

I See London, I See France



Synopsis

"This endlessly fun and hugely entertaining romp through Europe had me laughing out loud and reaching for my passport." —Jennifer E. Smith, author of *Windfall* A POPSUGAR Best Young Adult Novel of 2017! Nineteen-year-old Sydney has the perfect summer mapped out. She's spending the next four and a half weeks travelling through Europe with her childhood best friend Leela. Their plans include Eiffel Tower selfies, eating cocco gelato, and making out with trÃƒfÃ's hot strangers. Her plans do not include Leela's cheating ex-boyfriend showing up on the flight to London, falling for the cheating ex-boyfriend's hot friend, monitoring her mother's spiraling mental health via texts, or feeling like the rope in a friendship tug of war. In this hilarious and unforgettable adventure, New York Times bestselling author Sarah Mlynowski tells the story of a girl learning to navigate secret romances, thorny relationships, and the London Tube. As Sydney zigzags through Amsterdam, Switzerland, Italy, and France, she must learn when to hold on, when to keep moving, and when to jump into the Riviera...wearing only her polka dot underpants.

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Customer Reviews

"This endlessly fun and hugely entertaining romp through Europe had me laughing out loud and reaching for my passport." (Jennifer E. Smith, author of *The Statistical Probability of Love at First Sight* and *Windfall*)

Sarah Mlynowski is the bestselling author of *Ten Things We Did (and Probably*

Shouldn't Have); I See London, I See France; Don't Even Think About It; Think Twice; Milkrun; Fishbowl; Bras & Broomsticks; the Whatever After series; and more. Her books have been translated into twenty-nine languages and optioned to Hollywood. Sarah was born in Montreal but now lives and writes in New York City. Visit her at www.sarahm.com and find her everywhere @sarahmlynowski.

ARC from Edelweiss! I See London, I See France was a story about a young woman who is finally breaking from her family to go on a European trip with her best friend from high school. While this was a light read in some parts, the book also dealt with some serious issues like Sydney's mother's agoraphobia, finding yourself as a teen, and two worlds colliding when Sydney's best friend from college meets up with Sydney's best friend from high school. First and foremost this book was so much fun. Sydney and Leela cracked me up; they were silly and constantly doing off the wall things. (YOU GUYS! the topless beach scene was hilarious!) I wish I could have been so fly-by-the-seat-of-my-pants at that age! The story opens with Sydney and Leela racing to make their flight, and much to their surprise, Leela's ex-boyfriend (who she was originally going to trek through Europe with,) was also on the flight. As you can imagine, that leads to some explosive moments on the trip. But as Leela and her ex-boyfriend, Matt, hash things out, Sydney can't help but be drawn to Matt's friend, Jackson. (Who Leela is not a fan of.) I loved the time Sydney and Jackson spent getting to know each other and the lengths they went to to meet without their friends being in the know. I thought it was interesting how easy it was for Sydney to be herself with Jackson; there were no expectations between them, and she didn't feel like she had to shield him from parts of herself she wasn't so keen on. Again, this story dealt with some heavy things, and one of them was Sydney worrying that the panic attacks she'd begun having were turning her into her mother. This storyline flowed well, and I think it was approached in a realistic manner. As having been the one taking care of her mother for all of these years, of course she'd wonder if her own situation would escalate. I also liked how when they made it to Paris, Sydney's college world collided with her high school world when her best friends from the different periods of her life meet. It's interesting how the people in our lives bring out different facets of ourselves, and Sydney wasn't quite as ready as she thought she was to merge her two worlds. Seeing her navigate her friend's personalities (and who she was around them,) was so realistic and

reminded me of that time in my own life. The one buzzkill in this book was Leela, but I won't lower my rating for that, because it's clear she was meant to be. Leela could be very dramatic, and Sydney, used to catering to the people around her, was much more tolerant of that than I would have been. But when Sydney did finally put her foot down, Leela (in her dramatic fashion,) needed time for it to sink in, but she came around. Not only did Sydney and Leela get to have tons of unique experiences, but they made a lot of new friends in Europe, and it was so much fun to read about. I loved the cast of secondary characters in this story. I think it's obvious how much I loved *I See London, I See France*. This book is about having fun and finding yourself, and I think it's the perfect read for summer! That ending, though, I didn't see coming and I should have. It's the perfect setup for the next book in the series, and it's safe to say I'll be reading it! This review was originally posted on Books & Beauty Are My Bag.

If you are looking for a cheap way to visit Europe, look no further than *I See London, I See France*. This light and breezy read follows besties, Leela and Sydney, as they embark on a backpacking trip across Europe, and I found myself quite entertained. I really enjoyed Mlynowski's peek at each country. Some I had visited and some I had not, but I thought she did a great job highlighting some of the features of each city the girls visited. I must say, my favorite part of each visit, were the food descriptions. I found myself lusting for these edibles and actually quite hungry. This book has a pretty fun cast of characters. As the girls travel, they meet up with friends, old and new, and they let loose in that way that 19-year olds on their own do. One of my favorite chapters was when the gang was all together in France. It was fun seeing all the characters come interacting together. And seriously, I was totally won over by Jackson. He surprised me in a good way, and I hope that he will pop up on the second book. There are more substantial things in the book as well. Throughout the book, Sydney is dealing with her guilt from leaving her little sister to care for her agoraphobic mother. For the most part, I was really happy with what Mlynowski did with this plot point. Another thing explored was how a friendship changes. Leela and Sydney went to different colleges, in different countries, and this trip marks the first time in a year that they had spent an appreciable time together. They have those growing pains that you would expect, and it is explored to some extent. But these are two examples of things I wished Mlynowski would have explored more. Speaking of the second book, I am really intrigued on where this is going. At the very end of this book, there is a little blurb, which implies that it will involve characters that were mentioned in this book, but not in

this book. I do want to read their story, but I sort of hope to catch up with these characters too. Either way, I am pretty sure I will check out book 2, because this was overall a fun read, and I liked I said, I am interested to see what happens next. Overall: A fun NA romp through Europe infused with a little bit of drama and a lot of laughs.

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