



The Sun King Conspiracy

Yves Jégo , Denis Lépée , Sue Dyson (Translator)

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'Who can I trust in this nest of vipers?'

1661 is a year of destiny for France and its young king, Louis XIV. Cardinal Mazarin, the Chief Minister who has governed throughout the King's early years, lies dying. As a fierce power struggle develops to succeed him, a religious brotherhood, guardian of a centuries-old secret, also sees its chance to influence events.

Gabriel de Pontbriand, an aspiring actor employed as secretary to Moliere, becomes unwittingly involved when documents stolen from Mazarin's palace fall into his hands. The coded papers will alter Gabriel's life for ever, and their explosive contents have the power to change the course of history for France and the rising Sun King himself.

Previously published as The Sun King Rises (2008)

The Sun King Conspiracy Details

Date : Published April 4th 2016 by Gallic Books (first published May 1st 2006)

ISBN : 9781910477359

Author : Yves Jégo , Denis Lépée , Sue Dyson (Translator)

Format : Paperback 445 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, Cultural, France, Mystery, Literature, European Literature



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Download and Read Free Online The Sun King Conspiracy Yves Jégo , Denis Lépée , Sue Dyson (Translator)

From Reader Review The Sun King Conspiracy for online ebook

Mirella says

In this fast paced historical thriller, we are swept into the court of France's Sun King, King Louis XIV. The authors introduce us many of the characters who lived at the time - the king, queen, mistresses, and Cardinal Mazarin and his nieces. But Cardinal Mazarin is near death and members of the secret society to which he belongs enact some dastardly and powerful maneuvers to take his place. Thus begins an exciting story of political intrigue, espionage, murder, and betrayal. I liked the fast-paced, intricate plot and how more and more of the story was revealed a little at a time. This kept me engaged to the end. The characters were well drawn, as were the many historical descriptions of locations, clothing, and occurrences.

This was one of the most decadent periods of French History. and the authors present a spectacular yet private glimpse into the wealthy and opulent court of the handsome and virile King Louis XIV and his many lovers.

Thank you to the author and publisher. I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. Thank you for visiting my blog, <http://greathistoricalsb.blogspot.ca>, where the greatest historical fiction is reviewed! For fascinating women of history bios and women's fiction please visit <http://www.historyandwomen.com>.

Emma says

VERDICT: Meet all the major actors of mid 17th century France through this unrelenting conspiracy and a clever plot containing an age old secret and coded documents.

my full review is here:

[https://wordsandpeace.com/2017/04/04/...](https://wordsandpeace.com/2017/04/04/)

Gretchen says

I received a copy of this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest opinion.

I find the Sun King, Louis XIV of France, to be a fascinating figure. Between the politics and the mistresses, it is hard not to. This novel made Louis XIV something less than fascinating and I found that to be disappointing.

The first half of this book was like pouring molasses on a cold day. Credit to the writer, because I had a desire to continue reading despite finding myself bored to tears at points. The mystery was just enough to keep me going. Unfortunately, the mystery (which finally revealed itself about 3/4 of the way through), was a little disappointed. Without giving too much away, I felt like this was a story told several times before. In this case, the author failed to put any kind of interesting spin on it.

I would recommend this book to those interested in the court of the Sun King who want to read about something slightly more interesting than which bed everyone is sleeping in.

Velia says

Dalla quarta di copertina mi aspettavo molto di più da questo libro. Le premesse erano di per sé molto buone: focalizzarsi sul 1661 (l'anno di svolta per il regno di Luigi XIV) era un'idea ottima che lasciava ampio spazio di manovra, ma la resa è stata senz'altro deludente.

Se, infatti, la presentazione delle premesse storiche (quali i legami della famiglia reale con Mazzarino, la rivolta della Fronda e via discorrendo) sono dipinti molto bene, il proseguo sembra quasi un guazzabuglio d'eventi che si susseguono l'un altro fino a concludersi in una bolla di sapone: dell'inizio della politica del Re Sole, dei motivi che l'han portato ad essere il grande sovrano che conosciamo ci viene, infatti, detto poco o niente, se non quelle poche conseguenze che sono facilmente deducibili.

