ear.", He didn't have anyone met in the boarding/deplaning area at the airport, which area has not been accessible to non-ticket holders for a very long time. The absence of all the over-used phrases was refreshing. Coleman's Mom was

right - keeping a journal of that time was well worth it.

Paris in my Springtime is a well written, light hearted, more-or-less autobiographical account of the author's first adventure when, as a young Englishman, he spends a year or so in Paris before going on to Med School. I say more-or-less because the author says that most of what he has written is factual, and we readers have to decide what may be merely colorful additions to the story. Every character is nicely drawn, and each cafe and street is sketched in detail. As one who has visited Paris several times, I could walk the streets with the author, and smile and nod at the sights and sounds, the people watching, the death defying antics of pedestrians and the "frenchness" of those with whom he was closely associated at one level or another. More than once, my smiles became laugh out loud pleasure as I became absorbed in the story. This book is an easy read, and I can recommend it to all who love Paris and want a feel for Parisian life in the 1960s and 1970s, although I must quickly add that not a lot has changed in the "frenchness" between then and when I was last there in the Summer of 2014. I was sad when I turned the final page of Paris in my Springtime - as if I was leaving the City of Light, rather than simply putting down the book. :-)

I enjoyed this true-but-guess-which-parts-aren't memoir thoroughly. I found myself very envious of the writer, that he had such an unusual opportunity (in those days gap years weren't de rigueur) and if nothing else, produced this happy read because of it.

I read this book, including the ending where the author searches out the characters in the book after all these years. I could not help but feel that this was a true compilation of events that happened to Vernon Coleman as he waited for medical school. The opinions of the French regarding Americans was a little funny but I know the attitudes are true to form as I've heard similar comments (more recently) on my travels. A unique inside look at Paris, for sure!!The setting was years back, but nothing made the book have an "old" feeling. It's a fresh, new look back at quite an interesting story!

I am a dreamer, and the main character in this book could have been a dream of mine. It could have been a true story--that I don't know. But I like to think that it might have been. So it is not a great book, but it is a decent story of an era that really interests me.

I really enjoyed this memoir. I'd never heard of him but after finishing this I want to check out his other books. His mother encouraged him to keep a diary while he was in Paris, and this book is the

result of his adventures. He's a great writer. I actually thought I was going to give it away after I was done with it, but there was a lot of wisdom sprinkled throughout the book, so I might keep it. He definitely met some interesting characters while he was in Paris, and he writes about them well here. I only wish he had finished it up with what he did after his first year of medical school.

This book was very interesting and full of my favorite thing - PARIS. I love French and anything that has to do with Paris, so reading this book, for me, was not difficult. The book is well-written, humorous, entertaining and educational.

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