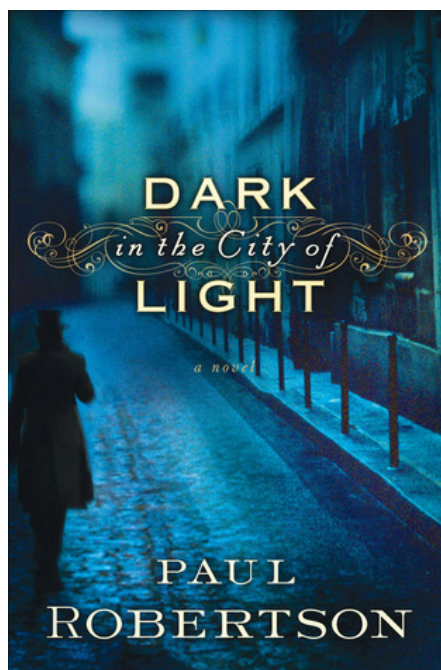




Dark in the City of Light

Paul Robertson

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What Evil Haunts the Shadows of 1870s Paris?

Baron Ferdinand Harsanyi — After his wife's mysterious death, this Austrian attaché holds control over mines whose coveted ore could turn the tide of war.

Therese Harsanyi — Swept up in new romance and the spectacle of Paris, the Baron's daughter is blind to the dangers stalking her family and the city she loves.

Rudolph Harsanyi — Unsure whom to trust, the Baron's son's grief over his mother's death twists into growing anger and a desire to break free.

As France and Prussia plunge toward war, one family is caught in a web of deceit, political intrigue, and murder that threatens to tear them apart.

Dark in the City of Light Details

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Author : Paul Robertson

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From Reader Review Dark in the City of Light for online ebook

Clare says

Taking place within the confines of one year during the Franco-Prussian war this story deals with one family's struggles during the conflict. The family is from Austria and the father is working at the Austrian embassy in France when hostilities break out. Not only is tension rising between the two countries but trouble is also brewing in the city of Paris itself with those dissatisfied with the government. Baron Harsanyi, the father of the family, is distant with his children. Perhaps this is due to his duties or maybe he is trying to shield them from the ugliness of war. However, this creates misunderstandings and a rift between them all that seems unlikely to be resolved.

Debbie says

"Dark in the City of Light" is a historical suspense novel set mainly in France in the 1870s. There was also a "who-done-it" mystery in this story, though that's not obvious at first. The "who-done-it" was also not obvious, though there were enough clues that the reader could guess the answer before the main characters did (since the characters were limited by their not knowing they needed to share the clues).

The world-building was excellent, vividly describing the locations, events, and politics of the time period. Because politics were a driving force behind much of the suspense, it's woven into the story and didn't slow the pacing. The suspense was from the physical danger to the various characters and the strain on the family relationships. The characters were interesting, complex, varied, and acted realistically. They dealt with realistic problems, and I cared about what happened to them.

The characters didn't believe in God (at least, not one active in human affairs). However, they had a habit of saying, "Only God could do that" with the implied assumption that He wouldn't. At the end, one character said that if a certain impossible thing did happen, it'd be proof God existed. You can guess what happens, but that's about the extent of the religious content.

There was no sex or bad language. Overall, I'd highly recommend this intriguing novel to those who enjoy clean, well-written historical suspense.

I received this book as a review copy from the publisher.

Margaret Chind says

Thanks to Bethany House for providing a copy for review through the Christian Fiction Blog Alliance.

Christy Lockstein says

Dark in the City of Light by Paul Robertson is compelling historical fiction about 1870s Paris. Baron

Harsanyi works for the Austrian ambassador working in Paris. His late wife owned some cinnabar mines that produce the highly prized materials that the English, Prussian, and French are all bidding for. Their political machinations fill the novel with twists and turns. His daughter Therese loves being in the City of Light, especially with her forbidden beau Auguste who may have secret intentions for their courtship. Her brother Rudolph seems to be just going through the motions, forced to accede to his father's wishes that he attend military academy instead of fulfilling his own political ambitions, until he discovers a terrible secret about his father that may destroy the entire family. Robertson writes a truly rare novel with great intelligence and suspenseful twists and turns. Just when the reader thinks they know what's going to happen next, Robertson reveals new information that throws everything into question. I wish there were more novels written like this, that stimulate the brain and thrill the senses with terrific historical detail. I didn't want it to ever end.