C'è, poi, l'altra storia, quella che procede parallelamente al quadro storico. Ebbene, sembra essere buttata senza alcun riguardo all'interno della narrazione, comparendo improvvisamente dopo la metà del libro dopo un breve cenno nel primo capitolo e non apportando assolutamente nulla al contesto. Insomma, a tratti l'ho trovata perfino fastidiosa.

Al di là della trama di fondo, l'altro enorme problema è stato lo stile: denso, lento, tanto che dopo un paio di pagine ti sembra di averne letto almeno una decina.

Unica nota positiva: d'Artagnan. Avendo amato il libro di Dumas padre prima e la serie televisiva poi, ritrovarmelo capitano dei moschettieri al fianco del Re è stata una grande soddisfazione, tanto da farmi sorridere ogni volta compariva sulla "scena".

Tonstant Weader says

The Sun King Conspiracy by Yves Jégo and Denis Lépée is a complex historical novel with a myriad of intrigue and conspiracy swirling around Louis XIV, the famed Sun King. It's a novel full of the movers and shakers of the 17th Century, from the Sun King himself, Louis XIV, his mother Anne of Austria, the Cardinal Mazarin, Minister of Finance Colbert, and Superintendent Fouquet with cameos by Moliere and even Charles Perrault, the author of Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty and many other fairy tales.

Like a sheep among wolves, there is poor Gabriel Pontbriand, a lowly fictional character who comes to Paris to escape an overbearing uncle and be an actor. He is in love with Louise de La Vallière, though of course he does not know it. He literally trips over the key to secrets that could bring down the state and so much more, secrets that people have killed to get, including a cipher with the key to The Secret, a document guarded for centuries by a secret society.

The novel would be better named The Sun King Conspiracies because there is not one person who is not part of one of several conspiracies. There is the Queen and Mazarin's conspiracy about the parentage of King Louis. There is Colbert's conspiracy against Fouquet and every other person who is not Colbert. There are the religious zealots conspiring against Mazarin and Colbert. And of course, there is Fouquet's grand conspiracy with the members of a secret society to guard The Secret and with its power change the course of history.

The best historical novels are those about people and times of which the readers know very little. Certainly, the less you know, the more you will enjoy The Sun King Conspiracy. It's not that it is not grounded in

history. It is. There are conversations that come right out Madame de Montespan's memoirs, a sort of Real Housewives of Versailles score-settling memoir of one of Louis XIV's mistresses. However, their interpretation of history leaves a lot to be desired. This is sort of an opposite-day history.

The novel takes seriously the wild theory that Louis XIV is the son of Cardinal Mazarin and not Louis XIII. It's a ridiculous theory and ignores that Louis XIII and Anne were reconciled after yet another uprising when Richelieu convinced him that if he did not get an heir the uprisings and problems would continue. This speculation exists because some people insist Louis XIII was gay and would not sleep with his wife. He was bisexual, he had affairs with men and women. He understood the need for an heir and did his duty for an heir and a spare.

For me, the greatest problem was the authors' decision to make Jean-Baptiste Colbert into such a cardboard villain, he only lacked a long mustache to twist with his fingers. No one who achieved his level of power was an innocent, the road to power is full of compromises and moral ambiguity. But, Colbert was one of the truly great bureaucrats of all time.

Colbert was not the flamboyant and charismatic sort of character that gets to be heroic. He was too busy working. Less famous than Richelieu and Mazarin, he mattered because of his competence in restoring the balance of trade, building new industries, investing in the infrastructure of France, and hauling France off the cliff of bankruptcy. He also codified the laws, and expanded and supported the colonization of Canada and Louisiana, even promoting the "Daughters of the King" whose transport to Canada was paid by the King to encourage colonization and expansion rather than just trade.

And while Colbert was a typical 17th century European and did not work to ban slavery or promote abolition, he did write the Black Code that guaranteed certain human rights to slaves, including one day off a week, adequate food and clothing, and the right to marry. It prohibited slave owners from raping women slaves. It prohibited separating families, defined a way to earn freedom and mandated other conditions utterly unlike American chattel slavery. Freed slaves also had the same rights as other subjects. It is why New Orleans had so many free people of color, people who earned their freedom under Colbert's Black Code. And yes, from the eyes of today, it is all horrible and inexcusable, but for its time, it was a remarkably humane document.

So Colbert is the villain.

