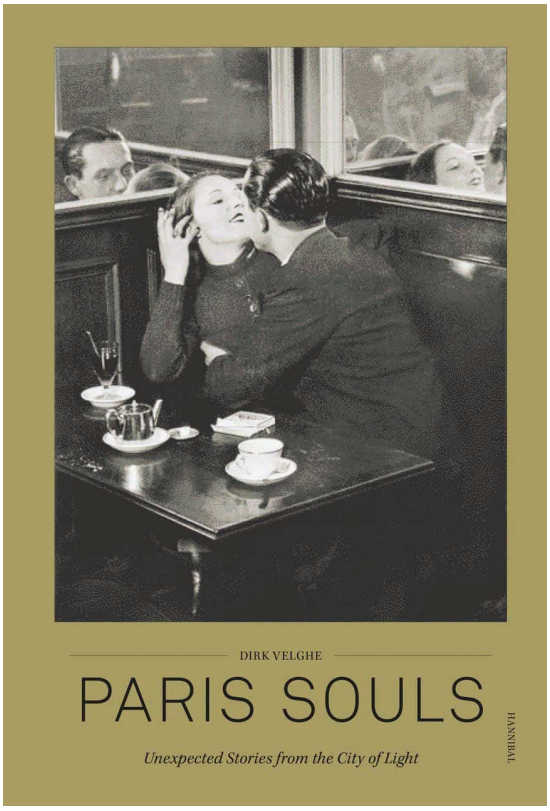
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Paris Souls

Unexpected Stories from the City of Light

Dirk Velghe

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- In this book, reality trumps fiction
- Dirk Velghe recounts facts and stories about the extraordinary people and events that colored Paris

"The wealth of facts and erudition bring magic to Dirk Velghe's Paris. A place where even tragedy seems less sombre. Anyone who does not already love Paris will fall for it after reading this book. 'Ich bin ein Pariser', as Kennedy might have said." — Herman Van Rompuy, former president of the European Council

In this book, reality always trumps fiction, truth always trumps myth. Get ready for a personal encounter with police inspectors and filles à la cuisse légère, Impressionists and art thieves, collaborators and résistants, Cubists and anarchists, artists' models and terrorists, criminals and executioners. In fascinating and often unknown stories, such as 'The Chanel-Wertheimer Case', 'Lenin's Yellow Jersey' and 'Selling the Eiffel Tower', hundreds of Parisian souls are brought back to life behind the façades, in the passages, and along the avenues and boulevards of the City of Light.

In ***Paris Souls***, readers taste the idiosyncratic harvest of someone who, after many seasons in his favorite city, is still enraptured by its fruits. Dirk Velghe recounts facts and stories about the extraordinary people and events that colored Paris, sometimes with paint, sometimes with blood. Histories as only a true Parisian can tell them. Light-hearted but always deeply reasoned, Velghe gives an entirely new twist to the history of Paris. His no-nonsense prose and narrative flair guarantee compelling reading.

Dirk Velghe is former founder-CEO of *Vacature* and later of Mediafin, the publisher of Belgian newspapers *De Tijd* and *L'Echo*, where he still chairs the board. He was a member of the DPG Media Group committee for more than 20 years, which is where he began his publishing career in 1987. In addition to his passion for the media, Dirk Velghe also nurtures one for Paris. The City of Light has kept him pleasantly awake for more than 30 years.





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