



My Secret Guide to Paris

Lisa Schroeder

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From the author of the Charmed Life and It's Raining Cupcakes series comes a novel of family, friends, and a Paris adventure that readers will never forget!

Nora has always wanted to see Paris, thanks to her Grandma Sylvia's stories. But when Sylvia suddenly passes away just months before their planned trip, Nora thinks she's lost everything.

Nora still dreams of Paris--and when she finds her own name on a set of clues to a Parisian scavenger hunt packed away in her grandmother's room, along with plane tickets, Nora knows that Sylvia still wants her to go, too.

At last, Nora sets off on the adventure--and mystery--of a lifetime. What did Grandma Sylvia want her to find in Paris? Why do all the clues insist that Nora's mother be with her? And could the key to healing and forgiveness be found at the top of the Eiffel Tower?

My Secret Guide to Paris Details

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Author : Lisa Schroeder

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From Reader Review My Secret Guide to Paris for online ebook

Heidy Villalvazo says

I would recommend this book to any 5-6 grader who likes to read about adventures. I loved it it was a good book. I like how it talked about Paris and all the pastry's. The book My Secret Guide to Paris was about a girl named Nora who was planning a trip to Paris with her grandma, but a little before the trip her grandma died. Then while her and her mom were see what to keep in memory of her grandma she found a map that was on Paris with places marked and envelopes, in a trunk. Nora tried to look for more stuff in the trunk and she found a metal lock box. She tried to open it but it was looked. So she asked her mom to take the whole trunk home. At home she sees the note her grandma left her and it pretty much says what Nora's grandma left in pairs which was a scavenger hunt all around the city of Pairs. There was also envelopes with money in them for the places they will visit. So she knew that she had to convince her mom to go to Pairs and do all the stuff that her grandma left for them. So she tried to convince her mom of going and showed her the tickets, but her mom said no it was probably not a good idea since it would remind her of her mom and Nora of her grandma. Then a few days later she convinced her mom by showing her the antique dolls there was in pairs since her mom is obsessed with those dolls. Finally Nora's mom said yes and they went with one condition taking Nora's older brother even though Nora wanted to take her best friend instead with the extra ticket that was supposed to be for grandma. When they got there the next day Nora asked her mom if she can go on her own but she said no so she asked if Justin her older brother can go with her on her own. Then she said yes to that with one condition they stay together at all times. So they went on there own but in the metro they sat separate and that's when Nora meet her new friend Phoebe and Justin meats Alice. Phoebe and Alice are sisters. Nora and her knew best friend go of on there own and Justin and Alice go of on there own. Nora and Phoebe go to the places where her grandma marked on the map and when they go to them they get the same answer every time. Which is the people won't give Nora the gifts unless she is with her mom. So Nora tells her mom and first she says no but then changes her mind and they both go to get the gifts Nora's grandma left them. When it was the last place to go before the fashion show the got a dress that matched with all the stuff they got. Then when it was time for the last day in pairs they went to the fashion show and got the key to the metal box Nora had found. Therefor at the end Nora and her mom went to a cafe in New York where they lived and opened the box. Inside was an old book Nora and her mother loved and a note that pretty much said she hopes they had fun and got closer together.

Violinist1124 says

I do so adore this book! I've always had a dream of going to Paris. This book also lets you in on a little bit of French.

Jeff Raymond says

I read far too often that people avoid reading YA books (and, in turn, younger books) because they don't really deal with issues well, don't have the sort of emotional maturity, what have you.

I say hogwash, and offer *My Secret Guide to Paris* up as a counter.

The story itself is very simple, and it's written toward its target audience, for sure. A young girl has a great relationship with her grandmother, and their combined desire is to go to Paris together. Unfortunately, the

grandmother dies in an accident and Nora isn't sure she'll be able to go anymore until her mother finds three tickets and some envelopes in a trunk. Quickly, they're off to Paris and what becomes a fun scavenger hunt for Nora to enjoy Paris and everything that goes with it.

This book is actually pretty solid on a few levels. It deals with loss, with family drama, with independence and spreading your wings, with new experiences. A lot of these feel really pure and realistic, which is not always true of middle grade books, and the end result is one that you really hope for, which is great. No, the book isn't dealing with Important Social Issues or forging any new frontiers, but it doesn't have to - instead, it's a book that kids will pick up thinking they're getting a light story, and end up with one that they'll probably find something to relate to. That's what makes good fiction for kids work.

