

Chapter 1 : CRUISING ON THE PARIS METRO – the gay locals

The Young Men of Paris is a fictional account of the sad, starving, tubercular, drunken, drugged-up, girl-crazy, life of Amadeo Modigliani. the painter of the famously elongated portraits. His rare sales in in turn-of-the century Paris netted him a few francs.

Public safety Other Everyone knows la douce France: More tourists 60 million a year visit France than any country in the world by far. Indeed, the Germans have a saying, not altogether reassuring for the French: But there is another growing, and much less reassuring, side to France. I go to Paris about four times a year and thus have a sense of the evolving preoccupations of the French middle classes. A few years ago it was schools: For the last couple of years, though, it has been crime: Everyone has a tale to tell, and no dinner party is complete without a horrifying story. Every crime, one senses, means a vote for Le Pen or whoever replaces him. Three youths – Rumanians – were attempting quite openly to break into a parking meter with large screwdrivers to steal the coins. The youths behaved as if they were simply pursuing a normal and legitimate activity, with nothing to fear. Eventually, two women in their sixties told them to stop. The youths, laughing until then, turned murderously angry, insulted the women, and brandished their screwdrivers. They berated him still more threateningly, one of them holding a screwdriver as if to stab him in the stomach. I moved forward to help the man, but the youths, still shouting abuse and genuinely outraged at being interrupted in the pursuit of their livelihood, decided to run off. But it all could have ended very differently. Several things struck me about the incident: Could it be that only they had a view of right and wrong clear enough to wish to intervene? That everyone younger than they thought something like: The real criminals, indeed, were the drivers whose coins filled the parking meters: Another motive for inaction was that, had the youths been arrested, nothing would have happened to them. They would have been back on the streets within the hour. Who would risk a screwdriver in the liver to safeguard the parking meters of Paris for an hour? The laxisme of the French criminal justice system is now notorious. Judges often make remarks indicating their sympathy for the criminals they are trying based upon the usual generalizations about how society, not the criminal, is to blame ; and the day before I witnessed the scene on the Boulevard Saint-Germain, 8, police had marched to protest the release from prison on bail of an infamous career armed robber and suspected murderer before his trial for yet another armed robbery, in the course of which he shot someone in the head. Out on bail before this trial, he then burgled a house. Surprised by the police, he and his accomplices shot two of them dead and seriously wounded a third. The paper would no doubt have regarded the murder of a single journalist – that is to say, of a full human being – differently, let alone the murder of two journalists or six; and of course no one in the newspaper acknowledged that an effective police force is as vital a guarantee of personal freedom as a free press, and that the thin blue line that separates man from brutality is exactly that: This is not a decent thing for an intellectual to say, however true it might be. It is the private complaint of everyone, however, that the police have become impotent to suppress and detect crime. A Parisian acquaintance told me how one recent evening he had seen two criminals attack a car in which a woman was waiting for her husband. They smashed her side window and tried to grab her purse, but she resisted. My acquaintance went to her aid and managed to pin down one of the assailants, the other running off. My acquaintance said to the police that he would make a complaint. The senior among them advised him against wasting his time. At that time of night, there would be no one to complain to in the local commissariat. He would have to go the following day and would have to wait on line for three hours. He would have to return several times, with a long wait each time. And in the end, nothing would be done. As for the police, he added, they did not want to make an arrest in a case like this. There would be too much paperwork. And even if the case came to court, the judge would give no proper punishment. Moreover, such an arrest would retard their careers. The local police chiefs were paid by results – by the crime rates in their areas of jurisdiction. The last thing they wanted was for policemen to go around finding and recording crime. Not long afterward, I heard of another case in which the police simply refused to record the occurrence of a burglary, much less try to catch the culprits. Now crime and general disorder are making inroads into places where, not long ago, they were unheard of. At a peaceful and

prosperous village near Fontainebleau that I visited—the home of retired high officials and of a former cabinet minister—criminality had made its first appearance only two weeks before. A villager called the police, who said they could not come at the moment, but who politely called back half an hour later to find out how things were going. Two hours later still, they finally appeared, but the rodeo had moved on, leaving behind only the remains of a burned-out car. The blackened patch on the road was still visible when I visited. The official figures for this upsurge, doctored as they no doubt are, are sufficiently alarming. In , one crime was reported for every sixth inhabitant of Paris, and the rate has increased by at least 10 percent a year for the last five years. Reported cases of arson in France have increased 2, percent in seven years, from 1, in to 29, in ; robbery with violence rose by Where does the increase in crime come from? In these housing projects lives an immigrant population numbering several million, from North and West Africa mostly, along with their French-born descendants and a smattering of the least successful members of the French working class. From these projects, the excellence of the French public transport system ensures that the most fashionable arrondissements are within easy reach of the most inveterate thief and vandal. Architecturally, the housing projects sprang from the ideas of Le Corbusier, the Swiss totalitarian architect—and still the untouchable hero of architectural education in France—who believed that a house was a machine for living in, that areas of cities should be entirely separated from one another by their function, and that the straight line and the right angle held the key to wisdom, virtue, beauty, and efficiency. This plan has been drawn up well away from. It has been drawn up by serene and lucid minds. By the late eighties, however, the demand had evaporated, but the people whose labor had satisfied it had not; and together with their descendants and a constant influx of new hopefuls, they made the provision of cheap housing more necessary than ever. An apartment in this publicly owned housing is also known as a logement, a lodging, which aptly conveys the social status and degree of political influence of those expected to rent them. I recalled the words of an Afrikaner in South Africa, who explained to me the principle according to which only a single road connected black townships to the white cities: But they are huge and important—and what the visitor would find there, if he bothered to go, would terrify him. This alienation, this gulf of mistrust—greater than any I have encountered anywhere else in the world, including in the black townships of South Africa during the apartheid years—is written on the faces of the young men, most of them permanently unemployed, who hang out in the pocked and potholed open spaces between their logements. When you approach to speak to them, their immobile faces betray not a flicker of recognition of your shared humanity; they make no gesture to smooth social intercourse. If you are not one of them, you are against them. Their hatred of official France manifests itself in many ways that scar everything around them. There are burned-out and eviscerated carcasses of cars everywhere. The underground parking lot, charred and blackened by smoke like a vault in an urban hell, is permanently closed. The police are hated: The conduct of the police, he said, explained why residents threw Molotov cocktails at them from their windows. Who could tolerate such treatment at the hands of une police fasciste? The two dignitaries had to beat a swift and ignominious retreat, like foreign overlords visiting a barely held and hostile suzerainty: Of course, they also expect him to be treated as well as anyone else, and in this expectation they reveal the bad faith, or at least ambivalence, of their stance toward the society around them. They are certainly not poor, at least by the standards of all previously existing societies: They believe they have rights, and they know they will receive medical treatment, however they behave. But this is not a cause of gratitude—on the contrary: But like all human beings, they want the respect and approval of others, even—or rather especially—of the people who carelessly toss them the crumbs of Western prosperity. They therefore come to believe in the malevolence of those who maintain them in their limbo: It is better to be opposed by an enemy than to be adrift in meaninglessness, for the simulacrum of an enemy lends purpose to actions whose nihilism would otherwise be self-evident. That is one of the reasons that, when I approached groups of young men in Les Musiciens, many of them were not just suspicious though it was soon clear to them that I was no member of the enemy , but hostile. When a young man of African origin agreed to speak to me, his fellows kept interrupting menacingly. The young man was nervous, too: To assure the immigrants that they and their offspring are potentially or already truly French, the streets are named for French cultural heroes: Fine as these two poets are, theirs are not names one would associate with kindergartens, let alone with concrete bunkers.

