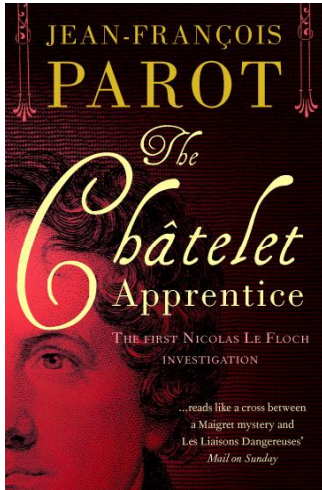


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THE CHÂTELET APPRENTICE

A Nicolas Le Floch Mystery

JEAN-FRANÇOIS PAROT



Sales Points

- First in series of six historical crime novels
- Series has sold 400,000 copies in French
- Reads like a cross between a Maigret Mystery and Les Liaisons Dangereuses
- Brings 18th century Paris vividly to life and features real-life characters Madame de Pompadour and Louis XV
- Soon to be adapted for French television

The Book

'A terrific debut ...brilliantly evokes the casual brutality of life in eighteenth-century France' **The Sunday Times**

France 1761. Beyond the glittering court of Louis XV and Madame de Pompadour at Versailles, lies Paris, a capital in the grip of crime and immorality ...

A police officer disappears and Nicolas Le Floch, a young recruit to the force, is instructed to find him. When unidentified human remains suddenly come to light, he seems to have a murder investigation on his hands. As the city descends into Carnival debauchery, Le Floch will need all his skill, courage and integrity to unravel a mystery which threatens to implicate the highest in the land.

'Jean-François Parot's evocation of eighteenth-century Paris is richly imagined and full of fascinating historical snippets ... the first in a promising series of French period mysteries, and if the other titles are half as good as this one, they will certainly be worth looking out for.' **The Mail on Sunday**

'Parot succeeds brilliantly in the reconstruction of pre-revolutionary Paris' **The Times**

'Has all the twists, turns and surprises the genre demands.' **The Independent on Sunday**

'An engaging murder mystery that picks away at the delicate power balance between king, police and state.' **The Financial Times**

Sales Promotion details

Event at the French Embassy in February 2008 with the author: 'Intrigue at the Courts of Louis XIV and Louis XV'

The Author

- Diplomat, currently French ambassador to an African country
- Historian specialising in 18th century Paris
- Lives in a chateau on the Loire

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