



## Un profil perdu

*Françoise Sagan*

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Η Σαγκ?ν, με το μυθιστ?ρημα της "να χαμ?νο προφ?λ" βρ?σκει και π?λι την ευκαιρ?α να αναλ?σει τους χαρακτ?ρες της υψηλ?ς παρισιν?ς κοινων?ας. Και το?τη τη φορ?, θα τους εξευτελ?σει, θα τους συντρ?ψει, στο πρ?σωπο του παν?σχυρου μεγαλοεπιχειρηματ?α Τζο?λιους Κραμ.

Η Ζοζ?, υπερβολικ? στην ανεξαρτησ?α της και θαρραλ?α στη συμπεριφορ? της φτ?νει ως την αφ?λεια. Μα ?ταν ?νας υγι?ς και ωρα?ος ?ρωτας παραμερ?σει το σ?ννεφο απ? τα μ?τια της θα συνειδητοποι?σει την πλ?νη: "Περ?σαμε απ' τη ζω? ο ?νας παρ?λληλα στον ?λλο, π?ντα μακρι?, π?ντα ξ?νοι. Δεν ε?χε κανε?ς δει τον ?λλον παρ? μ?νο απ' το προφ?λ του..."

## Un profil perdu Details

Date : Published May 1997 by Pocket (first published 1974)

ISBN : 9782266061735

Author : Françoise Sagan

Format : Poche 215 pages

Genre : Fiction, European Literature, French Literature, Cultural, France, Novels, Roman

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## From Reader Review Un profil perdu for online ebook

### Dave says

Having recently read Sagan's classic 'Bonjour Tristesse' I was curious to know if her writing style had changed since her remarkable debut at just eighteen years of age.

Published when Sagan was approaching 40, Lost Profile's heroine Josee Ash is ironically considerably more naive than Bonjour Tristesse's Cecile and, unfortunately for the reader, less insightful. However, the subtly crafted plot is largely concerned with the young Josee's financial sponsorship by the unrelated yet paternal Julius A. Cram and plays speculation on his true motives for such attentions. Just why a middle-aged, successful businessman invests so much time and money in a care-free, attractive young divorcee is not always down to the obvious reasons; or is it?

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### Stephanie Jane (Literary Flits) says

See more of my book reviews on my blog, [Literary Flits](#)

I was distinctly underwhelmed by Sagan's first novella, Bonjour Tristesse, so went into Lost Profile somewhat warily. However I am happy to say that I thought this one much more to my taste! Young wife Josee who is feeling overwhelmingly stifled by her jealous and possessive husband, Alan, decides to strike out on her own. In a happy coincidence, she meets wealthy tycoon Julius who helps her to find not only a good job, but also a fashionable apartment that is remarkably cheap. Lost Profile's scenario reminded me of the setup in Yuko Tsushima's Territory Of Light although the short French story doesn't have the depth of its Japanese counterpart. Both 1970s stories see their female protagonist unexpectedly alone in a major city, exploring how they cope and grow from the experience.

Josee hasn't ever been on her own before and is almost unbelievably naive - by today's standards at least. It doesn't occur to her until way too late that the happy coincidences of new job, new apartment and new friendship might be motivated by ulterior motives on Julius' part. Even regularly being encouraged to visit a couturier to 'borrow' designer clothing for evening soirees doesn't ring alarm bells! Sagan beautifully portrays Josee's bewilderment at suddenly being responsible for herself though and her naivete is completely believable - even while I was feeling exasperated at not being able to physically shake her!

Lost Profile is only short so, as I have already mentioned, it doesn't have great depth, but I think this actually works well because Sagan keeps up a good pace throughout. The characters are very real, albeit flawed, and I could empathise with them all even while I rarely agreed with any of their actions. I am glad I picked up Lost Profile as I enjoyed this novella and now have a far more favourable opinion of Sagan's writing.

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### Richie says

The third in the "Josée" series (Those Without Shadows, The Wonderful Clouds, then this). Like all Sagan: thoughtful, beautiful, understated, deep, real... Just love her. I will read all her books one day.