But the heroic French names point to a deeper official ambivalence. The French state is torn between two approaches: By compulsion of the ministry of education, the historiography that the schools purvey is that of the triumph of the unifying, rational, and benevolent French state through the ages, from Colbert onward, and Muslim girls are not allowed to wear headscarves in schools. And if intellectuals, highly trained in the Western tradition, are prepared to praise such degraded and brutal pornography, it is hardly surprising that those who are not so trained come to the conclusion that there cannot be anything of value in that tradition. Cowardly multiculturalism thus makes itself the handmaiden of anti-Western extremism. The imprimatur of the intellectuals and of the French cultural bureaucracy no doubt encourages them to believe that they are doing something worthwhile. But when life begins to imitate art, and terrible gang-rapes occur with increasing frequency, the same official France becomes puzzled and alarmed. What should it make of the 18 young men and two young women currently being tried in Pontoise for allegedly abducting a girl of 15 and for four months raping her repeatedly in basements, stairwells, and squats? Many of the group seem not merely unrepentant or unashamed but proud. Indeed, French youth unemployment is among the highest in Europe—and higher the further you descend the social scale, largely because high minimum wages, payroll taxes, and labor protection laws make employers loath to hire those whom they cannot easily fire, and whom they must pay beyond what their skills are worth. Everyone acknowledges that unemployment, particularly of the permanent kind, is deeply destructive, and that the devil really does find work for idle hands; but the higher up the social scale you ascend, the more firmly fixed is the idea that the labor-market rigidities that encourage unemployment are essential both to distinguish France from the supposed savagery of the Anglo-Saxon neo-liberal model one soon learns from reading the French newspapers what Anglo-Saxon connotes in this context, and to protect the downtrodden from exploitation. But the labor-market rigidities protect those who least need protection, while condemning the most vulnerable to utter hopelessness: It requires little imagination to see how, in the circumstances, the burden of unemployment should fall disproportionately on immigrants and their children:

Chapter 2 : YMCA - Wikipedia

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For the last years, a revolution has come up in the peaceful elegant and bourgeois Parisian sky. Then, his first hand Anne Hidalgo, became the first woman to be elected mayor of Paris. Every year, Gay Pride March gathered nearly people in the streets. In a France which is going rather conservative, Paris remains the city of freedom and tolerance. The gay district is set in the historical center known as "Le Marais". It is one of the most fashionable districts, and most expensive to live in too. With an open attitude to all foreign visitors, Paris has now one of the biggest gay scene in Europe with over gay places to go out, hundreds of excellent gay-friendly restaurants and bars, and more and more opportunities to be guided and welcomed in the beautiful historic center. Fifteen years ago, the Gay community was not yet centered in the Marais. Many remain, though, and new places open all the time. Among younger Gay men the trend is to be thin, even waifish. As for the scene, clubbing in Paris is different than what you might be used to. Here everything starts late. A typical dinner is usually pretty casual, filled with lots of conversation, lasting at least two, usually three hours. So, unless home is within walking distance, someone drove, or taking a taxi is an option, we just stay at the club. This is also true when someone has a party. More and more the Lesbian sector of the community here is growing and thriving. There are one or two clubs that have been around a long time, but the last few years have seen an increase in clubs and restaurants specifically for Lesbians. Sex clubs have made a big comeback the last few years – very big. Paris has now the world record with around 20 sex clubs! Some are all-in-one places. You may be familiar with such places in the States, but you have never seen anything like the sex clubs in Paris! Large numbers of Gays and Lesbians from smaller towns around France and from other countries come to Paris to experience life in the big city. It is, after all, the center for the French-speaking world. With the advent of inexpensive travel, an easing of immigration laws, and the extension of the EU that has now 25 countries, Paris has become even more of a melting pot of cultures and nationalities. This is evident in the Gay community as well. So, in addition to French men and women, the community here is made up of just about any skin color, hair color, eye color, size, shape, and age you find attractive and interesting – all with adorable accents! Paris is pretty accepting of its Gay community. The French generally adopt a live-and-let-live view of the Gays. In they created the PACS, a civil union for straight or gay people. A large part of his support came from the 3rd and 4th Arrondissements, but it still took the majority of mainstream Paris to put him in office. Even more telling is the fact that his sexual orientation was never made an issue in the campaign and rarely mentioned, by either side. The turnout of people from all over Europe, Gay and straight, is enormous. Paris is a great city for Gay and Lesbian residents and for Gay visitors as well! In May, France elected a new liberal-conservative president, Nicolas Sarkozy. Among the many subjects that are listed as political issues, gay marriage is a very serious one. But she lost and despite a more open minded attitude towards gay issues, the french right wing was not ready for gay marriage. Today France follows Denmark, Holland, Belgium, Spain and England as one of the many European countries that have legalized gay marriage. From the top of the hills of Montmartre, to the luscious Luxembourg Gardens, to the bridges on the Seine with jaw-dropping views of the city, Paris is just oozing with romantic spots. We know that you are a savvy, sophisticated traveler, and you gravitate to the coolest places, but we invite you to indulge your inner tourist a little and fulfill some of the Paris stereotypes like climbing to the top of the Eiffel Tower, sipping cheap Champagne while watching the tacky but fun Moulin Rouge show, or having a street artist draw a caricature of you and your lover at the Place du Tertre in Montmartre. The best place to start is to search the comprehensive list of gay and gay-friendly hotels listed on www. From charming, inexpensive small hotels to penthouse suites in chic boutique hotels, you will find many wonderful options here. One of the only four-star hotels in the Marais, Pavillon de la Reine, is tucked away in an ancient courtyard in front of the handsome Place des Vosges Square. The hotel speaks quiet elegance and 54 individually decorated rooms and suites are accompanied by a newly opened Carita Spa for the ultimate in relaxation. A more rustic choice would be

