



Sales Points

- Best-selling French novel with sales in France of 20,000 in hardback and 60,000 in paperback
- A suspense-filled mystery, a cross between the Three Musketeers and the Da Vinci Code
- Vividly portrays Louis XIV's court and his rise to power
- Fictional characters mingle with Molière, La Fontaine and Colbert

The Book

1661 is a year of destiny for France and its young king, Louis XIV. Cardinal Mazarin, the prime minister who has governed throughout the king's early years, lies dying. As a fierce power struggle develops to succeed him, a religious brotherhood, guardian of a centuries old secret, also sees its chance to influence events.

Gabriel de Pontbriand, a young actor, becomes unwittingly involved when documents stolen from Mazarin's palace fall into his hands. The coded papers will alter Gabriel's life for ever, and their explosive contents have the power to change the course of history for France and Louis XIV.

Fact and fiction combine in a fast-moving story of intrigue, conspiracy and love set in seventeenth century France.

'Has all the spirit and momentum of the best historical novels' **Le Figaro**; *'Interesting intrigue and varied locations. The heroes of the book are the stars of the era: Molière, La Fontaine, Colbert ... Magnificent descriptions of hunting at Versailles and of the Château of Vaux-le-Vicomte make this a book to savour.'* **Paris Match**.

Publicity and Promotion

National Press: Reviews in crime pages of nationals and weeklies: Independent, FT, Mail, Mail on Sunday, Sunday Times

Websites/Blogs: reviews and mentions on Me and My Big Mouth, Crimesquad.com, Monsters and Critics, Dovegreyreader, Susan Hill

Launch event at the French Institute, February 2008: Intrigue at the Courts of Louis XIV and Louis XV

The Author

- Yves Jégo is a member of the French Parliament and is spokesman for Nicolas Sarkozy's party, UMP.
- Denis Lépée is a local politician and environmental adviser, he is the author of essays on Ernest Hemingway and Winston Churchill

Bibliographic Details

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