Just a solid read across the board, and I wish I read it earlier. Definitely recommended for any kids in your life, and if you're into books for kids, you should read it, too. A ton of heart.

McKenley F says

I like this book because in it Nora gets to go on a treasure hunt. You might like this if you like Sealed with a Secret. In this book Nora is hoping to go on a hunt that her grandma left behind, but it's in Paris and the problem she has to convince her mom to go there. Nora finally convinced her mom to go to Paris. Once she arrived she meets a girl named Phoebe and become friends. Together her and Phoebe go to the first three places, but then find out that she has to be worth her mom leaves she's scared to tell her mom but, finally has to tell her. She agrees and they see so many things and meet people Nora's grandma once knew. On the last one though Nora's mom is scared to go to a fashion show that Nora's grandma helped design. Nora convinces her to go though and Nora liked the fashion show a lot and after her and her mom get a key to the box at home no learns to spend more time with her mom.

Kelly Hager says

I absolutely love this book.

I've never been to Paris, and France has never been one of the countries I've most wanted to visit, but this book has changed that. Should I win the lottery, I am totally going to Paris and attempting to recreate the adventures that Nora has.

I love the relationship that Nora has with her grandma. Even though their relationship is told via flashbacks and conversations that Nora has with other people, it's obvious that they were very close and loved each other very much. (I mean, obviously, given the trouble that Sylvia went to in order to ensure that Nora's first trip to Paris would be absolutely perfect, the literal trip of a lifetime.)

Lisa Schroeder is an amazing author, one of my favorites, and this book didn't disappoint. Whether you're already a fan or are looking for a book to start with, this is the perfect book for you.

Highly recommended.

Faith M:) says

I read this book a while ago- and absolutely LOVED It:)

8 Hales A says

My Secret Guide To Paris

By:Abigail Hales

Lisa Schroder wrote an amazing book called My Secret Guide To Paris. This book is about a 12 year old girl named Nora. She and her Grandma have a very tight relationship with each other. She and her Grandma make a trip to Paris every year together. But a few days before it's their trip their grandma gets ran over by a car crossing the street. Nora is speechless. She loved her grandma. But soon it's time to clean her grandma's house. Her and her mother start cleaning out her bedroom first. Nora looks in the chest in front of her bed. She finds a letter for her saying she needs to go to Paris with her family ASAP. When she tells her mom, her mom doesn't want to go. Her mom did not have a very good relationship with her mom, because it was her step mom. She finally convinces her mom and brother to go on a short trip. Read this book to find out what adventure Nora's grandma has in store for them and why she wrote that letter.

I think the theme was Life always has something good in store after a tragedy. 1. Her Grandma dies but sends her to Paris, 2. her mom says no to go to Paris but soon says yes, and 3. Her family becomes closer together.

My opinion of this book is i loved it! it had adventures and surprises! and unexpected obstacles she had to weave her way out of. Plus it's based on Paris and that's where I've always wanted to go. It told me some stuff I did not expect would be in Paris. I loved this book and highly recommend it. If you love adventure and surprises this is the book for you!

Tanja Voosen says

Dieses Buch war einfach sooooo unglaublich süß! Es ist ein Middle-Grade Buch und daher keine typische Contemporary-Liebesgeschichte. Hier geht es um die Reise nach Paris, welche die Protagonistin zusammen mit ihrer Mutter und ihrem Bruder macht. Paris war immer das "Ding" von Nora und ihrer Großmutter, doch dann ist diese leider verstorben und die geplante Reise rückt in weite Ferne. Einige Zeit später folgt Nora dann aber Hinweisen und so erzählt das Buch eine schöne und witzige Suche nach Hinweisen durch das atmosphärische Setting Paris. Das Buch ist purer Zuckewatte-Fluff und die perfekte Story für 1-2 ruhige Lesestunden, wo man einfach mal abschalten will. Die Figuren sind einem rasch ans Herz gewachsen und durch den lockeren Stil fluppt man nur so durch die Seiten. Ich fand einfach alles an dem Buch mega niedlich und das Ende ist ziemlich rührend. Man darf keinen große Tiefgang erwarten, aber überrascht wurde ich 1-2 Mal dann doch :D

Fazit: zuckersüßes Feel-Good-Buch für süße Unterhaltung!

