



The Traitor's Smile

Patricia Elliott

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Eugenie de Boncoeur has fled the violence of the French Revolution to find sanctuary in England at the home of her cousin, Hetta. At first, the two girls find themselves at loggerheads: Hetta can't understand Eugenie's preoccupation with clothes and appearance, and scorns her politics. Soon, however, they are drawn together by a shared sense of danger, for across the Channel waits the vengeful Pale Assassin, determined to claim Eugenie for himself. With her brother's life at stake, how can she refuse his dreadful bargain? But it will mean sacrificing her chance of love and returning to Paris in the grip of the Terror. Eugenie must now decide her destiny - with or without Hetta's help.

The Traitor's Smile Details

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From Reader Review The Traitor's Smile for online ebook

Kris says

Recommended for gr. 6-10. Historical fiction, set during the French Revolution. Second in series, helpful but not necessary to have read the first book. Helpful cast of characters at the beginning, historical note and timeline of the French Revolution at the end.

As the book begins, Eugenie has just arrived in England to live with her English relatives while she worries about her brother who is imprisoned and likely to be guillotined in Paris. She has narrowly escaped imprisonment and an evil man (the Pale Assassin) who wishes to marry her. Through a series of misadventures, Eugenie and her cousin wind up back in France on the run from the Pale Assassin and revolutionaries, but determined to save her brother. There are some bumpy romantic relationships complete with misunderstandings, underground counter-revolutionaries, and loose ends tied up at the end. The author's note speculates on what happens to the characters afterward, which leads me to believe that there will not be a third book in the series.

Indi says

Eugenie de Boncoeur and Julien de Fortin have reached the coast of English land seeking sanctuary from the violence of the French Revolution. At first Eugenie and her cousin Henrietta are at each other, both quite different. But they find themselves together as best friends after danger has arisen as the Pale Assassin have tracked down Eugenie and Julien. The Pale Assassin is determined to claim Eugenie as his bride. So when Eugenie's brother Armand is in prison, the Pale Assassin makes out that only she can save him if she agrees to marry him. She needs Julien and Hetta's help.

So this is the second book in the Pimpernelles series. There are rumours of a third book, but the second book had a clear ending and the authors note did say it was the last. Not sure. I'm hoping. But not sure?

This book had a clearer understanding throughout the book than the first. This book is just as good as the second but just edited better.

The plot is interesting and suspensful and the conflict between the two cousins at first was impressive and great to read.

Loved this book as much as the first. If not better, because it was edited better!

Lois says

This book was awesome!!! After reading book no. 1 I started this one straight away!!Kept me in suspense all the time...and read past bedtime!! Can't wait to get book no. 3 ?

Maria Kramer says

Eugenie has escaped from the horror of the Revolution to her uncle's house in England, safe from the attentions of Roul Goulet, The Pale Assassin. Or is she? Roul's agent the sinister and charming Guy Deschamps, has come across the Channel to being Eugenie a proposition -- she must return to France and marry Goulet, or her brother Armand will face the guillotine! Eugenie's actions will pull her cousin Hetta and love Julien into the turmoil of the Revolution, and mortal danger.

This book left me with an immense sense of wasted potential, because the premise is great, but the execution is uneven. The narration shifted between character's different points of view with disorienting suddenness. Passages of great excitement and building tension were undermined by strange plot shifts in which important events happen "off camera" with no explanation. The end of the story, with its confrontation between the characters and Roul Goulet that was built up to for the entire book, ends up being anti-climactic in the extreme. All I can think upon finishing the book is "What a shame."

Recommended for fans of:

Revolution

The Scarlet Pimpernel

Pamela Hubbard says

As the sequel to the first book, "The Pale Assassin", the story continues as Eugenie flees to England and England declares war on France during the Terror. Eugenie learns all about intrigue and corruption as her and Julien navigate England, try to understand what is going on in France, and try to save Armand from a French prison. In the midst of all this, Eugenie still fears her betrothal to Le Fantome. Eugenie and Hetta find themselves back in France, escaping from those who want to kill them, and trying to find a way back to safety.

