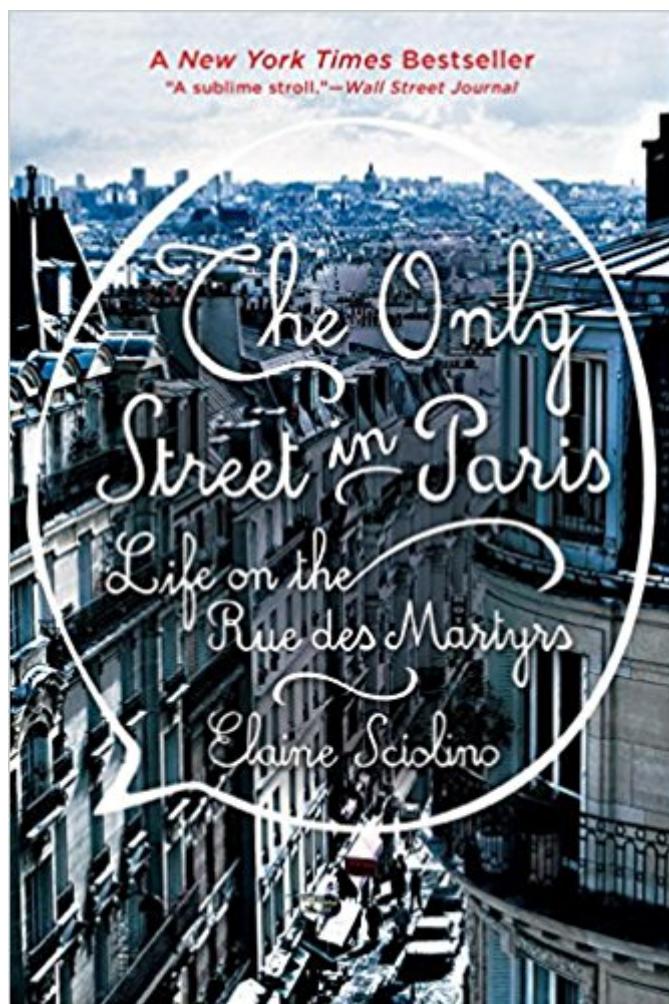


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# The Only Street In Paris: Life On The Rue Des Martyrs



## Synopsis

A New York Times Bestseller: "Sciolino's sharply observed account serves as a testament to . . . Paris" the city of light, of literature, of life itself. The New Yorker Elaine Sciolino, the former Paris Bureau Chief of the New York Times, invites us on a tour of her favorite Parisian street, offering an homage to street life and the pleasures of Parisian living. "I can never be sad on the rue des Martyrs," Sciolino explains, as she celebrates the neighborhood's rich history and vibrant lives. While many cities suffer from the leveling effects of globalization, the rue des Martyrs maintains its distinct allure. On this street, the patron saint of France was beheaded and the Jesuits took their first vows. It was here that Edgar Degas and Pierre-Auguste Renoir painted circus acrobats, Emile Zola situated a lesbian dinner club in his novel *Nana*, and François Truffaut filmed scenes from *The 400 Blows*. Sciolino reveals the charms and idiosyncrasies of this street and its longtime residents—the Tunisian greengrocer, the husband-and-wife cheesemongers, the showman who's been running a transvestite cabaret for more than half a century, the owner of a 100-year-old bookstore, the woman who repairs eighteenth-century mercury barometers—bringing Paris alive in all of its unique majesty. *The Only Street in Paris* will make readers hungry for Paris, for cheese and wine, and for the kind of street life that is all too quickly disappearing. 25 photographs