Hotel de la Bretonnerie in the heart of the gay Marais, housed in a former 17th-century private mansion. Ask for the attic rooms with slanted ceilings and wooden beams. If you are in a more uptown mood, the Hotel Costes on the rue St. Honore the designer paradise shopping street is a hip, happening hotel where the very stylish stay during Paris Fashion Week. The sumptuous Napoleon III-style rooms by Jacques Garcia are dark and elegant and the lobby bar is the place to be seen. Linger over a long lunch in the fab open terrace restaurant and purchase one of their music CDs specially mixed for the hotel by hot DJ Stephane Pompougnac. Get the star treatment like other famous guests Princess Grace, Frank Sinatra, and Elizabeth Taylor with a one-star Michelin restaurant, pool and hammam for hotel guests only, and personalized service. Get under the sheets with Christian Lacroix who designed the whimsical rooms at the conveniently located Bellechasse Hotel, across from the Musee Orsay. The seven categories of rooms have names like St. Request a room that has a white, shiny bathtub in the center of it. Bateaux Parisiens fulfills the dream with three-course dinners plus wine and Champagne on a sleek, modern boat. Less intimate, but just as romantic, are the minute Bateaux Mouches cruises, which run every 20 minutes from For a very special voyage, the Romantic Refuge is a tastefully refurbished barge available for private dinner or lunch parties for up to eight people. A private chef cooking an all-organic menu will cater to your every whim, and the unlimited organic wine will be flowing. Truffle hounds will go crazy over the sinful, velvety truffles lightly dusted with cocoa at Jean Charles Rochoux, a tiny shop on the Left Bank. Parisians take their pastries very seriously, and there are many players in the high stakes Paris pastry world. Fans line up single file at the minimalist boutique for his famous macarons in traditional flavors like raspberry, coffee, and lemon and unusual combinations like strawberry and wasabi, passion fruit and milk chocolate, and white truffle and hazelnut. Meanwhile, Legay Choc boulangerie and patisserie bakes its naughty Baguette Magique, a creative brioche sculpted like a penis, once a week. If chocolate and pastry ever had an official house of worship, Jacques Genin would be it. Anne Fontaine, famous for her shops filled with pristine white blouses, has opened her first spa in Paris. Anne was baptized in the rainforests of the Amazon so her treatments have a South American theme to them. Your body will feel like swaying to the samba beat after The Girl from Ipanema package with a guarana scrub, coconut massage, and invigorating seawater bath. Il Fait Beau in the Marais is a day spa and well-being space dedicated to the beauty of men. Hot stone and aromatherapy massages, seaweed and mud wraps, light hair removal, and mani-pedis are just a few of the choices from the large menu of treatments. Are you missing your workout and feeling a little flabby after eating so many buttery croissants? Drop in for a quick Power Plate session to tone your abs. Indulge yourself with five-star luxury and haute couture service with an anti-jet lag facial, a detox energy treatment, or the reviving leg treatment, which will resuscitate your weary shopping legs. Are you intimidated a bit by the big museum experience? Paris has many excellent small museums, with some located in former private homes. The Carnavalet is the museum of the history of Paris and is housed in a magnificent 17th-century palace, along with some stunning formal gardens. For sculpture, nothing compares to the black and white marble figures masterfully carved by the great Rodin, including his most recognized work, The Thinker. The mostly outdoor museum is famous for its lush green gardens, an amazing untouched oasis in the middle of the city. A not-so-well-known gem is the Marmottan Museum, the former hunting lodge of the Duke of Valmy, which has the largest collection in the world of Monet paintings under one roof. Galerie NEC, one of the top Marais galleries, has two spaces, one dedicated to museum-quality, Scandinavian, mid-century modern furniture and a newly opened space for contemporary art with a focus on modern ceramics. The Palais de Tokyo is a fun, multi-cultural space with modern art installations, art bookshop, concept museum shop, and trendy restaurant. When it comes to romance, one of your fondest memories could be an unforgettable meal. If a restaurant with a view means romance to you, here are two of our top choices. With excellent contemporary cuisine, we recommend going at night for dinner so you can witness the astonishing sparkling lights on the tower, which flash every hour on the hour. Georges, atop the Pompidou Centre, has some of the most impressive views and is a sleek, modern affair with eclectic food. Go at dusk and put on your chicest outfit because there is some serious people-watching going on. Rue de Gravilliers, a small, gritty street, is practically monopolized by three trendy, cool establishments. Chef Julien Agobert, who worked in some of the top hotels and restaurants like Plaza Athenee and Le Laurent, surprises with his unusual presentation and tantalizes the

taste buds with winning pairings of world cuisine. Vegetarians can rejoice with the Rose Bakery, a casual organic restaurant and takeout food shop with homemade vegetable tarts, minipizzas, and American-style desserts. One could easily be overwhelmed by the number of great restaurants from which to choose, so we have the perfect solution: Working with semi-precious stones, black pearls, silver, and gold, the jewelry is rugged and masculine but finely crafted. Two concept store must-visits are Colette and Merci. Colette practically invented the concept store over ten years ago with two floors of innovative books, CDs and DVDs, techno gadgets, high fashion, jewelry, sneakers, and skateboards along with a restaurant and water bar with over 50 types of bottled water. If fetish wear is your thing, Rex has a full supply of black leather and rubber along with, believe it or not, a large selection of Fred Perry shirts. Thinking of getting an Eiffel Tower tattoo? Get inked at Abraxas tattoo and piercing boutique. Tables outdoors serve simple food like burgers, salads, and sandwiches and inside is small and crowded with a mostly standing room bar. Cox is more hardcore and cruises with a Chelsea boy and beer drinking crowd. After that, the club turns into an all out disco with a DJ. Seine river cruises that run all day till 11 P. Romantic Seine dinner cruises with Champagne. Croix de la Bretonnerie.

