



Storied Sips: Evocative Cocktails for Everyday Escapes, with 40 Recipes

Erica Duecy

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Take a trip in a sip, a journey through time and place via the cocktail glass. The libations in this intoxicating collection span some 200 years, from Europe to the Far East, and they're the drinks with the best tales to tell. Because--without a backstory--a cocktail is nothing more than spirits and mixers. But spike that drink with an anecdote about the people, places, and circumstances that influenced its creation, and imbibers are instantly transported. Step into a British officer's club in 1920s Burma to try the Pegu Club, disembark in colonial Bermuda to sample the original Dark & Stormy, or join F. Scott Fitzgerald and Cole Porter at The Ritz Hotel in Paris for a Royal Highball, among the many spirited adventures between these covers.

The book itself is like a classic cocktail, with its iconic, vintage appeal. Mixed media illustrations by award-winning Danish artist Poul Lange feature vintage bottle labels, postcards, and magazine images. The illustrations are matched with simple recipes and deeply researched backstories for a new look at the world's most iconic cocktails.

More than a sum of its parts, *Storied Sips* is a book about living the good life, treating oneself to a dash of civilized escapism at the end of a busy day. Truly, there's nothing like a cocktail to strip away the dullness of the mundane, gilding an evening with a heightened glow, or adding cultured flair to a get-together with friends. Organized from light-bodied quenchers to rich, complex warmers, *Storied Sips* makes it easy to find cocktail inspiration any time of the year.

REVIEWS

FoodRepublic.com says: "Author Erica Duecy chronicles 200 years of tending bar and the resulting book of tales are a must-read for any cocktail aficionado."

"Like many other drink books, this one has cocktails along with their stories and recipes. Yet unlike others, this tiny book and its alluring collage-based illustrations is able to transport you to another time, a different era. **In just a page or two the writer paints vivid pictures that allow you to hear the music of that moment, smell the smoke in that bar she's speaking of. It's a little magical.**" - Maureen Petrosky, www.thekitchn.com

The **Village Voice** quips: "Other than luxury real estate catalogs that stir-up serious home-envy, I can't recall reading another book that so made me want to immediately sell my "cozy, charming" apartment and buy a damn house. Why? I need kitchen cabinet space to collect the vintage barware and vessels in which the drinks in this book deserve to be served. Duecy, a first time author and deputy editor of Fodor's Travel website, recaptures the glamour of classic cocktails by succinctly sharing the exotic, historical origin of each drink, seducing you to immediately take stock of your liquor cabinet and make a grocery list of what's missing."

Storied Sips: Evocative Cocktails for Everyday Escapes, with 40 Recipes Details

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Author : Erica Duecy

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From Reader Review Storied Sips: Evocative Cocktails for Everyday Escapes, with 40 Recipes for online ebook

Christine says

I will be giving away many copies of this for Christmas this year. It contains classic cocktails recipes along with a brief anecdotal history of each drink's origins; these tidbits will be perfect to share while hosting a party or as a guest. Most of the recipes have only a few ingredients, so it won't be too expensive or complicated to give them a try. The illustrations are whimsically lovely, which I think makes the book even nicer as a gift. I personally can't wait to feature one or two of these drinks at my holiday party!

Mel says

I received this book for free from a Goodreads First Reader Giveaway.

It's a cute little hardcover, and the writing is very clear, with nifty collages made from the type of advertisements they had back when a lot of the cocktails were really famous. And each cocktail gets a little story.

For me, the problem is that the stories were too short. A lot of them mentioned a bunch of people claimed to have made the cocktail up, but don't go into much detail. I would have enjoyed the book more if they had, I think. But the recipes are very complete and clear to follow, and some had some neat looking variants included, too. So that part was very good. Overall I enjoyed this book very much.

Lois says

This isn't just a recipe book, it also gives the origins of many cocktails that are beautifully illustrated. It would be a lovely gift book

Sarah Cash says

Yummy

Scott says

In "Storied Sips," Erica Duecy offers a hymn of praise to the cocktail and adds 40-plus recipes and some key cocktail how-to tidbits for good measure. Both more and less than a cocktail recipe guide, "Storied Sips" provides cocktail fans with a brief history lesson of popular cocktails that emphasizes the cocktails' respective romance, elegance, and occasionally romantic elegance.

This is a perfect book for cocktail drinkers who want to appreciate the back story of their favorite cocktail. While this may seem trivial, I found the book's brief history lessons both entertaining and efficient. Each cocktail back story occupies only a couple of (small) pages, and Duecy fits in enough fact to make the story worthwhile but given the brevity of each entry allows the reader to recall the whole story even if on your second (or possibly third) round.

The stories are fun and emphasize the romantic side of the cocktails. You may enjoy that Bellini a little more if you know that it was born at Harry's Bar in St. Mark's Square in Venice, and your Sidecar may go down more smoothly if you know that F. Scott Fitzgerald, Sinclair Lewis, and Ian Fleming enjoyed them at Harry's New York Bar in Paris. (Harrys have apparently enjoyed drinking quite a bit around the world, it seems.) Each cocktail entry also comes with a brief recipe and some cocktails also get an alternate recipe - such as the Ingenue cocktail alternative to the Elderberry Gin Fizz.

Duecy also throws in a few introductory pages about the history of the cocktail and recommended glassware and bar hardware, but the book's strengths lie in the back stories of the cocktail.

The book is a handsome one, filled with vintage photographs and artwork that evoke the glamorous cocktail age of yore and Hollywood. Hardly essential, this book will be enjoyed by fans of cocktails, although there may be an unfortunate unintended consequence - if you know anyone who can go the whole Cliff Clavin bar-know-it-all on cocktails, you might not want them to read this book . . . they may hold court for weeks lecturing you about cocktails. Other than that, highly recommended.

Jackie says

Read this delightful book and enjoy learning the history of drinks, how they got their names, and what made them popular in their day. The collages that accompany each "Storied Sip" are fun and interesting to look at too.
