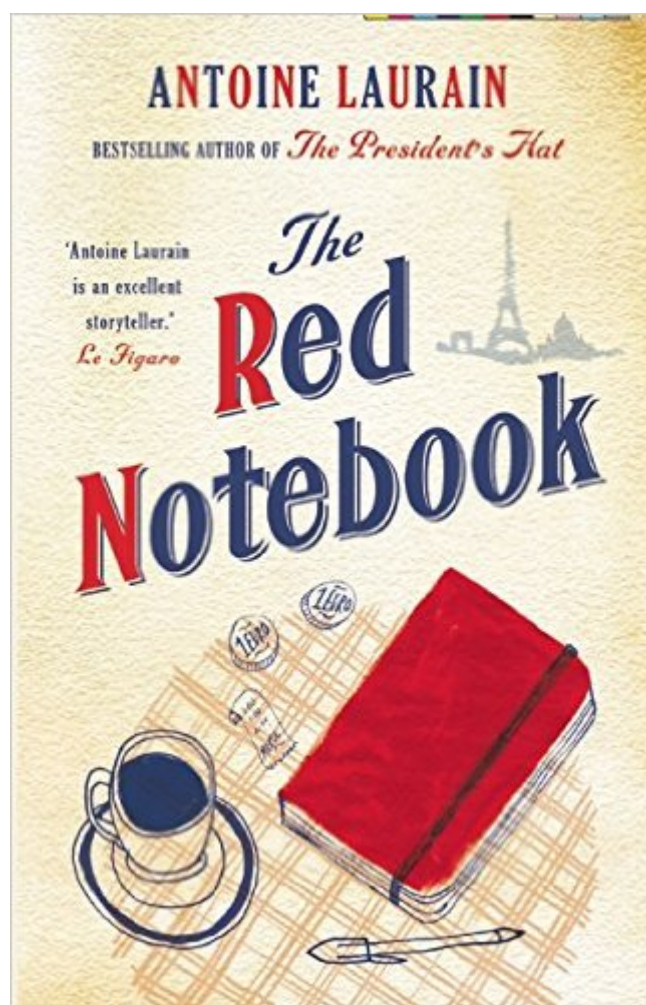


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# The Red Notebook



## Synopsis

"Laurain presents the story as if it were reportage, but with the confidence of an age-old storyteller." "San Francisco Book Review" Laurain's gentle, satirical humor remind this reviewer of Jacques Tati's classic films, and, no, you don't have to know French politics to enjoy this charming novel. Fans of Muriel Barbery's *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* will want this." "Library Journal" A hymn to *la vie Parisienne* . . . enjoy it for its fabulistic narrative, and the way it teeters pleasantly on the edge of Gallic whimsy." "The Guardian" Heroic bookseller Laurent Letellier comes across an abandoned handbag on a Parisian street. There's nothing in the bag to indicate who it belongs to, although there's all sorts of other things in it. Laurent feels a strong impulse to find the owner and tries to puzzle together who she might be from the contents of the bag. Especially a red notebook with her jottings, which really makes him want to meet her. Without even a name to go on, and only a few of her possessions to help him, how is he to find one woman in a city of millions? *The Red Notebook* has already been sold in twelve different languages. French TV is making a film of *The President's Hat* and the movie rights of *The Red Notebook* have been sold to UGC. Antoine Laurain was born in Paris. He is the author of five novels, including *The President's Hat*.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars See all reviews (231 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

While walking to his bookshop one morning, Laurent Letellier notices a nice lady's handbag perched on top of a trash bin. Suspecting the rightful owner may have been mugged, Laurent takes the purse with him with the idea of returning it. Careful examination of the contents revealed several

little treasures including a small red notebook of her observations, all of which told a bit about the woman but no clues about her identity. At his daughter's urging, Laurent follows the few leads he has and just when he hits a dead end, a chance encounter not only unlocks the mystery but also draws him deeper into a stranger's life. Although he would love to actually meet Laure, the woman who owns the purse, Laurent feels he has trespassed beyond all polite boundaries and chooses to remain anonymous. It will take some creative meddling to bring these two prospective lovers together. Set in France and translated from French, this charming light read draws readers in as Laurent's warm, caring nature carries him through the Parisian streets searching for a complete stranger. There is just enough family history and backstory to add credibility to this sweet melding of mystery and romance that concludes on a satisfyingly upbeat note.