Once again, Eugenie plays the vapid, naive girl. No matter what anyone says, or what all the evidence points to, she decides to play by her own rules and almost gets herself and multiple others killed. She trusts those she shouldn't, blabs too much and doesn't seem to understand the depth of what is going on around her, even though she has been through traumatic and life-changing situations. The plot was fast-paced and suspenseful, but the dialogue was boring and sometimes hard to follow. I did love this view of the French Revolution, but the other aspects of the book were bad enough to make me only rate this 2 stars.

Clodagh says

I thought about giving this book 3 stars but that would be too generous. I had some problems with this book.

1. Eugenie was very annoying. I had no sympathy for her, and I couldn't find one reason why Julien would like her. Just another example of a guy going for the pretty girl, not the one with personality. Even after surviving the Revolution she was still really dumb and spoilt.
2. It was a little boring. The blurb hyped up the book, but it turned out to be nothing like what it promised.

3. Hetta and Julien were pretty much the only likeable characters, and even they made bad decisions.

4. Not only did the main characters all live, but they also found love. In my opinion, you either find love or you live. Not both.

5. It's clearly written for twelve year olds - it shouldn't be put under YA.

6. The author seemed to think that everyone who reads this book speaks French. Wrong! I couldn't follow most of the French for the simple reason that I DON'T SPEAK IT!

Lisa says

I enjoyed reading this book -- fast-paced plot, strong girls, plenty of action, and a glimpse into an interesting period of history -- but the ending left me unsatisfied. Although many of the personal issues had been resolved, half of the main characters embark on a new adventure on the last page. It would be a perfect setup for a third book in the series, but the author's note speculates about what might have happened to the characters afterwards, in a way that signals that there will not be another book. So it just seemed odd to me.

Another element that kept me from loving this book was the narrative point of view. Written in the 3rd person, the narrator is almost omniscient, but not quite. The point of view shifts, at times rapidly, from one character to another, depending on whose thought process is most important in the moment. It's mostly fine, but occasionally disconcerting.

However, I would be happy to hand this book to an older kid / younger teen who can't get enough historical fiction, or to an older teen who struggles with reading. It's not a terribly difficult read, and there's plenty of action and intrigue.

(Note: I received a free advance reading copy of this book from the publisher at an American Library Association Annual Conference. I was not required to write a positive review. Thank you, Holiday House!)

Andrea says

The book was an interesting read. A well-written historical fiction about the French Revolution and a little on the war between France and England soon after. It's the 2nd book in a series, but you could read the Traitor's Smile and not be completely lost (the 1st is called The Pale Assassin).

Violence - there is some, but doesn't go into detail (beheading, shot)

Language - don't think there was any

Sex - nope! aren't you so glad ;)

Drugs/drinking - there is mention of various alcoholic drinks, but no drugs, and I don't think any smoking.

roanoke says

4 stars

The Traitor's Smile continues the story of the teenage Eugénie de Boncoeur along with her friends Julien de Fortin and Jem Cuttle as they arrive in England. Here she meets her cousin, Henrietta, a girl who is seemingly ahead of their time. The cousins are uneasy with each other at first but eventually they get along quite well. Still, Eugénie must take care of herself to keep herself safe from the horrible Pale Assassin, Raoul Goulet.

While in third person, I liked being able to have another character to revolve around instead of just Eugénie. Hetta (Henrietta's nickname), is a most interesting character to say the least. She's fiery and intelligent, but even so, her and Eugénie are on seemingly equal terms. While Hetta may seem a bit better in the smart zone, Eugénie has had a lot more experience than her cousin.

The rest of our lovely cast of rebels and aristocrats are here. Julien is still one of my favorite characters. As for the antagonists... Still, I have never felt such hatred for fictional characters before.

What happens in this book (as well as the first) is very realistic. Clever minds and actions are the only things that could have saved people during the terrible times in France, and even England, when war raged between the countries. It's interesting to see a fictional perspective of a young girl about my own age during the French Revolution compared to what we're taught in history class, however little or lot that may be.

The book was slow from time to time but when it picked up, boy, did it deliver. I still loved it. The characters are well developed for their time, and everything going on around them was written in such detail. I was so easily intrigued. I just wish school hadn't taken up so much time so I could have read this more often and finished it quicker.

