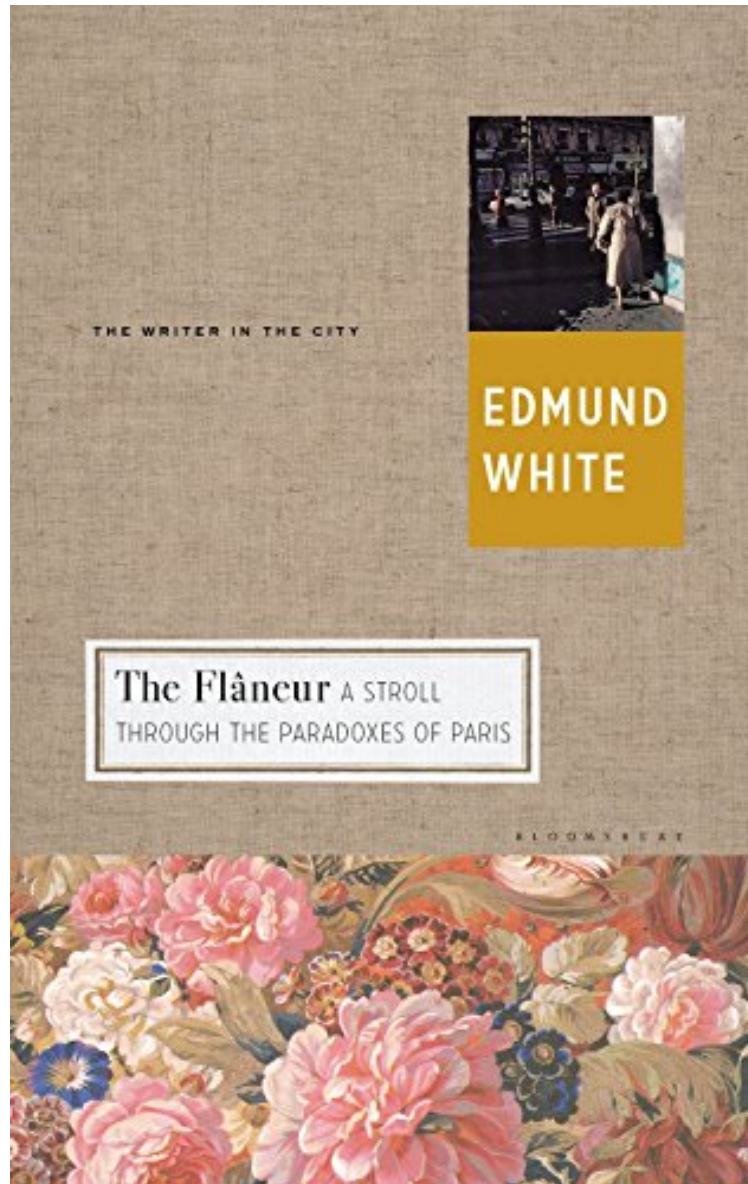


[Ebook free] The Flaneur: A Stroll through the Paradoxes of Paris (Writer and the City)

## The Flaneur: A Stroll through the Paradoxes of Paris (Writer and the City)

*Edmund White*

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**Edmund White : The Flaneur: A Stroll through the Paradoxes of Paris (Writer and the City)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Flaneur: A Stroll through the Paradoxes of Paris (Writer and the City):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Paris, at leisureBy EvyWhat do you do if you want to see the real Paris (not the guidebook city)? You flner. The many parks and cafs of Paris (not to mention the Pont des Arts) help make this activity a pleasure.Flner. A French verb meaning to promenade, amble along, without objective, but merely for the pleasure of watching and observing. A man who is thus engaged is a flneur; a woman, a flneuse. That is how Edmund White (who lived in Paris 10 years) has seen Paris.He fills this little book with gossipy, relatively-recent histories of famous artists/writers who inhabited or frequented the places he writes aboutManet, Proust, Collette, Baudelaire, to name a few. While the usual tourist attractions are interesting, the magic off Paris lies in the ghosts/memories of its streets along with the curious behavior of its residents and tourists. This is also how we see Paris, where we often stay for months. It is the only way to really know Paris.White also relates how it was like to be gay in Paris, particularly during the AIDS crisis. I found this chapter poignant and eye-opening.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Simply BeautifulBy WilliamWhite explores the history, sociology, and psychology of Paris through the fearless lense of his own life. Erudite, funny, sanguine and honest, he restores the art of creative, free wandering to an age convulsed by consumption. For those who want their heart/mind to explore as deftly as their eye.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Erudite Guide to the Paris You Always Wanted To KnowBy David CannonEdmund White has been around the block a few times but his observations remain priceless and are presented with such effortless panache that sort even a jaded veteran of15 years in a gay book club comes away from this experience speechless and wanting more and more. Standing ovation to a literary giant.