This delightful tale starts when Laure is mugged on her doorstep for her handbag. By page 15 I decided that I wanted to live where Laurent lives. By Page 45 I was in love with him and on page 132 I cried. The Red Notebook is by far the best novel I have read all year and deserves more of an accolade than I can give to it. It is a story full of characters who became my friends and whose lives are rich and full of depth. And Laure herself is beautiful. If I could live in bookworld I would live in this one. It is a story that has everything I love, romance, books, cats and I could just Gush Gush Gush. I admit this isn't like the usual review I write but The Red Notebook is a book like no other. My only regret is that I have read it, I would like to go back in time and re-read, not knowing how fabulous this book is and that I have the best couple of reading hours ahead of me. A definite MUST READ for everyone.

I loved The President's Hat by the same author, and was a bit worried whether this one would measure up. It does. A woman (Laure) is the victim of a violent purse-snatching. She stays at a hotel, but during the night develops a subdural hematoma and goes into a coma. Meanwhile, a bookseller (Laurent) finds Laure's bag, minus its money, phone, and any obvious identifying features. He uses clues and deductions to find Laure's flat, where he is unexpectedly entrusted with taking care of her cat (who adores him). He is afraid, though, once Laure comes out of the coma, to introduce himself to her. Delightful developments ensue, as Laure seeks Laurent. Highly recommended.

I don't usually review books because so many others do a better job of it than I can do, but I want to

give this book another 5 star rating. The Red Notebook is going on my list of special books. The story moves along smoothly and a great deal happens in a simple and elegant way. It's not particularly realistic, so a suspension of disbelief is necessary in order to appreciate this plot. I admit that I love happy endings, so that is my bias. Fans of gritty realism will be unlikely to enjoy this charming tale, but others who enjoy a well written story about an unlikely chain of events that ends well, may be briefly transported to Paris and a search for the owner of a stolen handbag.

THE RED NOTEBOOK is quite simply a gem of a book. Uplifting, sweet with plenty of Gallic charm and wit, it will warm your heart. My only complaint is that it's too short! Introducing us to Laurent, a bookseller in Paris who, on his morning stroll to work comes across a handbag abandoned on the side-walk. Quickly deducing that the handbag was stolen, Laurent sets on a quest to discover the identity of the owner and return the handbag. With only a few small trinkets and the inner most thoughts of this stranger written in a little red notebook, Laurent finds himself falling for this mysterious lady as his quest takes him on some hilarious twists and turns and he falls into all manner of quirky situations. Will his journey lead him to a happy ending worthy of the books he sells or will his good deed end in disaster? Translated from the French, THE RED NOTEBOOK captures the joie de vivre and eccentricities we've come to expect and love from French literature and film. In the similar vein as the cult classic *AMÉLIE*, this whimsical, feel good tale allows the reader to escape reality and immerse themselves in this story of mystery and nostalgia and join Laurent in reflecting on the choices that make us the people we are and the opportunities that await us if we're brave enough to take the leap. An enchanting and beautifully written book that will capture your heart, THE RED NOTEBOOK is about second chances, the belief in human kindness prevailing in the darkest of situations and trusting in your heart's passion and desires. I adored THE RED NOTEBOOK and highly recommend.

This is a sweet, sweet little nugget of a book. This is a charming love story of two basically happy, but lonely souls finding each other through the mystery of a stolen bag in Paris. It was a bright spot in my reading because it was so upbeat, the characters were friendly, and I always enjoy reading a foreign translation. It feels like a glimpse into another world. This book is a great way to pass an afternoon in the sunshine, or a long flight to London.

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