



# Treasure of Saint-Lazare

*John Pearce*

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**\*\*AWARD WINNER\*\*** Treasure of Saint-Lazare is the award-winning top historical mystery in the Readers' Favorite writing contest 2014.

## INTRIGUE, ROMANCE AND DEATH IN PARIS

An old lover brings a cryptic letter to Paris, pulling Eddie Grant reluctantly into a treacherous web of intrigue and death -- but giving him a slim chance to find the terrorists who murdered his family seven years before. It launches him on a dangerous quest through Paris and the Loire Valley for the most valuable piece of Nazi loot that remains missing, a famous Raphael self-portrait from the early 16th century, along with the crates of Nazi bullion that accompanied it -- all intended to finance the Fourth Reich.

Jen Wetzmueller, daughter of his father's World War II colleague in Army Intelligence, arrives in Paris, bearing a letter she found after he father was run down by a car on the streets of Sarasota. Its clues take Eddie from his Paris home to Florida, where he works to solve the mystery, barely escaping with his life. Then it's back home to burrow into the darkest reaches of the German occupation in search of the treasure. Along the way he and Jen restart the brief, fiercely passionate affair that he abandoned, to his regret, 20 years before Sarasota.

Most of all, Treasure of Saint-Lazare is a novel about Paris.

## Treasure of Saint-Lazare Details

Date : Published November 12th 2012 by Alesia Press LLC (first published October 4th 2012)

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Author : John Pearce

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# From Reader Review Treasure of Saint-Lazare for online ebook

**Susan says**

## **Disappointing**

I was disappointed in this book. The subject of stolen treasure and fine art by the Nazis is for me an intriguing part of WWII. That and an interesting plot were spoiled by poor writing. Too many weak and underdeveloped characters, and endlessly unrealistic dialogue made it a poor read.

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**Carol says**

\*\*\*Please note that I received this book as an Advanced Reader Copy through Goodreads\*\*\*

Yikes, where do I start? I received this book a few months ago but never got around to reading it. I did enter to win this book on the premise of mystery, stolen art, and France, with a WWII twist. Perhaps I should've kept putting it off.

Let me preface this by saying that I understand this was an Advanced Reader Copy (and oftentimes these ARCs have spelling errors, typos, etc. They typically haven't gone through final proofreading and I understand that.) But this book? It was terribly written. I had to re-read lines and paragraphs frequently to find out the location of a particular scene. Dialogue was terrible because I could hardly tell who was speaking the lines.

As a *very* general example:

"Blah, blah, blah"

"Blah, blah, blah"

"Blah, blah, blah"

Instead of:

"Blah, blah, blah" said Eddie.

"Blah, blah, blah" Jen interrupted.

Eddie countered, "blah, blah blah".

Now, *that* I can tell who said what AND I get a sense of how the characters are feeling. This book had none of that.

I'm no writer, but I've taken an English class or two and I have a general idea of how sentence structure works. This author must not have an editor. Within a span of two sentences, two characters are outside a building having a conversation, in a car driving toward another destination, and then swiping a keycard, with nothing to link the three actions together.

At that point, I found the poor writing to be so distracting that I couldn't finish the book. I had no desire to find out what happened to the characters or how the mystery was solved. The two romantic (I guess?) leads had no chemistry and there were so many peripheral characters, I had to keep flipping back to other pages to remember who this person was. All this, and I was only 67 pages into a 300 page book.

Would I recommend this book to anyone? Only as an example of what not to do with your first novel. The author, John Pearce, definitely has room to grow and could probably end up with a good book someday. But this one isn't it.

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### **Pat Wartinger says**

#### **The best part of the book was its cover. ys**

Misspelt words, poor wording, irrelevant details, repeated concepts, Conducting paragraphs must be reread several times in order to understand. Proofread! Proofread, please! Obvious plot. Boring. Needs editing. Not a Clive Cussler. More of a comic book.

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### **Tanya says**

If you liked Monument Men this is another search for a lost painting . The search encompasses both the US Ann France. I enjoyed the novel but became confused a couple of times over the characters relationship s to each other. Reccomded.

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### **Carole P. Roman says**

Face-paced thriller spanning the globe from Paris to the states, The Treasure of Saint-Lazare takes off with the hit and run murder of a former partner of Eddie Grant's father. The two men were Monument Men, American soldiers who attempted to recover stolen artwork from the Nazi's. Eddie and Jen, his former flame investigate the crime discovering it may be linked to a tragedy in Eddie's family from years ago. Reminiscent of Steve Berry's The Amber Room, Pearce takes the reader on an action-packed journey from Paris's glittering streets to Florida's Sarasota, the scene of the crime, searching for answers for the stolen artwork. A nice blend of history, art, and action.

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### **Suzi says**

Wow! Thriller, light romance, fast driving, art, Paris, Sarasota, food, wine, good friends and deadly enemies. Nice characters.