Rachel says

I liked this book better than the first one for two reasons: 1) there was less history and more story when compared to the first book. In the first book, Patricia Elliott makes lots of historical notes which are very informative but don't really add to the story itself. 2) I saw a lot more character development, especially with Eugenie. Again, by the end of the first book Eugenie is forced into some more humble circumstances due to her trying to flee the dangers of France (and the Pale Assassin), but she is still the same spoiled child she was at the beginning. However, in this book she faces old and new dangers that force her to make decisions that really seem to make her grow up. By the end of this book, even though she is only sixteen, Eugenie is much more mature and sure of her self than ever.

In this book we also get to see more of the Pale Assassin, which was good as he is the main antagonist in these books.

Language: mild

Sex: some sensual looks are given to certain characters, one rakish character's thoughts/desires are mentioned (but never acted upon), and one character offers herself to save another character but is saved by other characters.

Drugs/alcohol: smoking is mentioned, some characters drink alcoholic beverages.

Violence/gore: as per the French revolution many characters are beheaded by the guillotine, many characters are shot/stabbed by other characters, and one character falls to his death.

Erin says

*Note: this is the second (and last) book. I didn't read book one but I was still able to thoroughly enjoy the story. There may be some elements carried over from the first one, so read it if you like. It's called "The Pale Assassin."

Set in the time of the French Revolution, we follow Eugenie, a French aristocrat who flees to Deal, England; her cousin Henrietta ("Hetta"), an Englishwoman; and Julien, a friend of Eugenie; and Guy Deschamps, aka. Le Scalpel, a French spy and assassin. Guy poses as Eugenie's friend to get her to return with him to France so she can marry Le Fantome, Raoul Goullet, the "Pale Assassin," and spider in the middle of a giant web of deceit (and who also resembles the Phantom, from "The Phantom of the Opera"- hence his nickname). There is a lot of secrecy, suspense, and of course beheadings (come on, French Revolution--there has to be Mdme. Guillotine). This is a fast-paced adventure that will take you to the heart of war-torn France.

Throughout the story points of view will randomly change, which could cause some difficulty in following the story. Very few times I found myself re-reading a few lines above just to make sure I knew who was talking.

There is a fair amount of violence: beheadings (heads do roll), blood filled streets and houses, stabbings, etc. Language: Phrases in French throughout, often times with the English equivalent stated shortly thereafter, and a curse word used once.

Romance: There is the relationship between Eugenie and Julien, which underlies most of the book, and really comes out at the end. Hetta attracts the attention of a few men, being as spunky as she is. It's clean of any mature content.

Nicole Ziege says

It isn't as good as the first book (The Pale Assassin), but I enjoyed it nonetheless. Patricia Elliott is a great writer, and I couldn't keep the book down. I wanted to continue reading to see what would happen. However, the ending was very sudden and disappointing.

Tammy Burns says

This story continues Eugénie de Boncoeur's flight from France and arrival in England during the beginning of the French Revolution. Louis XVI has been executed, Robespierre is running the government, and none of

our major players are safe. Julien and Eugénie have arrived safely in Deal, England to mixed feelings. Eugénie is not certain as to how she will be received by the family she has only met one other time, especially her cousin Hetta, who is her age and shows an interest in Julien. When Guy Deschamps mysteriously appears in England as well, Eugénie knows that she must not let Julien know that he is there. Begging Hetta for her assistance she does all she possibly can to keep the two men that so distrust each other away from each other.

Hetta is an entity to herself. She is very aware of politics and the plights of others and longs to be able to support a cause like the one going on in France. Eugénie tries to tell her that change is not as romantic as some would have you think it is, but cannot seem to make her understand. Hetta meets Guy on his very first night in England, and is instantly attracted to him, not knowing that he is connected to her newly arrived cousin.