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It was either an arranged marriage, working as a governess, or the convent for them. If it was independence they desired, they would have to play their cards right, exploit their sexual prowess, engage in pursuits of pleasure, and become ladies of the night who hunt their men down for fun. In the 16th century, courtesans became a symbol of sexual liberty, beauty, and audacity. Scandal was their middle name, but one cannot compare them with the average light-skirt. Living in decadence, these temptresses were no victims. As a matter of fact, they often sacrificed their lovers in the name of lust and financial gain. These ambitious, manipulative, and shrewd high-flyers were experienced social climbers. Courtesans charged for their love by the hour; it was business first and pleasure later. Mistresses, on the other hand, gave away their love willingly, while a courtesan in love could no longer call herself a courtesan. Petersburg, Liane de Puggy was a Belle Epoque courtesan and a bisexual whose openness toward her sexual ambitions thrilled 19th-century French society. Born Anne Marie Chassaigne in , she was raised in a convent from which she managed to escape via marriage at age In her memoirs, she accused her husband of having abused her. Whether it is true or not, what is certain is that she found consolation in the hands of another man, Marquis Charles de MacMahon. Her husband accidentally walked in on them and shot at them both but only managed to scratch Liane. It was the moment she was waiting for; she abandoned her husband and son by him and never looked back. Aged 18, she began her career as a French courtesan and ensured her place at Folies Bergere when she asked the Prince of Wales to attend her debut. Liane was not afraid to show off her assets and took great pride in her skills. Her honesty and elegance earned her the name of notre courtisane nationale our national courtesan. Liane wrote about the relationship in her book, Idylle Saphique, describing Natalie as the love of her life. As Liane grew older, she got involved in longer-lasting relationships. In , Liane married a Romanian prince, George Ghika, continuing her bisexual affairs to spice things up. To end her career, she returned to the nunnery, where she helped children with birth defects. He would not be disappointed. One lady in particular drew his attention, so he made arrangements to meet her. She had been advised to behave with decency, but she knew better. After arriving 45 minutes late not by accident , she was introduced to the already infuriated prince. Immediately, she dropped her velvet robe to the ground to reveal her most prized possessions. Reprimanded, she simply replied. I showed him the best I have, and it was free! Giulia once told an army colonel that she would only sleep with him if he would parade naked in front of her house, which he did , riding a horse at the head of his troops. Her Italian charm, determination, and childlike spontaneity won her the hearts of many men. She kept her visiting cards in a china bowl by the fireplace, which is said to have contained the names of just about every man in high society at the time. The Fiercely Independent Courtesan Photo via Wikipedia In 16th-century Venice, a young, well-educated woman caused quite a stir among noblemen at high courts. The daughter of adored Venetian courtesan Paola Fracassa, the profession ran through her veins. Veronica Franco was born in ; her mother taught her the trade. Her brothers provided excellent education in Greek and Latin, and she played the lute, all imperative skills if she were to succeed in her pursuits. In the early s, she married Paolo Panizzo. It was an unhappy marriage, and the couple soon separated. Veronica asked her dowry to be returned to her. From then on, she became an independent woman who supported herself and her six children by different men. She mastered the art of lovemaking and charged a pretty penny for it, too. Rich men became her protectors, offering her a life of luxury and decadence. Among them was Domenico Venier, who held the most influential literary salons in 16th-century Venice. She had an affair with King Henri III of France and painter Jacopo Tintoretto and was often found wandering around privileged circles of politicians, poets, artists, and philosophers. She eventually gave up courtesanship, and it is said that she later regretted the choices she had made. She retired into literature and wrote two volumes of poetry: Terze rime and Lettere familiari a diversi, the latter being a collection of 50 love letters she wrote to her lovers, including Henri III of France. During the

plague, Veronica left Venice only to return and find her home plundered by thieves. She was accused of witchcraft and immorality by the Inquisition court, but the charges were dropped after one of her patrons came to her aid. Losing her fortune, she slowly descended into poverty and died in a ruined part of the city at age 37. Her life story is depicted in the movie *Dangerous Beauty*. Marie Duplessis was born in 1812 from a poor family and was forced to beg on the streets from a young age. Her father thought it best to put her beauty to good use and sold her to an elderly man, with whom she lived, when she was only 14. By the time she was 16 and working as a seamstress, she realized there was much to gain if she accompanied wealthy men, both in the bedroom and in high society. She started off as a mistress to young students and was initiated in courtesanship by Duc de Guiche. Marie was a petite woman with an enchanting smile and a great sense for fashion and elegance. Her candor made her even more attractive. Despite her humble background, she educated herself and owned as many as 100 books in her personal library. Her wits and ambition propelled her to the courts of Paris, where she became one of the greatest 19th-century French courtesans. Throughout her life, Count de Stackelberg was her sugar daddy, a wealthy man much older than Marie who took a fancy to her because she reminded him of his departed daughter. Around 1840, she met Franz Liszt, who gave her piano lessons, both literally and figuratively speaking. By this time, she was already ill with consumption, also known as tuberculosis. Charles Dickens himself attended the lavish funeral along with the cream of French society at the time. Although the affair barely lasted a year, he immortalized young Marie in his novel, *La Dame aux Camillas*, published six months after her death. Dumas turned his book into a play. On the opening night, Giuseppe Verdi stood in the audience. Moved by the story, he wrote *La Traviata*. The novel was called *Nana*, and Zola portrays the titular character as a wicked human animal, destroying everyone and everything around her. Her physique, her attitude toward men, her clawing her way through high society, and her painful death at a young age make her a perfect match. When she was only 14, she left a convent and traveled to Romania with an aristocrat, returned to Paris, joined a circus, and then traveled to St. Petersburg alongside a Russian police chief. She did rise from being a streetwalker to entertaining some of the most influential men in Paris, and it is said that her total number of lovers defies calculation. However, Zola never even met her, and he wrote his story after her death. Blanche did indeed have a taste for extravagance, throwing lavish parties and making public appearances draped in diamonds, but perhaps one of her greatest charms, not mentioned in the book, was her gullibility. After making love, she would fall into such a heavy sleep that her lovers could simply leave her bed without compensating her. Later in life, she fell madly in love with a poor tenor by the name of Luce and left her wealthy sugar daddy to be with him. She was faithful to Luce for two years until he died of tuberculosis, during which time she lost her fortune and was forced to live in modesty. She managed to bring British aristocracy to its knees. The skill ran in the family; both her sisters were courtesans. She entertained her men at the opera, surrounded by statesmen, aristocrats, poets, national heroes, and students. She was both talented in bed and financially. Harriette had a distinctive operating mode: She would choose a mark and write a passionate letter to lure him. Once the two became lovers, she would try to blackmail her lover. In her mid thirties, she retired from courtesanship and began writing her memoirs. It was yet another business deal. Together with her publisher, Joseph Stockdale, she contacted her former lovers, presenting them with two choices: It was the cold revenge of a courtesan. In her memoirs, she revised her chapters depending on how much her former lovers paid for her discretion. For a fat sum, she even offered to depict them in the most favorable light. Virginia Oldoini was a ravenous beauty with long brown hair and blue eyes. Born of noble parents in 1812, she received an excellent education and could speak several languages. At 16, she became mistress to naval officer Marquis Doria. One year later, her parents threw her into an arranged marriage with Count Castiglione. She had a child by him, but she was nowhere near the obedient, faithful wife he had hoped for. In her mission, she seduced Louis Napoleon, the French emperor, and was quite the sensation at the French court. Johann Strauss once stopped a recital because he was stunned by her beauty when she entered the room. Her string of lovers did not end there; Richard Seymour Conway offered one million francs for 12 hours in her company. Countess Castiglione, as she liked to be called, has a legacy that goes far beyond her courtesan skills.