A book I like to be seen reading, with clear type (no squinting) and a beautiful cover photo of the Eiffel Tower.

Writers write effortlessly it seems but we readers struggle to praise good books, like this.

I sat next to John Pearce's wife at a luncheon and am I glad I did. Now on to his follow up novel, Last Stop Paris.

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### **Caroline says**

Blending art history with murder and suspense makes for a meaty thriller. When Jen, the daughter of a man killed in a hit and run in Florida arrives in Paris to deliver a letter from the dead man to Eddie, the son of his army buddy, the letter leads them to a search for a missing Raphael painting that may have been stolen by the Nazis during WWII.

Their search is hampered by attempts on their lives, even as they journey between Sarasota and Paris. As they dig deeper into their fathers' pasts when they served with each other in the army and their stint as Monument Men, they unravel the identity of others who had known of this painting or had already been searching for it. As more information is uncovered, so does Eddie also realize that almost everyone he's met in the course of this investigation, has been lying or keeping things from him. The truth over his own father's death and that of his wife and son are shockingly revealed to him as well, and even Jen comes under suspicion.

It's fast-paced thriller that I thought ended a little too soon. I would have liked this drawn out a little more, I think.

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### **Marian V. Erwin says**

Disappointing, expected good things as it was set in both Sarasota and Paris. Those scenes were okay, but the writing overall is poor, sometimes confusing as to who is speaking, too many minor characters, too much unnecessary detail which does not advance the plot. This not an author I will follow.

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### **Michael Mardel says**

Treasure of Saint-Lazare by Pearce. I really enjoyed this story and found it a page-turner. I have been to Paris but I didn't remember most of the places. The search for the Nazi gold and Raphael painting was full of intrigue with an opening for the next story. The characters were well-developed especially the protagonist, Eddie Grant. Wouldn't we all want to be like him, going from woman to woman, Paris to Sarasota, and rich into the bargain. He's had his sad moments with close relatives being murdered. It's not all plain sailing.

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## **Lisa says**

The book will have you jumping from country to country in search of the truth. The author takes you on a man hunt with twists, valleys, and surprises that make your heart race. The attention to the little facts is what makes this novel a must read. I read it once and then waited a week and read it again and it was fascinating to see just how much I missed the first time around. I feel sure Mr. Pearce will be a successful writer. If you enjoy a travel adventure with exciting revelations then get this book NOW!

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## **Nancy Heinrich says**

### **Captivating story**

I would have given a higher star in the past paced international novel, except for two reasons. One of the main characters, Jen, who starts off this novel, becomes lost in the pages, once her true involvement is disclosed. The ending left you up in the air, never knowing who the mastermind behind the search for the lost art and gold.

The novel includes present day, WW II and its stolen art and valuables, the Monument Men, murder and intrigue.

Maybe the second novel answers these statements.

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## **Marie says**

The plot was pretty good, writing okay, though suffering from too much (for my attention span) unattributed dialogue. The reason for three stars is the characters. Most of the characters are trite, and many have annoying names (yes, I'm petty) -- names out of early 20th century spy novels, though these characters would be mostly gen-x, if I'm not too far off. Eddie, Icky (this one was like squeaky shoes). Icky could get repeated so many times on a single page that I suspect the author really, really liked it.

The clichés extended to:

- Eddie's Parisian girlfriend and her most superior policeman father
- Eddie's family history of patrician French mixed with America's Finest, aw-shucks brave and true
- the Middle Eastern and Eastern European stereotypical thugs seen before on a TV program/movie or two or twenty.

There were a few breaths of fresh air though; among them, Mr. Khan of the ever-present brown suit.

A note: I apologize if I have a couple of the names wrong here -- finished the ebook a couple of weeks ago and was not able to verify these names.

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## **Carole P. Roman says**

John Pearce writes an suspense thriller in the vein of Ian Fleming. Using Paris, Germany, Miami and other thrilling backdrops, he weaves a tale of crime, terror, politics, with a dash of romance keeping the reader engaged with his characters. Eddie Grant has brought elegance back. Part French, part American, he is a

refreshing hero, rather than an anti-hero. With a cast of intriguing characters including the mysterious Claude Khan, Eddie finds himself and his fiancée caught up in Khan's nefarious plans to control the world through gold. Eddie must unravel Claude's schemes and save both himself and people he cares about along the way. Pearce's knowledge of Paris puts the reader right in the middle of the excitement. I can't wait to see where Eddie is headed next.

I received this book for an honest review.

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### **Doreen Dalesandro says**

kindle freebie, 11/10/12

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### **Elizabeth Duffy says**

#### **Interesting**

Other than wishing I had an atlas and a map of Paris next to me due to many place names being used, I found this story interesting. I love history, even historical mysteries. This story, though fictional, has plenty of true information in it. If you like WWII history or art, you will enjoy this novel.

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