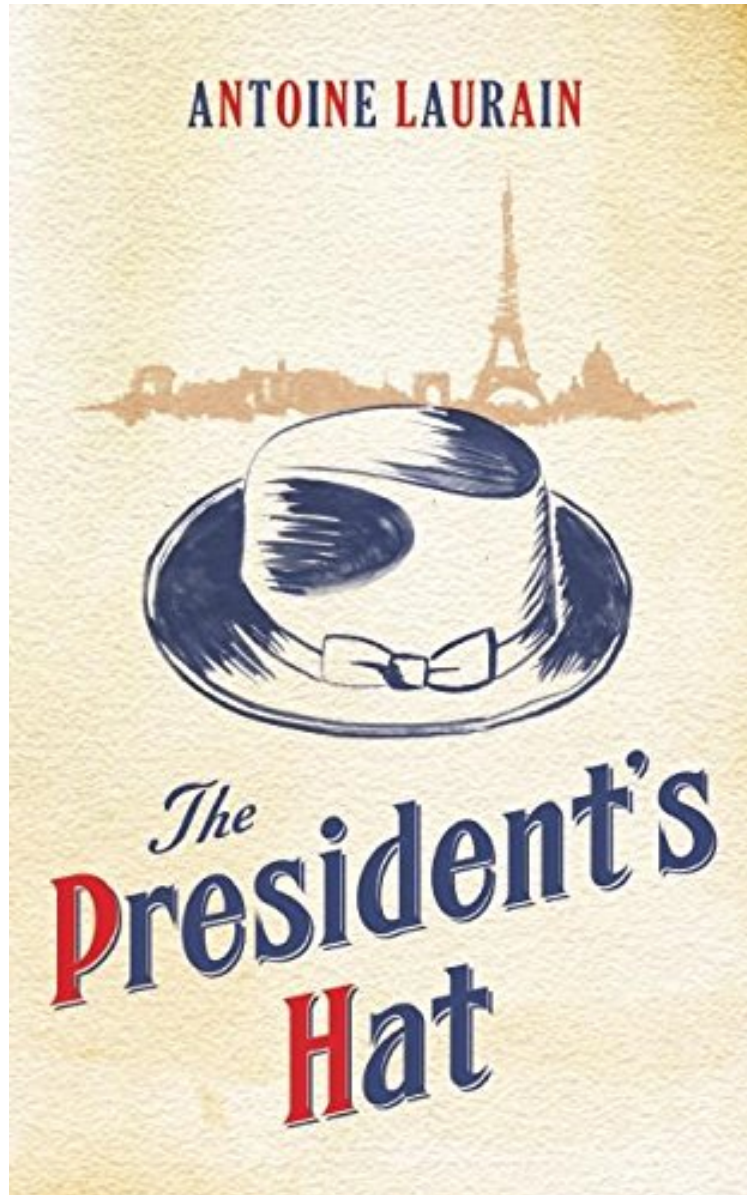


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## The President's Hat

*Antoine Laurain*

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**Antoine Laurain : The President's Hat** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The President's Hat:

This prize-winning French bestseller is a charming fable about the power of a hat that takes the reader on a roller-

coaster ride through French life during the Mitterrand years. Dining alone in an elegant Parisian brasserie, accountant Daniel Mercier can hardly believe his eyes when President François Mitterrand sits down to eat at the table next to him. After the presidential party has gone, Daniel discovers that Mitterrand's black felt hat has been left behind. After a few moments' soul-searching, Daniel decides to keep the hat as a souvenir of an extraordinary evening. It's a perfect fit, and as he leaves the restaurant Daniel begins to feel somehow . . . different. Has Daniel unwittingly discovered the secret of supreme power? For two years the iconic item of headgear plays with the lives of the men and women who wear it, bringing them success that had previously eluded them. Antoine Laurain's brilliantly orchestrated tour captures entertaining portraits of a rich gallery of characters. Shot through with a delicious, wicked sense of humor, *The President's Hat* is a vivid re-creation of the everyday life of an era. "As entertaining as it is original, this is a story to enjoy like a chocolate with a surprise centre."—Marie France "An enjoyable trip into the heart of the 1980s."—Le Figaro "Impossible to resist"—L'Express Antoine Laurain was born in Paris. He is a writer, collector, and director of several short films.