Chapter 4 : 50 Famous Quotes About Paris - EcoSalon

The Paris market introduced a whole slew of unknown faces booking scores of first-timers to "exclusives". These 10 young men below were the ones that shone across the board proving their versatility with a myriad of the blue chip designers. Some may be slightly familiar but Paris F/W 09 took.

Beginnings[edit] Tablet on the YMCA in Montreal With regard to the history and purpose of the founding, this "organization and its female counterpart YWCA were established to provide low-cost housing in a safe Christian environment for rural young men and women journeying to the cities. The YMCA "combined preaching in the streets and the distribution of religious tracts with a social ministry. Philanthropists saw them as places for wholesome recreation that would preserve youth from the temptations of alcohol, gambling, and prostitution and that would promote good citizenship. He and his colleagues were concerned about the lack of healthy activities for young men in major cities; the options available were usually taverns and brothels. They discussed joining together in a federation to enhance cooperation amongst individual YMCA societies. The concept of physical work through sports, a new concept for the time, was also recognized as part of this " muscular Christianity ". Two themes resonated during the council: The former idea is expressed in the preamble: In , the YMCA became the first national organization to adopt a strict policy of equal gender representation in committees and national boards, with Norway being the country that first adopted it. Sanford and Sumner F. Dudley, both of whom worked for the YMCA. Paul became the first Indian national general secretary of India. Paul had started rural development programmes for self-reliance of marginal farmers, through co-operatives and credit societies. These programmes became very popular. The method also became very popular, and in , it led to the founding of the Chinese National Association of the Mass Education Movement. They set up War Prisoners Aid to support prisoners of war by providing sports equipment, musical instruments, art materials, radios, gramophones , eating utensils, and other items. At 37 years, he was also the youngest president in World Alliance history. In the YMCA developed the first nationally organized scuba diving course and certified their first skin and scuba diving instructors. It reaffirmed the Paris Basis and adopted a declaration of principles, known as the Kampala Principles. It stated what had become obvious in most national YMCAs; a global viewpoint was more necessary, and that in doing so, the YMCAs would have to take political stands, especially so in international challenges. Affirming the Paris Basis adopted in , as the ongoing foundation statement of the mission of the YMCA, at the threshold of the third millennium, we declare that the YMCA is a worldwide Christian, ecumenical, voluntary movement for women and men with special emphasis on and the genuine involvement of young people and that it seeks to share the Christian ideal of building a human community of justice with love, peace and reconciliation for the fullness of life for all creation. A plaque hanging in a YMCA communicating the goals of the organization Each member YMCA is therefore called to focus on certain challenges which will be prioritized according to its own context. These principles are an evolution of the Kampala Principles Sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and striving for spiritual, intellectual and physical well-being of individuals and wholeness of communities. Empowering all to take increased responsibilities and assume leadership at all levels and working towards an equitable society. Advocating for and promoting the rights of and upholding the rights of children. Fostering dialogue and partnership between people of different faiths and ideologies and recognizing the cultural identities of people and promoting cultural renewal. Committing to work in solidarity with the poor, dispossessed, uprooted people and oppressed racial, religious and ethnic minorities. Seeking to be mediators and reconciles in situations of conflict and working for meaningful participation and advancement of people for their own self-determination. To face these challenges, the YMCA will develop patterns of co-operation at all levels that enable self-sustenance and self-determination. Organizational model[edit] A federated model of governance has created a diversity of YMCA programmes and services, with YMCAs in different countries and communities offering vastly different programming in response to local community needs. Financial support for local associations is derived from programme fees, membership dues, community chests, foundation grants, charitable contributions, sustaining memberships, and corporate sponsors. The circular emblem is