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### **Zuzi says**

I like the style of Sagan. I read all of her books with pleasure. This was another one that left me a nice feeling and enjoyment. Very beautiful written and at the same time simple book. But it is not my favourite book by her.

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### **Géraldine says**

Le talent de Sagan est au rendez-vous mais cependant j'ai "senti" venir l'histoire, c'est légèrement trop fleur bleue pour moi, d'où les 2 étoiles seulement. Pour l'histoire, il s'agit d'une jeune femme qui vit une histoire d'amour passionnelle, s'enfuit, se retrouve sous la protection d'un riche ami et ne se rend pas compte que celui-ci profite de la situation. Pas le meilleur roman de l'auteur.

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### **Zéro Janvier says**

J'avais un peu peur au début de ce roman de Françoise Sagan de m'ennuyer en le lisant, d'aller au bout sans passion ni grand intérêt pour l'histoire de cette femme qui se sépare de son mari jaloux et possessif grâce à l'aide d'un riche homme d'affaires qui la prend sous son aile. Mais j'ai été finalement pris par le récit et ce portrait des mondains parisiens qui s'ennuient atrocement. Un très beau roman, finalement.

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### **Marlène Moutenet says**

J'adore le style, la fluidité. On dirait que Sagan nous raconte cette histoire à l'oreille, comme un conte. On peut ne lire que la jolie histoire un peu "fleur-bleue" ou laisser son imagination supputer chaque stratagème de M. Cram. J'ai beaucoup aimé ça!

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### **Elizabeth Pyjov says**

One of the most enjoyable books I have ever read.

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### **Natalie says**

Toliko mi je pasala da sam ju procitala u par sati.

Lijepi stil, zanimljivo izrazavanje o osjecajima i musko zenskim odnosima.

"Prošli smo kroz zivot jedno drugome putovima koji se nikada nisu sastali, i ostali medjusobno potpuno tuđi. Nikad se nismo vidjeli drugacije nego iz profila i nikad se nismo voljeli....Kad vrijeme jednom izvrši svoju uobicajenu selekciju u mom sjecanju, pamtiti samo onaj sijedi cuperak kose...i cuti njegov nesiguran i umoran glas koji mi je govrio: "...jer otkad poznajem vas, ja se vise ne dosadjujem."

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## Ivana Books Are Magic says

Lost Profile was my third novel by Sagan. If I recall well, I read it in 2017 so that makes it my most recent Sagan read. This novel, like most of Sagan's work, is told from a woman's point of view. Who is the heroine and the narrator of Lost Profile? Her name is Josée. At the start of the novel, she is a young French woman married to a rich American guy named Henry (if I recall well, I'm not so sure about his name). The novel opens up with a party at which we witness the husband's jealousy. Josée and Henry's relationship is turning toxic. Not long into the novel, their marriage becomes seriously abusive. The brutality realistic description of love that turns bitter really stuck with me. Sagan wrote it with much clarity. It is always chilling when love dies, no matter the circumstances.

Our heroine Josée hardly gets any sleep and small wonder as her married life turns into torture. Josée sleeps only when she takes sleeping pills- but even those few hours of stolen sleep are too much for her possessive husband who wants to have her by his side 24/7. Soon the crazed husband puts Josée under a house arrest. The less love there is left in their marriage (how much love can it be left after he imprisons her?), the more the husband craves the love and surely enough the marriage falls apart. It may seem like I'm throwing spoilers at you, but this is, in fact, just the beginning of the novel. The story only gets started when an older man Julius helps our heroine escape her predicament. Who is he? An angel, a friend, a benefactor? What are his intentions, does he mean only to help or does he have a hidden agenda?

Having been supported by her husband for years, our heroine Josee is a bit lost. While Josee was in love with her husband, she didn't feel guilty about spending his money, but now that she no longer loves him (that much is clear), she would like to be independent. Incredibly, Josee manages to find a nice apartment and a good job as a writer in record time. The way the novel is written lets us know that something is odd about that, but Josee doesn't second guess her sudden success. There is a fair amount of wonderful irony in this novel so if you enjoy that sort of thing, you won't be left disappointment.