In contrast, Nicolas Fouquet is heroic, a patron of the arts, generous and pious and wonderful. However, in reality while he was Superintendent of Finance, he mingled his personal finances with the royal finances so thoroughly they could not be untangled. This was common. Richelieu and Mazarin enriched themselves as well. Surely Colbert did, too. But Fouquet's conspicuous consumption in building Vaux-le-Vicomte, the inspiration for Versailles, was his downfall. You don't show up the King. In the novel, he is presented as purely innocent of any inurement, though certainly the leader of the central conspiracy.

While the novel portrays Fouquet as a patron of the arts, he was more a personal collector of the arts for his benefit while Colbert founded many Royal Academies that continue to this day. He gave many writers a settlement enough to support them in their work, independent of the need to seek further patronage. For someone who has done so much good in his life, whose ideas about national economic development, banking and finance informed Alexander Hamilton and was a basis of our own system in the United States, it is sad to see him cast as the villain, but I suppose if you're going to make Fouquet a good guy, there is no other option.

The Sun King Conspiracy was disappointing, not just in its historical revisionism, but also in the central plot. There was a conflict in France between the clergy and the aristocracy, it was not a conflict between oppression and liberty. The actual Secret was silly and disappointing. I expected more and kept reading in hopes that there would be a great Dan Brown sort of payoff, but there was not. Sure, I see the Dan Brown inspiration, but if you're going to hide a secret until the next to last chapter, it better be a good one.

This book is going to be much more enjoyable for people who have studied history, who won't have an inner "So Wrong!" sounding in their head while they read. If it were just a story about something I knew nothing about I would probably like it better. It's a translation from French and who knows, perhaps the French view Colbert differently than those who studied him because of his profound influence on Canada and the United States.

I received a digital edition of this book from the publisher via NetGalley.

This review originally posted on my blog at:
<https://tonstantweaderreviews.wordpress.com>

Susan says

As Cardinal Mazarin, the Chief Minister and Godfather to Louis XIV of France lies dying, someone sets fire to his palace and steals secrets and compromising documents. Various factions would like to find and use these documents for their personal benefit and to support their own political or religious causes. But as the King comes into his own with the death of his most trusted adviser, the Cardinal, he may decide to rule on his own, thereby thwarting the plans of his ministers.

This historical novel is full of political intrigue, action and terrific descriptions of historical figures, architecture and arts as well as royal customs. The rich details provided by the authors make the reader feel a part of the action, while the scenery and characters come to life in a way that allows one to appreciate the past. Anyone interested in French history will find this an entertaining and fulfilling read.

Thanks to NetGalley and Gallic books for allowing me to read this book in exchange for an honest review.

Susanna - Censored by GoodReads says

Actual rating something between 2.5 and 3 stars.

This book has too many plot lines. And one of them, alas, is "overreaching universal religious conspiracy."

With a side touch of "as you know, Bob."

Alain says

Nous sommes à Paris, en 1661, année d'une grande importance car elle marque la prise réelle du pouvoir par

Louis XIV après la mort du Cardinal Mazarin. Le roi a bien l'intention de mettre la noblesse au pas, ne lui ayant jamais pardonné la Fronde. Un des premiers à faire les frais de cette nouvelle politique sera Nicolas Fouquet, surintendant des Finances.

C'est dans ce contexte que les deux auteurs, Yves Jego et Denis Lepage, ont inclus leur intrigue. Ils ont, en quelque sorte, placé leur histoire dans l'Histoire.

Juste avant la mort du Cardinal, des hommes de main ont dérobé dans les appartements de Mazarin des documents d'une extrême importance pour le royaume. Gabriel de Pontbriand, jeune noble de province récemment arrivé à Paris pour devenir comédien, va être entraîné bien malgré lui dans cette affaire. Grâce à lui, le lecteur va rencontrer de nombreux personnages illustres de cette époque : La Fontaine, Anne d'Autriche, Colbert, le château de Vaux-le-Vicomte ?

L'intérêt de ce livre vient en grande partie de son aspect historique bien documenté. Mais si, comme moi, le lecteur connaît déjà bien l'histoire de cette époque, le livre lui paraît bien moins intéressant. Il reste cependant la résolution du complot qui fait passer un bon moment de lecture.

