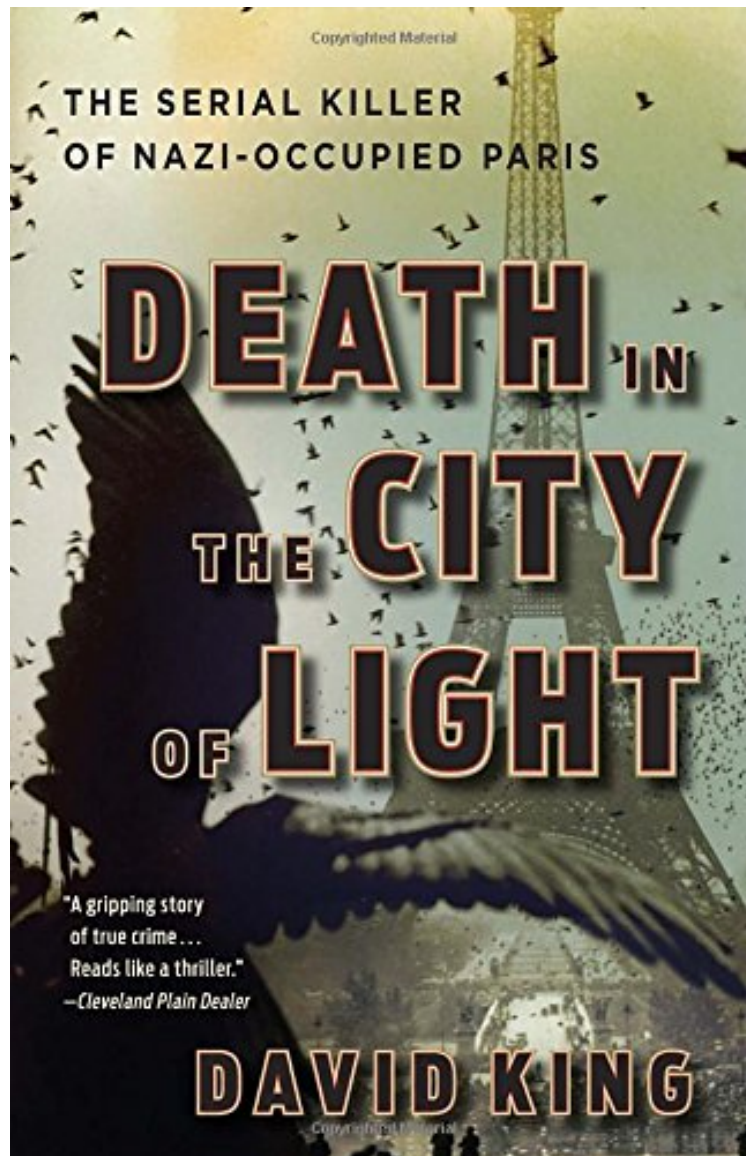


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Death in the City of Light: The Serial Killer of Nazi-Occupied Paris

David King

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David King : Death in the City of Light: The Serial Killer of Nazi-Occupied Paris before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Death in the City of Light: The Serial Killer of Nazi-Occupied Paris:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Interesting Assessment By Penelope James The first half of this book is at times horrifying, fascinating, nauseating, and thoughtful. A mass murder is discovered in WWII Nazi-occupied Paris when life is cheap; young men on both sides are dying in battle; Jews are rounded up and packed into

the Velodrome, their homes and possessions confiscated; the Gestapo interrogates and tortures at will; young men join the Maquis rather than be taken for forced labor in Germany. A Paris of shortages and excesses, of occupation and collaboration, and la Resistance. A city where Jean Paul Sartre and Albert Camus write books and produce plays. In a time such as WWII, murder shouldn't count for much. The police have other things on their hands. Except even in wartime, this murder stands out owing to the quantity and condition of decapitated heads and dismembered body parts found on the premises of a house owned by one Marcel Petiot. The second half of the book about the Petiot's trial had its moments, but this reader found it hard going and eventually scanned rather than read the last pages. The author wrote an epilog giving his opinion of what happened. He has done an impressive amount of research and this shows. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Long and Well Researched By azuremouse This is not an average true crime story. It is deeply frightening given the current political situation. Paris under the Nazis was hellish. We Americans need to remember that. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Too confusing. By Customer Lots of foreign words and no explanation. Main character was involved in so many crimes, I couldn't keep up. And in the end there was no explanation for all the body parts. It seemed the police chief as always 10 steps behind.