@BookQuickies/Tanjas Rezensionen

Ms. Yingling says

****SPOILER ALERT**** Okay, it's something in the first chapter or two, but quit reading if you don't want to know. There's no way to avoid it.

Nora and her grandmother have always bonded over their plans to go to Paris someday together. Her grandmother works with a fashion designer and goes frequently herself, but finally realizes that as Nora approaches her 12th birthday, she's ready to make the trip herself. They plan on going in March and then Grandma is hit by a car and dies. Really. Fortunately, she was a very organized lady, and she had planned the trip already in a Little Blue Envelopes fashion, leaving Nora clues for when she would be in Paris, ostensibly with her mother while Grandma was working. Nora pleads with her mother to take her; mother is feeling guilt because she was on the outs with her mother in the wake of her parents' divorce. Eventually, she gives in (since Nora tempts her with antique doll possibilities), and the two, along with Nora's brother, head off. Nora manages to be allowed to go off with her brother, meets a nice British girl her own age, and follows several of the clues, only to find that none of the people she is supposed to meet will give her the packages her grandmother has left with them unless her mother is also there. Nora asks her mother to go with her; mother agrees reluctantly-- there were other things she was planning on doing with her time. Eventually, they round up all of the packages, attend a fashion show, and make their tentative peace with the grandmother's death.

Strengths: Fantastic travel book. Lots and lots of appealing details about seeing Paris, which has never been a place I have EVER wanted to go. Almost made me want to visit! The addition of a British friend, as well as the mother-daughter bond added a bit more meat to the story, but the travel portions are the real selling point here.

Weaknesses: The cover seems wrong-- Nora is always portrayed as being in jeans and a t-shirt, although perhaps this is meant to be the outfit her grandmother gives her. The beret is right. Also not keen on the use of "secret" in the title; it's not a secret guide for very long.

What I really think: The grandmother did not have to die. She could have broken her leg, and there were unrefundable tickets. THEN, when they returned, Nora could have continued her close relationship and her mother could have mended her fences with the mother. Unnecessarily sad to just violently and randomly kill the grandmother. This loses the book a Sparkly Unicorn designation!

Lisa says

Now available in Paperback!!

A companion novel, *SEALED WITH A SECRET*, featuring Phoebe and an adventure around London, comes out May 10, 2016.

paperdollmom says

This was a super adorable story about a daughter and her mother getting to know each other better in Paris, through letters and a scavenger hunt created by the grandmother. It is a pretty sweet story that just leaves you feeling all fuzzy... and wanting to start a button collection.

Liralen says

More YA (well, MG) travel—it's off to Paris for Nora, whose grandmother has spent the last twelve years (i.e., Nora's entire life) making sure she's obsessed with everything Parisian.

It ends up being one part light travel and one part mother-daughter drama—Nora isn't quite mature enough to try to see things from her mother's point of view, and they are, at least initially, looking for different things out of the trip. There's not a ton of depth to the book (although there is a mini-lesson tied into every secondary character's appearance, leading up to the conclusion/big lesson), and I wish the supporting cast had been developed further, but it's cute MG fluff. Nothing wrong with that.

Melanie says

Very fun read! I really liked the characters, setting, and story. :D

Amelie says

My secret Guide to Paris hat mich wirklich überraschen können. Was ich erwartet habe, das ist eine süße Contemporary Geschichte, in der es um die wundervolle Stadt Paris geht. Was ich aber außerdem bekommen habe, das ist ein junges Mädchen, das zum ersten Mal in Kontakt mit dem Thema Tod tritt und eine Geschichte darüber, was Familie ist und was es bedeutet für diese zu kämpfen ♥ Und ja, ich gebe es zu, am Ende ist dann doch ein kleines Tränchen gekullert. Es war ganz wundervoll mit Nora gemeinsam die Schnitzeljagd durch Paris mitzumachen, die deren Großmutter vor ihrem Tod für sie geplant hatte.

Rebecca G. says

The book My Secret Guide to Paris by Lisa Shroeder is a page turning book that had me up all night. The author uses advanced words to emphasize the emotions. The beginning was twisted and I would never expect it would happen. My favorite character is Nora, the main character, because she perseveres through all the hardships. I would rate this book five stars because it is a page turning adventure in Paris with Nora. I hope my classmates love this book as much as I did.