Josée was a fascinating, if a frustrating character. She is naïve, incredibly so. Maybe it is a reaction to domestic abuse she suffered in her marriage? Josee seems naïve to the point of being dumb but interestingly enough she never seems like a victim, she never feels sorry for herself. It is like she doesn't allow herself to be a victim, in her detached way she does take responsibility for her life. There is complexity to her, at least there is a potential for complexity, and one feels she is not a simpleton. At times I was really frustrated with her, but then I realized that this 'innocence bordering on stupidity' was perhaps just her method of dealing with life.

All of this comes off rather strong because of the way the novel is written, it is literally impossible for the reader not to put the two and together and wonder why Josee won't do the same. I felt like there was something almost bourgeois about Josee's detachment with life. Perhaps it is her way of ignoring life. Like many of Sagan's heroine, she doesn't care much about the conventional morality but she has her principles and for that I liked her. Moreover, I enjoyed to read her meditations on painting (she gets a job as an art critic). Josee is a woman who seems perfectly capable for love, but for some reason she seems to be magnet for trouble. Gee, I wonder why is that so.

What kind of novel is it? Well, there is a love story but I don't want to reveal any details. You probably gathered that the love story is not between the heroine and her husband, but as I don't want to include any spoilers, I won't reveal anything else. There were a quite a few credible minor characters and that made the novel so much better. I loved the way Josee's mother-in-law and her boss seemed like well-rounded characters whose actions made perfect sense.

The plot was at times predictable, but so much that I was actually left confused and uncertain, so perhaps that's another way to keep the reader's interest. I will say that I feel there was more to this novel than the story. *Lost Profile* seems to speak about love on so many levels. It speaks (both directly and indirectly) about abuse, jealousy, love, friendship and social life. Often it speaks about these themes with a casualty that somehow doesn't exclude profoundness. That's the best way I can describe it. In a very French way, Sagan seems to say a lot with few words. I don't really care that much about the pacing, the plot or even the credibility of this novel, I was left satisfied with those leisure sentences that seemed to reveal so much.

Is *Lost Profile* also a tale of obsession? Perhaps it is, but in more ways than one. I would say that it is first and foremost a story about love. I was surprised to see that love actually plays an important part (especially after the bitter start to the novel), but I still wouldn't call it a typical romance novel. I feel like there are two ways to read this novel. If you're going to focus only on the plot and the events, the chance is that you're going to miss out on a lot.

What I will take from this novel are not so much the characters and the events, but the complexity of the seemingly simple Sagan's writing. The story just seems to flow in a way that is as effortless as Parisian chic. It is very easy to read, but it is still the kind of book that stays with you, if you know what I mean. I think the strength of Sagan's works is always in the philosophical undertones. What is significant is perhaps not so much the story and the characters, but what they could symbolize. To sum it all up, Sagan is a wonderfully intelligent and subtle writer and this novel was a fascinating and enjoyable read.

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### **Agnès says**

Je découvre Sagan par la petite porte. Un style simple et agréable, précis.

1974 à Paris, la fin violente d'un amour conduit une femme naïve au cœur des plans d'un business man calculateur.

"Parce que depuis que je vous connais, moi, je ne m'ennuie plus".

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### **Avital says**

Françoise Sagan never disappoints or surprises. You always know you'll find a melancholic young woman of innocence and darkness at the same time, a manipulative older man and a final wonderful partner. She has interesting perspective of classes and of people, but there's a certain lack of clarity too. All in all - always fun to read.

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### **BoekenTrol says**

<http://www.bookcrossing.com/journal/8...>

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### **Milou Pujol says**

Una historia un poco predecible pero llena de sensaciones, pensamientos y reflexiones como solo Sagan

puede describir.  
Para disfrutar cada página.

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**gwen B says**

Sagan là où on ne l'attend pas. Magnifique analyse de la manipulation et de la psychologie de la manipulée.

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