A flneur is a stroller, a loiterer, someone who ambles through city streets in search of adventure and fulfillment. Edmund White, who lived in Paris for sixteen years, wanders through the streets and avenues and along the quays, into parts of Paris virtually unknown to visitors and indeed to many Parisians. In the hands of the learned White, a walk through Paris is both a tour of its lush, sometimes prurient history, and an evocation of the city's spirit.The Flneur leads us to bookshops and boutiques, monuments and palaces, giving us a glimpse the inner human drama. Along the way we learn everything from the latest debates among French lawmakers to the juicy details of Colette's life.

.com If a place is best known by its particulars, then Edmund White is an expert on Paris. Fortunately, he's generous with his secrets: he reveals a Paris not found in any other guide in this first book in the *Writer and the City* series. White's Paris is seen on foot, as a flneur, a stroller who aimlessly loses himself in a crowd, going wherever curiosity leads him and collecting impressions along the way. Paris is the perfect city for the flneur, as every quartier is beautiful and full of rich and surprising delights. But this is no typical tour of monuments and museums; it is much more intimate and surprising. As a flneur of Paris for 16 years, White knows where to find the very best of everything--silver, sheets, plum slivovitz. He can tell you where to get Tex-Mex surrounded by a dance rehearsal hall, where to rent an entire castle for a party, or even where to get Skippy peanut butter. He eschews the pearl-gray city built by Napoleon and roams the places where the real vitality lives, the teaming quarters inhabited by Arabs and Asians and Africans, the strange corners, the markets where you can find absolutely anything in this city that accommodates all tastes. White's Paris is a place rich in history with a passion for novelty and distractions. So a walk through the Jewish ghetto leads to the history of the little-known Muse Nissim de Camondo, with its impressive collection of Louis XV and Louis XVI furniture, created by a family of Jewish bankers ultimately killed in the Holocaust. White shares other favorite and obscure museums, such as the Htel du Lauzun, where writers like Balzac and Charles Baudelaire and the painter Edouard Manet met for long evenings of music and hashish-induced hallucinations. Reminiscences in Montmartre reach back to the thriving jazz culture created by African Americans in the years between the world wars and include stories about Josephine Baker, Richard Wright, and James Baldwin. While White may ignore Notre Dame, he has fascinating tidbits to share about kings and queens and their heirs who still fight for the throne. The variety of Paris, White remarks, is matched by the voraciousness and passion of its people. With his own remarkable flair, he reveals a thriving and alluring city where tourists rarely tread. --Lesley ReedFrom Publishers WeeklyThe first in Bloomsbury's new, "occasional series" *The Writer and the City*, White's (The Married Man) collection of impressions stands in marked contrast to many travel books published today. The organizing principle is the combined force of White's perception, imagination, frame of reference and voice. He moves seamlessly from an eyeglasses museum to the Hotel de Lauzun--home to Baudelaire as a young man--and a discussion of the poet's dandyism and struggle with syphilis. White includes personal memories and anecdotes of gay Paris--in both senses of the phrase--past and present. "To be gay and cruise is perhaps an extension of the flneur's very essence, or at least its most successful application," even as the flneur's wandering is "meant to be useless." White describes his own favorite cruising spots as well as those of Louis XIV's homosexual brother, and notes that Napoleon officially decriminalized homosexuality. Other gems include a visit to the street where Colette lay bedridden with arthritis and spied on Cocteau across the way, and a discussion of the expatriation of African-Americans like Josephine Baker (Cocteau said of her, "Eroticism has found a style") and Richard Wright (who wrote of Paris, "There is such an absence of race hate that it seems a little unreal"). White's charming book is for literati, voyeurs and aesthetes, and for travelers who love familiar terrain from a different viewpoint. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalThis is the first volume of a new

series by Bloomsbury in which the world's novelists reveal the secrets of the city they know best. White (*A Boy's Own Story*), a gay writer who has lived in Paris for 16 years, has named this collection of essays after the aimless stroller celebrated by the poet Baudelaire, and Paris is certainly ideal for such explorations. White reflects on African Americans who took Paris by storm between the wars, French Jews, small and bizarre museums such as the Gustave Moreau Museum, relics from a royalist France, the gay scene, and more. A gifted writer who notices the little details missed by other guidebooks like the ivy-covered wall above the Seine that resembles the side of a galleon White is richly informed, and his evocative writing should appeal to both armchair travelers and visitors to Paris. [The series' future titles include Peter Carey's guide to Sydney and Ahdaf Soueif's guide to Cairo. Ed.] Ravi Shenoy, Naperville P.L., I.- Ravi Shenoy, Naperville P.L., IL Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.