As time passes, Eugénie becomes increasingly jealous of Hetta and Julien's closeness. She also makes a stunning discovery in regards to Guy and finds that perhaps she has been too trusting of certain people. Belle, her former landlord and friend, writes her that Armand, her brother, is in jail, arrested as a traitor and awaiting to be taken in front of the tribunal and sentenced to execution. Le Fantôme, Eugénie's enemy and thwarted betrothed offers her a chance at saving Armand--return to France and marry him and he will see that Armand is released. When Julien unexpectedly leaves England, Eugénie runs into an old friend from France. Soon, by accident, Eugénie and Hetta find themselves sailing across the English Channel in a hot air balloon. From there the chase is on and they are only saved by Chouans, which is a group of rebels that are opposed to Robespierre and his group.

Will Eugénie be forced to marry Le Fantôme? Is Guy an enemy or a friend? Will Armand be rescued before the same fate is visited on him that was King Louis XVI? Will Julien be able to save his love? And will Hetta find her passion in the revolution? This book and the one before it has done a wonderful job in bringing the French Revolution to life from so many points-of-view. The author has done a great job with historical detail and merging the fictional characters with the real-life groups and people involved. This is a great book and is recommended for those who love historical books.

Rachael says

SUMMARY:

The Traitor's Smile starts right where the Pale Assassin ends, with Eugenie and Julien arriving in England. When a familiar face turns up, that of the traitor Guy Deschamps, Eugenie learns that her brother has been captured and will soon be sentenced to death for his aristocrat status and his failed plan to save the King. Guy delivers a ultimatum from Goulet, the assassin. Either Eugenie goes back to France and marries him, or her brother dies.

PROS:

1. There's less history than in the Pale Assassin, focusing instead on the story and characters, thus making it more attention grabbing and exciting than the first.
2. All the characters develop more. Especially Eugenie, who turns from a selfish, aristocratic brat to a lovable character.
3. I absolutely LOVED Hetta, Eugenie's cousin. Fearless Hetta frequently dresses up as a man to help bring

about the change she wants to see, instead of sitting back and letting the men take care of everything. Originally her relationship with Eugenie is strained, but as the book progresses they soon become great friends.

4. Although there is less background history in the sequel, I still found that it gave enough to satisfy me, and was all very accurate and told in a way that made it interesting.

5. There is much more action with Goulet compared to The Pale Assassin.

CONS:

1. The minor love triangle. At the end of the Pale Assassin, Eugenie had Julien's heart and affection, but after arriving in England, Hetta soon falls for Julien too. I dislike love triangles, and I thought that this one was unnecessary to the story.

2. The ending turns out to be too good. I would have appreciated it more if one of the main characters had died. This is the French Revolution, after all.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys historical fiction. Also, if you read The Pale Assassin and thought that it was at least okay, I would say to read this one. All the flaws of the first book are resolved in the sequel. Great story for all ages!

Jules says

Oh LORD, this was a slog. And the worst part is that it really, *really* shouldn't have been, at least not for me!

Reader, here are a few things I love: female characters having adventures, sweet but spoiled girls, female characters having friendships, 18th-century history. And yet even I couldn't enjoy this. I'd been running through books at a rate of one or more a day in the past few weeks; this took me well over a week because I just couldn't bear more than a chapter or two at a time, it was so dry and dull. I liked the first one, though it was slow as well, on recollection, but this was just intolerable.

As I said, it just felt incredibly dry and very slow. More specifically, I felt like the characters were being kept at arm's length -- it was hard for me to really care about them at all. That can certainly work in a lot of books, but when love triangles are a major part of the plot, you really, really need your reader to care about the characters and be rooting for them to be happy (or not). I also really didn't care for how these are billed as major female-driven adventure stories, and yet these young women constantly needed to be saved by the men in their lives -- nor for how completely out of nowhere Hetta and Xavier's relationship felt. That was probably the worst example of Elliott telling me, rather than showing me, the developing relationship between the characters in this book, but there were, unfortunately, a lot more: HOW, exactly, do the trials and tribulations they face together take Hetta and Eugenie from disliking one another to best friends? Why did Hetta give up on Julien? And again, most damningly, why should I care?

So in a word, this book was disappointing. Incredibly disappointing. Heartbreakingly disappointing, for me, because as I say, this should have been a really easy sell for me. I wanted so, so much to love the Pimpernelles books, but when you can't sell me on your female-character-centered 18th-century adventure novel, you've taken a wrong turn somewhere, I'm very sorry to say. :(

