



# Carousel

*J. Robert Janes*

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Paris, December 1942. The corpse of a naked girl has been found, strangled. Not far away, the body of a young man is discovered with his throat slashed, tied to the back of a carousel animal. A Wehrmacht corporal is killed. Scattered ancient Roman coins connect the three victims. Is it the Resistance? Or are sex and greed, the oldest of motivations, still rampant in a country groaning under the burden of Occupation?

## Carousel Details

Date : Published July 1st 2003 by Soho Press (first published July 1992)

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Author : J. Robert Janes

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## From Reader Review Carousel for online ebook

### Ann Repetto says

tried c 20 pages and couldn't get into it

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### Karla says

Carousel, J. Robert James (2.5)

The premise of this book drew me in, but the execution was not as good as I had hoped. The book is a mystery set in occupied Paris during WWII. It is one, though not the first, of a series featuring an unusual pairing of a Gestapo agent and a French detective. The complications of this pairing and the time period portended a deep, interesting setting. The story starts with three seemingly separate deaths: a strangled young girl, a carousel operator and a German corporal. The crime fighting pair seem to be set-up for failure with all three deaths by various complicated parties (French underworld, multiple German overlords, etc.). Linking all the deaths seems to be a possible bevy of gold coins. Part of my problem with the book is coming into the set-up with no knowledge of the preceding books (my own fault). There were many confusing references that seemingly would have been clear with earlier books. But the main oddity was in the writing that continued to cause stumbles, specifically the practice of writing from each characters point of view, without clarifying who was 'thinking'. By content, one could usually figure it out, but the flow was slow and cumbersome. I feel that I missed a lot of the depth of the story, as the reading experience was painful and I hurried to finish. This book was recommended by a mystery buff friend, who apparently has a lot more patience than I do!

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### John Form says

I have a love-hate relationship with this series by J. Robert Janes. This was one of his mediocre entries. Some have been really engaging. I am not sure why but there are times in his books that the story just grinds and Carousel had that trait. Try Salamander or Sandman for a more engaging story. That said, reading Jane's mysteries set in France (Paris, mostly) during WWII is a treat. He captures the time and city so well. As he does the atmosphere of an occupied country.

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### Eddie says

Second in the series.

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### Al says

DNF. One of a series of WW II detective stories set in occupied Paris, featuring an odd couple of investigators--one a Gestapo officer and the other a French Surete man. This could be an appealing

combination, but in this incarnation it didn't work for me. The author's style is clunky, looking suspiciously like a bad translation. The plot and relationships are hard to follow. Just not worth the effort.

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### **Tim says**

Carousel is dark and a twisted tale of occupied Paris and the oppression of occupation and of competition among the occupiers (German Army, SS, Gestapo). I have been critical of this series in the past, for plotting, for problems with point of view and those problems remain. But I keep coming back for the setting and for St-Cyr and Kohler. Their friendship is central to this story and makes the competing darknesses almost bearable.

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### **Laurel says**

This book was a total struggle for me from page one. I love the setting and the camaraderie the two such disparate detectives have for one another, but the number of characters really got in the way of my enjoyment of the book this time. SS, Gestapo, Surete, gangsters, Resistance....And the habit Janes has of switching gears from St. Cyr to Kohler almost within paragraphs makes for a very difficult and intense read.

I won't give up though.

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### **Tony says**

CAROUSEL. (1993). J. Robert Janes. \*

This is a new author for me. He has a series of crime novels set in Paris during the occupation in WW II. His two protagonists are Louis St. Cyr of the Surete and Hermann Kohler of the Gestapo. They work together as a team, though from different sides. I have to admit that this particular book contains some of the worst writing I have encountered in a long time. I just could not persevere past page 30 or so. By comparison, Finnegans Wake was a walk in the park. I'll try another of his books to see if his style perseveres or not. If it does, I'll have only tried to read two of his books.

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### **Rebecca Anjali says**

The book is very interesting in that it gives a view into the time of the nazi occupation and makes the point that ordinary crime still continues even amidst all they are doing. I really read this book for the first time and fell in love.

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