



Rage In Paris: A Novel

Kirby Williams

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A stunning debut novel written by a black American expatriate and diplomat whose real-life experiences inform the narrative. Resplendent with history, jazz, and mystery, this novel is perfect for fans of Nathanael West, Dashiell Hammett and the “Lost Generation” of American writers in Paris in the early years of the 20th century, such as Ernest Hemingway and F. Scott Fitzgerald.

A gifted black musician from New Orleans, Urby Brown, decides to leave Jim Crow behind and head to Paris. Joining the French Foreign Legion, Urby fights in WWI for France and later settles in Paris along with other black expatriates rather than return to worsening racial climate in America. He discovers a vocation as an undercover detective.

Filled with intrigue and crazy adventure, Urby’s quests will lead him face to face with a devious Nazi plot against America all the while discovering who he really is.

An expertly blended tale of historical and criminal fiction and flat out farce, this tale gives us an incomparable view of Paris in the turbulent years between the electrifying debut of Josephine Baker and the fanatic political and cultural upheavals leading to WWII. This one of a kind story with its unique hero captivates readers from the beginning and dramatizes all the dangers of a climate gone wrong.

Rage In Paris: A Novel Details

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Author : Kirby Williams

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From Reader Review Rage In Paris: A Novel for online ebook

Laura says

Williams tells the story of Urby Brown, an ex-patriot who settles in France after serving in the French Foreign Legion in WWI, attempting to escape growing racism and Jim Crow laws in Louisiana. He initially attempts to make a living as a Jazz musician playing the clarinet, but events conspire to end that career. At the start of the book he's turned to work as a private eye investigator of sorts.

In some ways Williams has written a good book. He tells a part of history and a story that is little known to many people. The description of Germany in the mid-1930's--Hitler's rising power/support, his "brown shirt" goons' systematic degradation, abuse, and often murder of Jews, and the surprising support of many people from other countries--was especially interesting to me. Its often been said that "Those who don't know history are doomed to repeat it." Most Americans are familiar with the events of WWII & the Holocaust, but its the path *leading up to* these events that we must be familiar with and strive not to repeat.

Unfortunately though, a chapter or two of important material does not a book make. Overall, Williams, (at least in my opinion) fails to write a cohesive novel, his characters fail to come to life, and his dialogue is the definition of clunky. Daphne especially was a puzzle to me, didn't have any sort of character development, & just generally left me scratching my head. Also, I understand she is a classic beauty, and used to having men jump at her beck and call, but I felt a world-traveled man who has lived the life Urby lived wouldn't have fallen for her antics quite like he did. Overall the plot had a strange mix of being convoluted & thin which made it difficult to buy/believe/find suspenseful. A final critique is that there was a decent number of typos/editing errors that detracted from the flow of the book.

After reading *EXCELLENT* works by ex-patriots such as 's Speak Now about life in Europe as an African-American (ironically about a clarinet player who falls in love with a white woman albeit during the 1960s) its hard to recommend Kirby Williams. However, I do feel the book deserves credit for its ambitious intentions. Given 1.5 stars or "Below Average".

Steph (loves water) says

Meticulously researched and detail oriented...I always appreciate that in a novel. Ending was a touch disappointing but I've read worse. Excellent first novel and very happy to have received it as a giveaway!

More importantly, I'm hoping that this is the first in a series? I enjoyed the characters and am hoping for more!

Amy Hygge says

I am honestly stunned and confused to see that this book doesn't have any ratings or reviews. I don't understand. While on a trip to Portland I picked up Rage in Paris at the downtown Powell's, fascinated by the summary on the back cover. In high school English class I learned about the Lost Generation in Paris, about Ernest Hemingway and F. Scott Fitzgerald and Gertrude Stein. But I have NEVER heard anything about the Black American expatriates who moved to Paris to escape the violent racial climate and Jim Crow of that time. It makes perfect sense now that I've heard of it, but this is the first time I've heard ANYTHING about

them. Historical fiction is my favorite literary genre, and this is one of the best historical novels I've ever come across. It featured so many real historical figures and offered a glimpse into a rare part of history while managing to convey a fascinating story. I don't know enough about the actual events described in the book to say how realistic it is, but it was definitely entertaining to read. The writing is incredibly reminiscent of the writers of the Lost Generation, and the beginning of the novel reminded me a lot of *The Sun Also Rises* as it described the Black community and their drinking and partying. Unfortunately this review isn't very articulate, but the main point I want to convey is that this is an EXCELLENT work of historical fiction, and EVERYONE SHOULD BE READING IT.

Stuart David says

I liked this story.

It did, kind of, remind me of Dashiell Hammett...

Susan says

Not sure what threw me off while reading this book, was it the plot? Somehow what seemed like an easy read became laborious, especially keeping up with Robinson 1&11, mother and grandmother.

Sheree Gibson says

This book was difficult to follow. Years of lies erupt as greed intertwines with world history of the same kind. A jumble of mixed ideas and confusion finally come to an end. The epilogue was helpful in tying everything together and giving the reader closure.

Per FTC rules, I received this book free via Goodreads.com

Tuck says

here is a nice review of someone who loved this book

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

A neat premise, black wwi expatriate in paris uses his outsider connections to fight growing fascist power in paris. So a lot going on in this rather thin, amateurish novel. Because unfortunately it is not pulled off.

Williams Kirby says

For over a year, I have resisted suggestions that I comment on my own book. But 13 November 2015 in Paris changed all of that. I have lived in Paris for over 50 years through social upheavals (end of the Algerian war, the May 1968 Revolution) and many changes in France. I have lived through good times and bad here. But,

while writing in the genre of "historical thriller" against the backdrop of real events which took place in February 1934 and which, arguably, led up to the Nazi occupation of France from 1940-1944, I was aware that I was writing a cautionary tale based on real events which are linked to the realities of today. The rhetoric, labels and actors have changed, but the underlying dangers of intolerance, racism and anti-Semitism remain. It is up to my readers to judge what rating my book should receive if they wish to give it a rating or to review it. But I ask all who decide to read the book to ponder this message: that the events of 80 years ago and their underlying causes are not so far removed from the horrific events which occurred in Paris on Friday 13 November 2015.

J. Ewbank says

This book by Williams is a very interesting one for me. I was aware of some of the racism in the U.S. at the time but was young and it did not all compute. As the child of a college professor of a Methodist College in Little Rock, I was somewhat shielded by knowing and living among African Americans.

This is a wonderful story about jazz, racism, Hitler's Germany and so much more. Those interested in a novel and mystery set in those times will really enjoy it. I did.

J. Robert Ewbank author "John Wesley, Natural Man, and the Isms" "Wesley's Wars" and "To Whom It May Concern"

Jackie says

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. The main character is compelling as he plays the roles of a victim, suspect, or perpetrator. There are many twists and turns throughout this wild adventure, that takes place in Paris during the 1930s with jazz as a focus and the components of racism, fascism, and anti-Semitism that were going on at this time in history.

Anne says

Once again I feel lucky to have won a book on Goodreads. This book was a real page-turner. I love historical fiction and this was set in a time and place that I've never read about or even knew about. Fans of Jazz would love this book, too!

Anne Brown says

This book was a quick-read historical fiction set in Paris in the early 1930s. It centered around the "colored" population living there at that time and centered around the main character, Urby Brown, who was 1/8 colored but chose not to pass as white. The plot got a bit convoluted at times but I enjoyed this debut novel.