Terry says

I loved this book from start to finish. King Louis was a very interesting character that was outrageous and diverse but those around him treated him like he was a god out of fear and belief. A great read. If you like anything about the French court you will enjoy this.

Heather says

It took me three tries to get through this thing. It's just not for me. There were too many characters and not enough story. Pacing was dreadfully slow. If you have a love of 1600's French history and political conspiracies, maybe you'll like this one better than I did. But, no. This was not for me at all.

I received this copy via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

Erin says

Find this and other reviews at: <http://flashlightcommentary.blogspot....>

I'd love to say an appreciation of French history led me to The Sun King Conspiracy, but I'd be lying

through my teeth. The reality is that the book has a genuinely gorgeous jacket and I, as we all know, am an unashamed cover slut. And when I say unashamed, I mean unashamed. I actually requested the previous incarnation of the title, *The Sun King Rises*, from Gallic Books last year for the same reason. Yeah...

As to the narrative itself, I hardly know where to begin. Historically the novel covers a lot of ground and I was thoroughly impressed with how Jégo and Lépée utilized both fact and period gossip within the fabric of their fiction. Louis XIV of France, Anne of Austria, Cardinal Mazarin, Jean-Baptiste Colbert, François d'Orbay, and Nicolas Fouquet feature prominently in Gabriel de Pontbriand's story. The much celebrated Mancini sisters make notable appearances and there is even cameo by Charles II. The magnificence and magnitude of the stage Jégo and Lépée create matches the complexities of the conspiracy they construct. Some readers may find their approach somewhat overwhelming, but I personally loved every minute of it.

In terms of pacing, the novel never lets up which is saying something as various editions range between 415 and 496 pages in length. It's got little on the unabridged edition of *Les Misérables*, but make no mistake, *The Sun King Conspiracy* is a beast. It is dense and atmospheric, but the story itself never stops moving. Hit after hit after hit, one twist after another, Jégo and Lépée kept me on the edge of my seat beginning to end. As before, their style and presentation may not be suitable for every reader, but I thought the velocity of the narrative one of its greatest features and greatly appreciated how it complimented the tension, depth, and intricacies of the plot.

That said, there were a few things that bugged. Not enough to downgrade to four stars, but they made a big enough impression that they deserve mention. There is a resolution, but Gabriel de Pontbriand's story is by no means complete and that irked. I'm not sure if the book has a sequel or not, but it definitely needs one. I'd have also liked more definitive detail regarding the secrets the Brotherhood risks so much to protect. It's a great story line, but comparatively, I felt it less developed than others in the narrative.

Would I recommend the book? In a heartbeat. *The Sun King Conspiracy* is a thrilling tale of power, riddles, and treachery. Definitely something I'd recommend as a standalone or as a companion piece to *Enchantress of Paris*.

Katrina says

Nicholas Fouquet---a man associated with extraordinary rise and fall, secret societies and (rightly or wrongly) the Man in the Iron Mask. To be able to read a book that explores his downfall set against the religious and political turbulence of the time was a real treat and I enjoyed every moment spent with the book.

The other characters are just as intriguing: the dying Cardinal Mazarin and his spoiled nieces, the conniving Colbert, Anne of Austria at the end of a tumultuous reign and her son Louis XIV, a young king both arrogant and unsure of himself, easily manipulated even as he tries to enforce his will.

The worldbuilding is excellent, I did feel as I was transported to those times and the language beautiful though I'm sure if I read it in its original French, I would be even more enthralled.

My own quibble is regarding the secret society having been plotting for centuries and yet unable to counteract the threat to their emissary to the King. At certain points, it was frustrating to read about men who

were so brilliant and careful misjudging the situation so badly. Though it perhaps is more genuine and 'real' for the fallibility of its characters, yet still there is the urge to wish that they could have outsmarted their enemy.

This book was provided by the Publisher through Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Heidi The Hippie Reader says

A historical fiction about a French King, his mistress, his minister, his mother, an aspiring actor with a secret past and a secret society with hidden knowledge that could change the world.

"A chief minister is dying, yet people are interested only in counting the supporters and detractors of an entertainer..." pg 9, ebook.

Unfortunately, I didn't really care for *The Sun King Conspiracy*.

I felt like it was trying to be a mystery like *The Da Vinci Code* with the complexity of an epic historical fiction. It didn't quite reach either pinnacle.