Renee Abernathy says

Hard to read

This was an interesting book. It was very difficult to read. I had to just keep ploughing through it. Too many details. It skipped around. It was confusing. It was hard to follow.

Rosie says

I liked the story being told from different individuals' points of view, and I was so surprised when the murderer was revealed!

Heather says

Not a classic, but for being written by a high school science teacher, I REALLY was impressed. The characters were fascinating, the history was well-researched, the Christian themes were very subtle, but effective. I thought Robertson overemphasized the dark/light motif in the beginning, but that's the only problem I had with it. Good pacing. Good dialogue. Overall, something I'd read again.

Patricia says

Audio book. When I found out in chapter one that the Baron who is the protagonist of the story kills his own wife, I had to give up on the book. I hate it when I hate the protagonist. I want to like the main character, relate to him or her and see admirable traits, not a dark heart--no matter how villainous the other characters may be.

I read somewhere that this was a whodunit and that the Baroness died under mysterious circumstances. What? It is clear that the Baron suffocates her. In chapter one no less. I also read that this was a whodunit. Normally in a "whodunit" you don't already know whodunit, if of course it was the Baroness's death at the crux of the whodunit.

One reviewer on Amazon said that if a reader were looking for a human story, not to read this. Well, there

was my answer--this is not a book for me. I am not going to listen to one more word.

Melissa says

just couldn't get into this one, didn't get far but had no interest to fight my way through...

Jerry says

A somewhat interesting look at a historical event with which I was previously unfamiliar.

Debbie says

set in the Prussian War, in France, the Baron controls mines coveted to make weapons

Marie says

This doesn't happen often, and I hate when it does, but I just never clicked at all with this book. 2 of 5 stars.

My aunt sent this to me to help with my PopSugar Reading Challenge, as it's "a book with antonyms in the title." She only rated it a little better than I did. I think part of the disconnect was the setting; I'm not in any way familiar in the least with 1870s Paris or with the machinations of the Franco-Prussian War.

The book follows a family as they navigate politics and intrigue in Paris in the lead-up to the Franco-Prussian War. The family is Austrian, but the father figure's position as Austrian ambassador to France means they live in Paris. There's Baron Ferdinand, his son Rudolph (roughly college-age), and his daughter Therese (late teens). The Baron's wife is the owner of Europe's largest cinnabar (used to make military-grade mercury) mine, and three countries are vying for private contracts. After her sudden death, the Baron is in charge of the mines, until Rudolph turns 23. Now those three countries (France, Prussia, and Britain) are courting the men in the family.

I think there was supposed to be a feeling of build up in tension? But it was a *lot* of talking and plotting. And Therese was supposed to be involved somehow, but I just felt like she got in the way. I don't know... I suppose someone with more knowledge of or interest in European history would enjoy this book much more than I did.

I totally appreciate that my aunt sent me this. It was a unique read for me; the last French historical novel I read was Les Misérables, and that was three years ago. It's good for me to step slightly outside my usual reads. I don't regret the time spent reading it (it's not overly long), and it gave me another check off on my reading challenge. Has anyone else read this one? Did I just miss something?

Bob Mask says

Pretty good mystery woven into the 1870's society and the Franco Prussian war.....JSYK, I detest the French.

Chris says

I started this on the day of the eclipse, which I thought made sense in light of the title.

It's about the Prussian-French war in 1870.

It's about an Austrian Baron and his family who owns cinnebar mines which are used to make mercury which is wanted by everyone to weaponize.

Thus starts a story of suspense and intrigue. The various agents which are all trying to get the cinnebar, the mysterious deaths his wife and the estrangement of his son.

Parts of this I enjoyed, parts of it I sorta lost focus on.

Overall, I enjoyed reading about a time in history that I knew little about, but something was lacking for me.

Taylor says

I thought this story was interesting and I really enjoyed the time period. I also liked how the Point Of View jumped between the family members. However, I only really liked the story, I didn't fall in love with it.