The gripping, true story of a brutal serial killer who unleashed his own reign of terror in Nazi-Occupied Paris. As decapitated heads and dismembered body parts surfaced in the Seine, Commissaire Georges-Victor Massu, head of the Brigade Criminelle, was tasked with tracking down the elusive murderer in a twilight world of Gestapo, gangsters, resistance fighters, pimps, prostitutes, spies, and other shadowy figures of the Parisian underworld. But while trying to solve the many mysteries of the case, Massu would unravel a plot of unspeakable deviousness. The main suspect, Dr. Marcel Petiot, was a handsome, charming physician with remarkable charisma. He was the Peoples Doctor, known for his many acts of kindness and generosity, not least in providing free medical care for the poor. Petiot, however, would soon be charged with twenty-seven murders, though authorities suspected the total was considerably higher, perhaps even as many as 150. Petiot's trial quickly became a circus. Attempting to try all twenty-seven cases at once, the prosecution stumbled in its marathon cross-examinations, and Petiot, enjoying the spotlight, responded with astonishing ease. Soon, despite a team of prosecuting attorneys, dozens of witnesses, and over one ton of evidence, Petiot's brilliance and wit threatened to win the day. Drawing extensively on many new sources, including the massive, classified French police file on Dr. Petiot, *Death in the City of Light* is a brilliant evocation of Nazi-Occupied Paris and a harrowing exploration of murder, betrayal, and evil of staggering proportions.

"One of history's most macabre bouts of serial killing . . . David King, the author of *Vienna 1814*, has more than just fresh eyes and imaginative speculation to power his revisiting of this long-forgotten true crime." *New York Times* "If you like true crime, put this book at the top of your reading list. . . . An exceptional piece of crime reporting backed by a gut-wrenching narrative that is masterful, haunting, and an incredible literary achievement." *King Features Syndicate* "Unprecedented detail . . . The detail with which King explores the story is aided by the fact that not only did he have access to trial materials, including a stenographic record no one thought existed, but also the complete police dossier, which had been classified since the investigation began." *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* "A page-turning, detective/manhunt/courtroom drama . . . King tells it with the skill of the best police and courtroom beat reporters, mixed with the sweeping eye of a social historian." *Lexington Herald-Leader* "A new masterpiece of true crime writing . . . the most startling impression left by *Death in the City of Light* is of Paris itself, confronting the bestiality lurking behind its supremely civilized facade, and of the handful of Parisiennes who tried to serve justice in spite of it." *Salon.com* "Required reading." *New York Post* "Weirdly fascinating." *Bloomberg.com* "This nonfiction account tracks the extensive manhunt and sensationalized trial of Dr. Marcel Petiot, who lured his victims by promising them safe passage out of Nazi-occupied Paris. King gained access to classified French police files in order to re-create this story of terror against the chaotic backdrop of war." *Goodreads* "September 2011 Movers Shakers list" Erik Larson's tour de force of narrative nonfiction hasn't been matched until now. While this work is painstaking in its research, it still has the immediacy and gasp power of a top-notch thriller. True-crime at its best. *Booklist* (starred review) "A gripping story this fascinating, often painful account combines a police procedural with a vivid historical portrait of culture and law enforcement in Nazi-occupied France." *Publishers Weekly* (starred review) "Gripping, expertly written and completely absorbing." *Kirkus* (starred review) "David King's anticipated crime history." *NPR.org* "Praise for *VIENNA, 1814: How the Conquerors of Napoleon Made Love, War, and Peace* by David King" *Reads like a novel. A fast-paced page-turner, it has everything: sex, wit, humor, and adventures. But it is an impressively-researched and important story. David Fromkin, author of *Europe's Last Summer* Superba worthy contribution to the study of a critical historical event long neglected by historians. It should be in every European history collection. *Library Journal* (starred review) "A great story, richly narrated." *San Francisco Chronicle* "Deftly paced and engagingly written." *Publishers Weekly* "A teeming personality-rich panorama of the first truly international peace conference." *Kirkus* "An outstanding addition to European history collections." *Booklist* "About the Author" David King is the *New York Times* best-selling author of *Death in the City of Light* and *Vienna 1814*. A Fulbright Scholar with a masters degree from Cambridge University, King taught European history at the University of Kentucky. His books have been translated into more than a dozen*

languages. He lives in Lexington, Kentucky.