"According to Colbert's report, the murderers took nothing else of any worth from my apartments. From this, I deduce that their only concern was to seize those papers." pg 36, ebook.

It was probably just me, but I kept getting the ministers and their roles confused. Also, their alliances and reasons why they hated each other never really made sense to me.

"The truth is," said the scholar with a sad smile, "that this question of succession seems to be the only matter that interests anyone in Paris, when the real subject that ought to occupy us, the only one worthy of any interest, is entirely different: it concerns the stability of the Kingdom." pg 142, ebook.

It felt like there were nuances to the court relationships that were never explicitly stated.

Maybe the author assumed a familiarity with the court of the Sun King that I don't possess.

The whole secret society part of this story was just flat. I felt like I'd read the same conspiracy in half a dozen other books.

"I am more aware of this than anyone else. I have paid so dearly for it that my belief in its ultimate success is perhaps the only thing that still keeps me alive..." pg 229, ebook.

I didn't connect with any of the cast of characters either. They were so cookie cutter.

Here's hoping I like the next read more. :)

Constance Fastré says

Alors que le parrain de Louis XIV se meurt, la Cour s'agit. Avides de pouvoir, les courtisans choisissent leur allégeance entre les puissants Colbert et Fouquet. Mais les machinations sont nombreuses et bientôt, Gabriel de Pontbriand, jeune artiste, se retrouve malgré lui mêlé à une conspiration dont il ne connaît pas encore l'étendue.

Un roman qui se lit facilement et vous transporte dans la cour du Roi Soleil presque sans effort.

Malheureusement, j'ai trouvé la fin un peu faible et j'aurais aimé que le bouquin soit plus centré sur Louise que sur tous les protagonistes masculins et leur conspiration.

Βασ?λης Ζησ?πουλος says

Το βιβλ?ο με κρ?τησε σε ενδιαφ?ρον, αλλ? κ?τι δεν μου ?ρεσε σε αυτ? που δι?βαζα. ?σως να ?φταιγε το γεγον?ς ?τι ?ξερα τον νικητ? του συνομωσιακο? πολ?μου που πραγματε?εται το βιβλ?ο απ? πριν! ?σως να ?φταιγε και η γραφ? (? ?σως η μετ?φραση) που σε κ?ποια σημε?α κο?ραζε (?νιωθα λες και διαβ?ζω παιδικ? βιβλ?ο).

Η υπ?θεση εξελ?σσεται στην αυλ? του Λουδοβ?κου 14ου, την περ?οδο που αυτ?ς αναλαμβ?νει ουσιαστικ? την εξουσ?α απ? τον Μαζαρ?νο. Τα γεγον?τα της εποχ?ς προσφ?ρονται για πολλ?ς ιστορ?ες, ειδικ? ?ταν αυτ?ς καταπι?νονται και με πρ?σωπα ?πως ο Φουκ?, ο Κολμπ?ρ και η ?ννα η Αυστριακ?. Το «1661» διηγε?ται μια ?κδοση αυτ?ν των ιστορι?ν και δ?νει μια εξ?γηση για την εξ?λιξη της πολυσυζητημ?νης αναμ?τρησης των Κολμπ?ρ και Φουκ? στο επ?πεδο των ραδιουργ?ν και της συνομωσ?ας που ?πλεξαν ο ?νας για τον ?λλο.

Το βιβλ?ο σε β?ζει στην εποχ? που περιγρ?φει και σε καταφ?ρνει (αυτ? ε?ναι νομ?ζω η σωστ?τερη λ?ξη) να το διαβ?σεις μ?χρι το τ?λος, ακ?μα κι αν το ξ?ρεις, ?πως στην περ?πτωσ? μου. Το πρ?βλημα ?γκειται ?τι τρ?χουν πολλ?ς ιστορ?ες ταυτ?χρονα, χωρ?ς να ε?ναι «σφιχτ?» δεμ?νες μεταξ? τους και κατ? συν?πεια η υπ?θεση αφ?νει κεν? που γ?νονται ?ντονα αντιληπτ? την ?ρα που διαβ?ζεις τις πιο αγωνι?δεις ?σως σελ?δες.

Συμπερασματικ?, αν π?σει στα χ?ρια σας, αξ?ζει να το διαβ?σετε, αλλ? μ?χρι εκε?!