made up of five segments, one for each continent. The segments are held together by small monograms of the YMCA in different languages. As early as , YMCA leaders believed the Movement could be truly international and united across borders. This was to remind YMCAs that Christ is at the centre of the Movement, a source of strength, hope and unity, binding them all together. These chapels are often used for prayer meetings , worship services , and Bible studies. Around six years after its birth, an international YMCA conference in Paris decided that the objective of the organization should become " Christian discipleship developed through a programme of religious, educational, social and physical activities" Binfield The universities offer a wide variety of courses on different levels. It had a year lease on the site, and it was only when it expired that the college moved to East Lansing, Michigan. YMCA pioneered the concept of night school , providing educational opportunities for people with full-time employment. It offers various programme-related to science and engineering. American high school students have a chance to participate in YMCA Youth and Government , wherein clubs of kids representing each YMCA community convene annually in their respective state legislatures to "take over the State Capitol for a day. This program is used to help low-income students who are struggling in school complete their homework with help from tutors and receive a snack as well as a safe place to be after school. Y Learning operates under the main mission of bridging achievements gaps and providing essential resources to help underprivileged students thrive in school. Naismith had been asked to invent a new game in an attempt to interest pupils in physical exercise. The game had to be interesting, easy to learn, and easy to play indoors in winter. Naismith and his wife attended the Summer Olympics when basketball was one of the Olympic events. In William G. Morgan from the YMCA of Holyoke, Massachusetts , invented the sport of volleyball as a slower paced alternative sport, in which the older Y members could participate. In fact, many popular sports were actually invented at YMCAs around the country. Basketball, volleyball and racquetball are all Y inventions. James Naismith, a clergyman, educator and physician. Luther Gulick, the head of the Springfield Y, gave Naismith two weeks to come up with a game to occupy a particularly incorrigible group. Naismith decided the game had to be physically active, simple to understand and would have minimal physical roughness. The original game was played with a soccer ball and two peach baskets nailed to the balcony of the Springfield Y. The game was an immediate hit, although originally the baskets still had their bottoms, and the ball had to be manually retrieved after each score, considerably slowing play. It was mostly a passing game, and dribbling did not become a major part of the game until much later, when the ball was improved to its present form. Basketball continues to be one of the most popular sports at the Auburn Y, as witnessed by a glance at the gym at any time of the day or week. In fact, a claim to fame of the Auburn Y is that it holds the record for the longest running church basketball league in the nation - 80 continuous years. From to , Cayuga County churches fielded teams to compete in basketball at the Y and in local church gyms. Throngs of spectators crowded into the gyms to cheer the players on. Racquetball[edit] Racquetball is another Y-invented sport. Joseph Sobek, a tennis, handball and squash player who worked in a rubber manufacturing factory, was dissatisfied with the options for indoor sports in Greenwich, Conn. Many YMCAs throughout the world still maintain residences as an integral part of the programming. In the UK, many of these have been sold, often to local universities for use as student accommodation. YMCAs in the UK are still known predominantly as organizations that provide accommodation for vulnerable and homeless young people. Across the UK the YMCA provides over 8, bed spaces, and is thus one of the largest providers of safe supported accommodation for young people. The vast majority of this accommodation is supported by a range of personal, social and educational services. Notice the old logo on the building and the new logos on the posters. Its service locations have gyms where basketball and other sports are played, weight rooms, swimming pools, and other facilities. It is important to the Y that all personsâ€™"regardless of age, income or background"â€™"can participate in Y programs. The goal of the YMCA is to "strengthen communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. According to the Y, its "anchoring" in 10, communities, the numerous long-standing relationships it has developed, and its physical presence allows it "not just to promise, but to deliver, lasting personal and social change. It is located in Chicago. Together, they serve 2 million people in more than communities across Canada - and they keep growing. The YMCA in Canada is dedicated to the growth of all persons in spirit,

mind and body, and to their sense of responsibility to each other and the global community.

Chapter 5 : 10 High-Class Courtesans Who Played Their Clients Like Fiddles - Listverse

Profiles of the men suspected of carrying out the attacks in Paris, in which people were killed. He went with his older brother Karim at the end of and eight other young men from the.

But have you ever wondered if life in Paris at that time really was as miserable as the movie depicts? Here are ten reasons why it was even worse: The world was most certainly not their oyster: And each occupation brought with it a distinct set of challenges. Prostitutes were of course viewed as the lowest of all, and they often suffered from police persecution. But even more shocking than that was the fact that many women were actually falsely accused of prostitution. Many such women were domestic servants, accused by the wives of the families they worked for after being seduced by the husbands. Women were also regularly charged with slander and public drunkenness. Neither crime is gender-specificâ€”but only in women was the behavior deemed criminal. The lucky ones were dropped off at state-run hospices, where they usually remained until they turned twenty-five. At the hospices the children were given the basic necessities: No education was providedâ€”and due to severe overcrowding, very little attention was paid to each child. The even unluckier children were forced to live on the streets and fend for themselves. In these cases, children turned to begging and thievery in order to survive. If they were arguably a little luckier, they would be taken in by strangers â€”much like Cosette in *Les Mis* â€” in which case they would often be forced to perform heavy labor. They were usually given minimal food and shelter, and would be mistreated or neglected on a regular basis. But the unluckiest children of all were forced to turn to: The young girlsâ€”usually pre-pubescentâ€”were forced into sexual encounters by men of the upper classes, and were usually paid as little as a single franc. Usually the act was consummated in a back alley or under a bridge. Left destitute and alone, the girl would then become a full-time streetwalker. Crime was admittedly everywhere in nineteenth century Paris, and real criminals were certainly dangerous. Parisian menâ€”especially unskilled laborersâ€”suffered high rates of mortality due to accidents on shipping docks, in workshops and on construction sites. Along with these dangerous work conditions, men had to contend with dangerous rivalries between workers from different regions in France. If for example a worker from Saint Georges happened to find himself working on the same construction site as a worker from Montparnasse, the result could be a deadly. Many men were also forced into military service. Those few who survived for long would be prevented from marrying while they served by poor pay and strict army regulations. These apartments had no running water and no indoor plumbing â€”and the nearest restroom was often on the streets outside. In the outskirts of Paris, families would often share huts with their livestock. The family and livestock used the same entrance to the hut, but were divided by a partition that separated the animals from a room that served as both the kitchen and bedroom. A loft that hung above the kitchen was used to dry out the animal feed. The feed would be spread across a plank floor, meaning that bits of seed and straw would frequently drop down onto the kitchen table where the family ate their meals. The sewage smell was made spicier by inescapable body odors , for it was often too cold or too inconvenient to bathe. Doctors found it difficult to diagnose the disease. The symptoms included everything from high fevers to chest pains and vomiting to headaches, and the disease could leave its victims bedridden in a matter of hours. The cholera epidemic of lasted six months, and resulted in 19, deaths. In fact, what would be considered morbid today merely piqued the curiosity of many Parisians, who relished the most frightening tales of slaughter as much as they enjoyed the gruesome spectacle. In no instance is this more apparent than the popularity of the Paris Morgue. Built in , the Paris Morgue was the place where the bodies of the unidentified deadâ€”many of them suicide casesâ€”were displayed on marble slabs for friends or family to identify. The morgue soon became a fixture for Parisians, with tens or even hundreds of people shuffling into the room to gawk at the dead and gossip over their cause of death. The Reign of Terror took place between June and July , as French revolutionaries struggled to secure their power after the overthrow of the monarchy. Paris was thrown into chaos , and the new government into a state of utter paranoia. Commoners, intellectuals, politicians and prostitutesâ€”nobody was safe from the Terror. The final death toll for this most miserable of periods is thought to have been between 16, and 40,

Chapter 6 : Paris riots after black teen allegedly sodomized by police officer with baton - CBS News

PARIS "The young men who checked into the rental house in Bobigny before the Paris attacks were well-mannered and well-dressed. In town for business, they said. The men paid euros a night.

