



The Legend of Little Eagle

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August 1944 – France. An American plane crashes near the small village of Verdeil in Burgundy.

Nearly 70 years later a journalist, Hélène Marchal, hears of the event. But there is more to it: she finds a copy of a letter her grandfather wrote to the parents of the pilot who lost his life. She comes to understand that the house she has just inherited would have been destroyed had the aviator not sacrificed his life, by deciding to steer the plane away from the house. Her mother was four years old at the time, and was at home. If first lieutenant John Philip Garreau had bailed out with his parachute when there was still time, Hélène's mother would have been killed.

Hélène pales at the thought: she would not have been born if the pilot had not acted in a way which, to her, is simply heroic. She owes him her life! Who was he? The address on the letter is her only lead: Browning, Montana. Hélène Marchal decides to travel there to investigate, to go through the archives and try to find any remaining witnesses.

Gradually she will piece together the life of a very young man nicknamed Little Eagle. With hindsight, his life takes on the dimensions of a legend. And with it brings the protagonists to question their own destinies.

Florian Rochat is a writer and journalist who lives in Switzerland. He is the author of a previous novel, Cougar Corridor, and a memoir, Un printemps sans chien (both in French).

The Legend of Little Eagle Details

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From Reader Review The Legend of Little Eagle for online ebook

Hal says

I won't attempt to summarize the book. You can click on the title above for that. This book completely mesmerized me, and that has nothing to do with WW II aviation being one of my favorite genres. The writing just blew me away.

"Little Eagle" was written in French and later translated into English. But as is often the case, nothing appears lost in the translation process. It's quite like the great books by Antoine de Saint-Exuperey in that regard. Every once in a while I had to remind myself that this was fiction. The characters became unbelievably real to me. The only actual person was Saint-Exuperey.

"Little Eagle" crosses several genres. If you like historical fiction, WW II or aviation stories you will like this book. And if you appreciate good writing, I can almost guarantee you'll love it.

Kathryn Guare says

A lovely, enormously touching story

This beautiful novel is so meticulously and lovingly researched that it's hard to believe the story is fictitious. I very much enjoyed getting to know a part of America I've never visited through the author's eyes, and the detail around the creation of the legend of John Philip Garreau is superb. The connection to the writing of St. Exupery was quite touching, with its questions about the nature of immortality and what it means to live honorably in the face of death.

Teri Pre says

I think it was the work of the translator that made me not love this book. There were a lot of awkward sentences and paragraphs.

Lisa says

I was fortunate enough to win a copy of this book from GoodReads.com. I was enthralled by this book and recommend it highly. Little Eagle was a young man during the war and loved flying. His native American heritage was beneficial in helping with his dream for flying. It was a young woman from France that brought this young man's life to the forefront when she realizes that she wouldn't have been born if it weren't for his bravery. This is a tribute of sorts to him.

I enjoyed the historical facts and knowledge of planes that the author put in this novel. I felt as if I were there

during the war, right by Johnny himself.
