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FICTION

**Build Me a City:
Secrets, Lies, and Love in
Baron Haussmann's Paris**

Nancy Joaquim | IngramSpark

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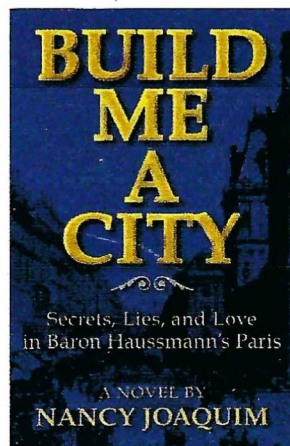
Family bonds and the substance of love are examined against the dreamy beauty of mid-nineteenth century Paris in the latest from Joaquim (Sophia, *A Woman's Search for Troy*). In 1853, French citizen Charles Fabron is mourning the death of his wife and twin sons when he is offered a position as an architect in The Paris Project—an initiative to transform old Paris into the “sanitized, soul-stirring urban masterpiece” nicknamed the “City by the Seine.” Fabron resigns on under the project’s mastermind, Prefect Baron Georges-Eugene Haussmann, but discovers that rebuilding a centuries-old city is not what he anticipated, in the process uncovering family secrets and finding love in unexpected places.

Despite his initial vision for a modernized, elegant Paris, Fabron walks a tightrope between Haussmann’s almost-impossible demands and being forced to demolish “thousands of centuries-old houses.” His unhappiness is partially alleviated when 11-year-old Daniel Lazare is assigned as his new runner. Fabron becomes surprisingly fond of Lazare, until an ugly incident disrupts their relationship. That disaster and the Franco-Prussian War puts a

Sweeping retelling of Paris’ luminous transformation, intertwined with family secrets and lost love.

Great for fans of

Alistair Horne’s *Seven Ages of Paris*, Edward Rutherfurd’s *Paris: The Novel*.



halt to Fabron’s plans—and results in an exposé of family betrayal alongside a revelation of lost love.

Joaquim’s writing simmers with the glamour and magic of old Paris, from the glittering nightlife to mouth-watering descriptions of regional dishes. History lovers will be captivated by Joaquim’s exploration of Napoleon Bonaparte and Louis Napoleon’s “more accessible Paris,” and be spellbound by its breathtaking transformation.

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