History[edit] Rome for many centuries had been the goal of pilgrims, especially during Jubilee when they visited the Seven Pilgrim Churches of Rome. According to the Oxford English Dictionary , the first recorded use of the term perhaps its introduction to English was by Richard Lassels c. A view of Geneva is in the distance where they stayed for two years. Painted by Jean Preudhomme in The idea of travelling for the sake of curiosity and learning was a developing idea in the 17th century. Thus, one could "use up" the environment, taking from it all it offers, requiring a change of place. Travel, therefore, was necessary for one to develop the mind and expand knowledge of the world. As a young man at the outset of his account of a repeat Grand Tour, the historian Edward Gibbon remarked that "According to the law of custom, and perhaps of reason, foreign travel completes the education of an English gentleman. Grand Tourists would return with crates full of books, works of art, scientific instruments, and cultural artefacts " from snuff boxes and paperweights, to altars, fountains, and statuary " to be displayed in libraries, cabinets , gardens, drawing rooms , and galleries built for that purpose. The trappings of the Grand Tour, especially portraits of the traveller painted in continental settings, became the obligatory emblems of worldliness, gravitas and influence. Artists who particularly thrived on the Grand Tour market included Carlo Maratti , who was first patronised by John Evelyn as early as , [8] Pompeo Batoni the portraitist , and the vedutisti such as Canaletto , Pannini and Guardi. The less well-off could return with an album of Piranesi etchings. Northerners found the contrast between Roman ruins and modern peasants of the Roman Campagna an educational lesson in vanities [citation needed] painting by Nicolaes Pietersz Berchem , , Mauritshuis Also worth noticing is that the Grand Tour not only fostered stereotypes of the countries visited but also led to a dynamic of contrast between northern and southern Europe. By constantly depicting Italy as a "picturesque place", the travellers also unconsciously degraded Italy as a place of backwardness. During much of the 19th century, most educated young men of privilege undertook the Grand Tour. Germany and Switzerland came to be included in a more broadly defined circuit. It should be noted that British travellers were far from alone on the roads of Europe. On the contrary, from the mid 17th century the grand tour was established as an ideal way to finish off the education of young men in countries such as Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and Sweden. After studies at one or two renowned universities, preferably those of Leiden and Heidelberg, the Swedish grand tourists set off to France and Italy, where they spent time in Paris, Rome and Venice and completed the original grand tour on the French countryside. Upon hiring a French-speaking guide, as French was the dominant language of the elite in Europe during the 17th and 18th centuries, the tourist and his entourage would travel to Paris. There the traveller might undertake lessons in French, dancing , fencing , and riding. The appeal of Paris lay in the sophisticated language and manners of French high society, including courtly behavior and fashion. This served the purpose of preparing the young man for a leadership position at home, often in government or diplomacy. Robert Spencer, 2nd Earl of Sunderland " , painted in classical dress in Rome by Carlo Maratti From Paris he would typically go to urban Switzerland for a while, often to Geneva the cradle of the Protestant Reformation or Lausanne. From there the traveller would endure a difficult crossing over the Alps into northern Italy such as at the Great St Bernard Pass , which included dismantling the carriage and luggage. Once in Italy, the tourist would visit Turin and, less often, Milan , then might spend a few months in Florence , where there was a considerable Anglo-Italian society accessible to travelling Englishmen "of quality" and where the Tribuna of the Uffizi gallery brought together in one space the monuments of High Renaissance paintings and Roman sculptures that would inspire picture galleries adorned with antiquities at home, with side trips to Pisa , then move on to Padua , [18] Bologna , and Venice. The British idea of Venice as the "locus of decadent Italianate allure" made it an epitome and cultural setpiece of the Grand Tour. Some travellers also visited Naples to study music, and after the mid 17th century to appreciate the recently discovered archaeological sites of Herculaneum and Pompeii , [21] and perhaps for the adventurous an ascent of Mount Vesuvius. Later

in the period the more adventurous, especially if provided with a yacht, might attempt Sicily the site of Greek ruins, Malta [22] or even Greece itself. But Naples or later Paestum further south was the usual terminus. From here the traveller traversed the Alps heading north through to the German-speaking parts of Europe. The traveller might stop first in Innsbruck before visiting Vienna, Dresden, Berlin and Potsdam, with perhaps some study time at the universities in Munich or Heidelberg. From there travellers visited Holland and Flanders with more gallery-going and art appreciation before returning across the Channel to England. Examining some accounts offered by authors in their own lifetimes, Jeremy Black [23] detects the element of literary artifice in these and cautions that they should be approached as travel literature rather than unvarnished accounts. Although Italy was written as the "sink of iniquity," many travelers were not kept from recording the activities they participated in or the people they met, especially the women they encountered. To the Grand Tourists, Italy was an unconventional country, for "The shameless women of Venice made it unusual, in its own way. James Boswell courted noble ladies and recorded his progress with his relationships, mentioning that Madame Micheli "Talked of religion, philosophy; Kissed hand often. Boswell notes "Yesterday morning with her. Pulled up petticoat and showed whole knees; Touched with her goodness. All other liberties exquisite. Set mainly in Venice, it portrayed the Grand Tour as a rite of passage. Ostensibly an art history series, the journey takes her from Madrid to Saint Petersburg with stop-offs to see the great masterpieces. The Amazon motoring programme The Grand Tour is named after the traditional Grand Tour, and refers to the show being set in a different location worldwide each week.

