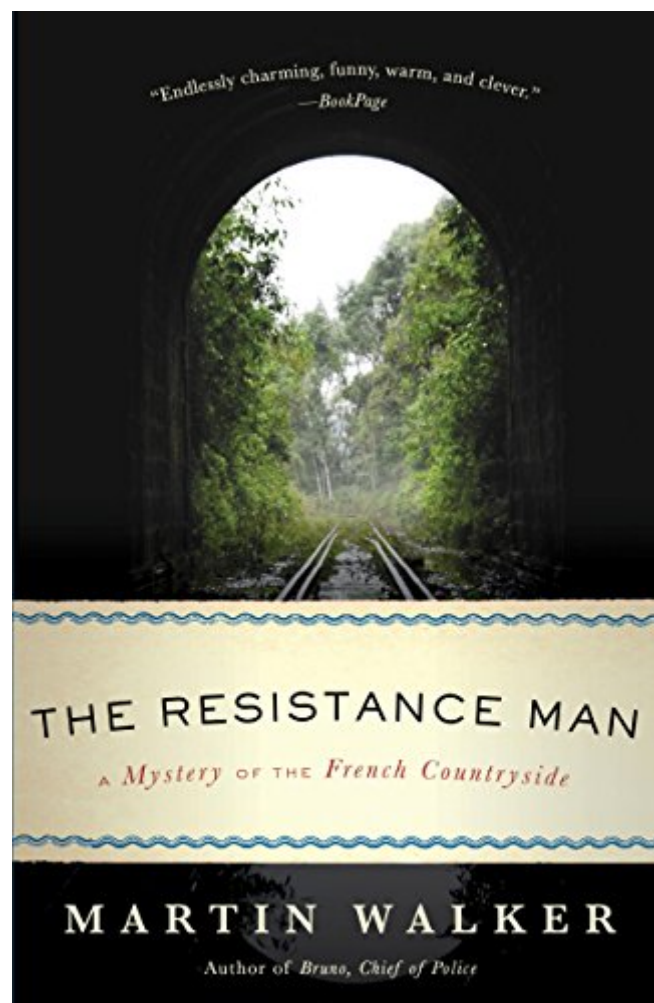


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The Resistance Man: A Mystery Of The French Countryside (Bruno, Chief Of Police Book 6)



Synopsis

The seventh installment in the delightful, internationally acclaimed series featuring Chief of Police Bruno. It's summer in St. Denis for chief of police Bruno Courrège, and that means a new season of cases. This time there are three weighing on his mind. First, there's the evidence that a veteran of the French Resistance is connected to a notorious train robbery; then, the burglary of a former British spymaster's estate; and, finally, the murder of an antiques dealer whose lover is conveniently on the lam. As Bruno investigates, it becomes clear that they are connected--however, figuring out how will take every skill he possesses. Add in juggling the complex affections of two powerful women, maneuvering village politics, and managing his irrepressible puppy, Balzac, and Bruno has his hands full once again.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

First Sentence: It is shortly after dawn on a day in the late spring that carries all the promise of summer to come. When an old French Resistance fighter dies, he is found in possession of old banknotes thought to be the robbery of the Neuvic Train during the War thought to be the greatest train robbery of all time. Bruno meets Jacqueline, who is researching a story claiming the US gave

clandestine support France's nuclear program, a fact that would not go over well with upcoming elections. A burglary, committed by thieves who target only items of value, including furniture, art and fine wines, has occurred at the vacation home of British citizen, Jack Crimson. However, this burglary includes murder when the victim's lover body is found. While one can appreciate Bruno realistically having more than one case on which to work as it makes it much more realistic and interesting. However, Bruno having a profusion of women in his life can become confusing for him, and for us. Walker is very good about connecting various threads in a rational way. He also maintains the human element by including the personal lives of some of the secondary characters, as well as displays of Bruno's own empathy and generosity toward others. Food and wine is a theme throughout the book, and the series. It is France, after all. Once you've read even one of the books, you'll join the legions asking Walker for a cookbook as the descriptions, detailed as they may be, just aren't enough to satisfy. Pamela had brought a Monbazillac from Clos L'Évêque, which would go perfectly with the strawberries. He'd put the marinated duck into the oven, sliced some ham and put a place of ham and his fresh radishes at each setting on his dining room table. Ah added some unsalted butter to each plate and sliced a big round loaf of bread from the Moulin bakery. There is an increasing depth to the case, and that it becomes one with a far-reaching impact. The information on the structure of French law and the manner of conducting investigations is interesting, as is the history of the Resistance fighters. It is also interesting to come across a scene where a Frenchman has never heard of Paul Revere and must have an explanation given. However, it is the point regarding the importance of a free press and fair elections that truly causes one to pause and consider. There is a very painful scene that might upset animal lovers, yet it is appropriately and humanely done. This is later followed by a scene of a very personal, painful revelation presented Bruno followed by an interesting contemplation of the options. Walker knows how to reach the readers' heart and has imbued Bruno with depth and dimension with makes him real and appealing. In describing a funeral, one may find it is not only the fictitious mourner's eyes that well-up with emotion. "The Resistance Man" is a book of many layers and multiple crimes, with complex, dimensional characters. It's not so much the crimes, as the people who are the focus and cause this to be a really good read in a wonderful series THE RESISTANCE MAN (Pol Proc Comm. Bruno Courrèges G+Walker, Martin 6th in series Knopf February 2014

Good news for Bruno fans -- he's back, along with most of the usual supporting characters, not the least of which is the Perigord village of St. Denis. In "The Resistance Man", there are several plots underway, beginning with the death of an elderly WWII resistance fighter who dies holding banknotes from a legendary cache of millions taken by the Maquis from the Vichy Government as the war turned against the Axis powers. A spate of house burglaries also becomes a full time problem for Chief Bruno as they involve an important retired British secret service agent who appears to be giving the French Government political jitters. A brutal death in the midst of all of the former introduces the Chief to the local gay community and inserts some commentary of how the French feel (variously) on the standing of that community in the nation's social structure. Add the familiar cast of Bruno's girl friends, new dog, running buddies and local cuisine and you've got the general substance of this latest installment in this pleasant series. Overall, I enjoyed the book well enough. The French might call it genial and that's a good way to describe the whole series. If there are flaws with "Resistance" it's probably that it bites off too much to process in its 300-odd pages. Author Walker has loaded this episode with an ungainly number of new characters and subplots. One major theme turns out to be a complete red herring OR maybe the track to a future novel. Hard to tell because the subject was not resolved in this book. Another problem for me was the handling of the gay characters; while Bruno takes a tolerant view on the subject, the book nevertheless paints pretty much all of this collective as losers (in several contexts). And there was no mention of the national debate in France on gay marriage. So, good read--maybe less finished, more loose ends than would be desirable.

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