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Anyone who loves Paris's remaining quirky villages will revel in Sciolino's meticulously reported accounts. . . . Sciolino doesn't lack for

inspiration; she has Paris at her feet.Ã¢â€”New York TimesÃ¢â€”“The narrative takes the form of a ramble through shops, courtyards, cabarets, and time. . . . SciolinoÃ¢â€”’s sharply observed account serves as a testament to the persistence of old ParisÃ¢â€”â€¢ the city of light, of literature, of life itself.Ã¢â€”The New YorkerÃ¢â€”“Sciolino is a keen and tireless observer of this ancient little market street. . . . She has written her love letter with such ingenuous passion itÃ¢â€”’s hard not to cheer up.Ã¢â€”Washington PostÃ¢â€”“A sublime stroll. . . . The magic of the street is not only its scopeÃ¢â€”â€¢ itÃ¢â€”’s about half a mileÃ¢â€”â€¢ but also its history.Ã¢â€”Wall Street JournalÃ¢â€”“The former Paris bureau chief of the New York Times shares her love for her adopted working-class neighborhood in this delicious and detailed look at the rue des Martyrs. Her knack for making friends and her reporterÃ¢â€”â€¢’s instincts keep this tour fascinating.Ã¢â€”BBCÃ¢â€”“Countless authors have used a city as their muse. . . . A blend of memoir and research, as Sciolino mixes her personal memories of expat life with the stories of artists and luminaries who walked rue des Martyrs before her.Ã¢â€”New RepublicÃ¢â€”“Something interesting for everyone: If you like food, architecture, history, art or simply human stories, you will not be disappointed.Ã¢â€”Christian Science MonitorÃ¢â€”“Sciolino is a storyteller at heart. She loves to listen to and share other peopleÃ¢â€”â€¢’s stories. . . . This is a lovely and intimate look at a magical corner of Paris.Ã¢â€”Chicago Tribune

Elaine Sciolino is a writer for the New York Times and a former New York Times Paris bureau chief, based in France since 2002. She is the author of *La Seduction: How the French Play the Game of Life*, *Persian Mirrors: The Elusive Face of Iran*, and *The Outlaw State: Saddam Hussein*’s Quest for Power and the Gulf Crisis. In 2010, she was decorated as a chevalier of the Legion of Honor for her "special contribution" to the friendship between France and the United States. She has worked for *Newsweek* in New York, Chicago, Paris, and Rome. She held a number of posts at the New York Times, including United Nations' bureau chief, Central Intelligence Agency correspondent, and chief diplomatic correspondent.

Well researched, bringing forth many surprising facts about the Ninth and commercial Montmartre. Probably of most interest to those having some familiarity with the neighborhood, thus being inclined to share the author’s undoubted fascination with the great variety of characters she introduces to the reader. Although interesting up to point, the author’s over fixation on her own career and accomplishments gets a bit tedious.

I absolutely loved this book-- so much that I read it twice. The skilled writer authentically takes the reader in and out of shops and stores that fill the needs of Parisians' daily life. Markets, cafes, clothing consignments are expected. But what about the unusual? A knife sharpener, gilt and barometer restoration, burlesque entertainment, book giveaway block parties. It's as if I walked in and out of these shops, but more, I know something about the lives of the owners and ties to history. If you want to visit one street in Paris, buy this book. It will add to your life experience through the crafted stories of people's authentic daily lives as well as the cultural history of Parisian society. Give this book to someone visiting Paris for the first time.

First of all Elaine is an extraordinary person, having served as correspondent and bureau chief all over Europe and the Middle East. So when you read this book, you are living with Elaine on her very personal journey of discovery, not an objective dictum entirely. For anyone who has spent any time wandering the streets of Paris, and longs for more, this is the book. Read it, and book your trip.

I was living on Blvd de Magenta in the 10th when I stumbled on the Rue des Martyrs and was delighted with the special street that I had discovered. I spent the next few months wandering and finding my way back again and again to the Rue. I was so pleased to learn of the book in the New Yorker Briefly Noted and downloaded it immediately. What a pleasure to catch glimpses of the hidden, elegant worlds behind the homely double doors.

There is so much love of Paris in this book. The author writes beautifully of the people and the history of this area.

An in depth examination of what it is like to live on one of the many iconic streets of Paris, and get to know both the people who live on the street and the history of the street. The book is also brought alive by the creative prose of the author. For people who love Paris, a great read.

My friend lived around the corner. I didn't know the name of the street so I referred to it as 'the food street'. I often had le petite dejeuner at le commerce and have wonderful memories of many of the places named in the book. If you've been there, you'll remember. If you haven't, you must go.

Fun book!

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