Chapter 7 : Paris attacks: Who were the attackers? - BBC News

In the city elections the people of Paris put an openly Gay man in the mayor's office, Bertrand Delanoë. A large part of his support came from the 3rd and 4th Arrondissements, but it still took the majority of mainstream Paris to put him in office.

When good Americans die, they go to Paris. This is the invisible constant in a place with which the ordinary tourist can get in touch just by sitting quite quietly over a glass of wine in a Paris bistro. Just like Italy, Spain or Iran are the best places to pick saffron. If you want to pick opium poppies you go to Burma or South-East Asia. And if you want to pick novel ideas, you go to Paris. Because you look around and every street, every boulevard, is its own special art form and when you think that in the cold, violent, meaningless universe that Paris exists, these lights. For all we know, Paris is the hottest spot in the universe. Paris is a seminar, a post-graduate course in everything. Paris is an explanation. Paris has ways of making people forget. No, not this city. It never lets you forget anything. It reaches in and opens you wide, and you stay that way. Weddings, christenings, duels, burials, swindlings, diplomatic affairs – everything is a pretext for a good dinner. But what other city offers as much as you leave a train? It is the most extraordinary place in the world! Whenever you are in Paris at twilight in the early summer, return to the Seine and watch the evening sky close slowly on a last strand of daylight fading quietly, like a sigh. It is so human and there is something noble in the city. It is a real city, old and fine and life plays in it for everybody to see. Paris is simply an artificial stage, a revolving stage that permits the spectator to glimpse all phases of the conflict. Of itself Paris initiates no dramas. They are begun elsewhere. Paris is simply an obstetrical instrument that tears the living embryo from the womb and puts it in the incubator. All I can say is that I felt, at the same time, joy and sadness. But not too much sadness, because I felt alive. That was the moment I fell in love with Paris. And I felt Paris fall in love with me. The American in Paris is the best American. It is more fun for an intelligent person to live in an intelligent country. France has the only two things toward which we drift as we grow older – intelligence and good manners. Scott Fitzgerald An artist has no home in Europe except in Paris. To loaf is Parisian. I am French only by this great city: No other city is quite like it.

The man, identified as Mamoudou Gassama, 22, is a migrant from Mali, a troubled former French colony in northwest Africa, who journeyed through Burkina Faso, Niger and Libya before making the.

Email Last Updated Feb 8, 2: Police made 17 arrests, according to the prefecture of the Saint-Seine-Denis region, a working class region northeast of Paris with a large minority population. One officer was charged Sunday with aggravated rape and three others were charged with aggravated assault. Police deny the allegations. It showed him on the ground against a wall surrounded by four men, who appeared to be roughing him up. AP In Aulnay-Sous-Bois, where the incident took place on Thursday, a gang of masked youth set fire to cars or bashed them in a private parking lot belonging to a Citroen dealership, damaging all Surveillance videos seen by The Associated Press show the men running through the outdoor parking lot dumping jerry cans of an inflammable substance on cars, which went up in flames. Some bashed the cars with instruments. The owner of the Citroen franchise said 14 cars, including a special vehicle for the handicapped, were burned and three damaged from blunt force. Five of the arrests were in Aulnay, but it was unclear if any of those who invaded the parking lot were among them. AP President Francois Hollande visited the alleged victim, identified only by his first name, Theo, on Tuesday at the suburban hospital where he has been treated since the assault. The previous night police fired warning shots with live bullets to push back protesters in the unrest. Lefebvre said it was because they had neither rubber bullets nor tear gas, and were trapped between two gangs. Raymonde Moreau, an year-old resident of Aulnay-Sous-Bois, expressed concern about where the unrest might lead. At least six of the Paris attackers were French nationals. The French government does not keep statistics based on race or religion , but surveys have found unemployment is as high as 30 percent in these immigrant neighborhoods. Felix Marquardt, a convert to Islam whose efforts at reform have made him a target of extremists, said there is hardcore discrimination against Muslims -- especially men. Their kids go to schools that are not as high quality as the rest of the population. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed. The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Chapter 9 : 10 Reasons 19th Century Paris Was As Miserable As Les Mis - Listverse

PARIS – The video footage is striking: In a matter of seconds, a young man scales four stories of a Paris apartment building to rescue a child dangling from a balcony.

Shortly before he was born, his mother dreamed that she gave birth to a flaming torch that destroyed Troy. Priam consulted a seer, who warned the king that the dream foretold disaster for the city. He advised Priam to have the baby killed. Agelaus followed the instructions, but when he returned to the mountain after several days, he found the infant still alive. Moved by pity, the shepherd took the baby home and raised him as his own son. Paris grew into a very handsome young man. In time he married Oenone, a mountain nymph, and lived with her in the mountains, where he tended cattle. Paris, a young Trojan prince, had to choose which goddess—Hera, Aphrodite, or Athena—was most beautiful. His decision, known as the judgment of Paris, is depicted on a vase from the 5th century B.C. One day Priam sent servants to the mountains to fetch a bull as a prize for a festival. Eris, the goddess of strife or discord, had tossed a golden apple inscribed with the phrase "For the Fairest" into the midst of the guests at a wedding. Each goddess promised Paris a special gift if he decided in her favor. Hera promised to make him a powerful ruler. Athena promised him wisdom and victory in battle. Aphrodite offered Paris the love of the most beautiful woman in the world, Helen of Sparta. Paris awarded the golden apple to Aphrodite. His decision, known as "the judgment of Paris," enraged Hera and Athena, who began to plan their revenge. Paris abandoned his wife, Oenone, and went to Sparta. King Menelaus welcomed Paris and introduced him to Helen, his wife. According to some stories, Hera sent a storm that nearly destroyed their ship, but Aphrodite protected them until they reached Troy. In the war that followed, Paris played only a minor role. At one point, Hector forced Paris to fight a single-handed combat with Menelaus after the Trojans and Greeks agreed that this would end the war. When Menelaus came close to winning, Aphrodite stepped in and rescued Paris, and the war continued. Then Paris himself was struck by a poisoned arrow. He was carried off the battlefield and taken to his wife, Oenone, who had the gift of healing. Angry that Paris had abandoned her, Oenone refused to help him. When she relented shortly afterward, it was too late. Also read article about Paris from Wikipedia User Contributions: Comment about this article, ask questions, or add new information about this topic: