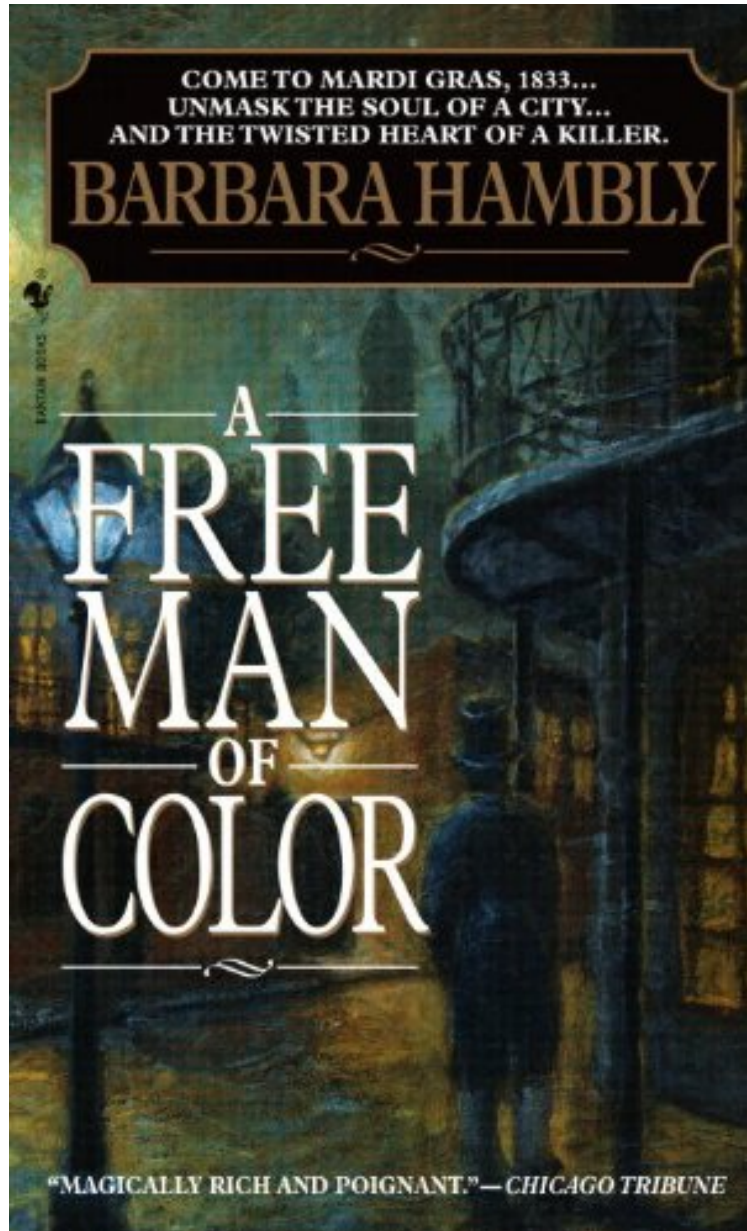


(Free and download) A Free Man of Color (A Benjamin January Mystery)

## A Free Man of Color (A Benjamin January Mystery)

Von Barbara Hambly

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**Von Barbara Hambly : A Free Man of Color (A Benjamin January Mystery)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Free Man of Color (A Benjamin January Mystery):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Walk on gilded splintersVon Steve HooleyEver wanted to go back in time? Just hop in the time machine and see the past? Read

this; you'll be cured. Hambly leads us down a muddy path into New Orleans at the height of the slavery days, and shows it to us in all its stinking glory through the educated eyes of freeman Benjamin January; a Paris-educated 'colored' whose surgical training and skill on the piano mean little to the white inhabitants of the French-speaking city. January has fled Paris to escape the ghost of his cholera-slain wife, and is a cultured fellow who gives us a slightly modern viewpoint as he struggles to fit back into a world in which he is not allowed to look a white in the eye. Hambly starts with a glossary of the names used to distinguish degrees of prized white blood: octoroon, griffe, sambo. The rich planters all have octoroon or quadroon mistresses, who live in houses bought by their protectors through their mothers' negotiations, and who birth more octoroons and quadroons for the 'placee' system. The white and colored balls are held side by side, and the men circulate between wife and mistress all night. It's not a pretty picture, and January, from his vantage point as the pianist on the white side, sees it all ... all except the moment when a colored girl is strangled, and the blame begins to shift his way. January must solve the crime himself or be blamed for it, and risking slavery, voodoo, and humiliation along the way, solve it he does. Every character in this book, from the Prussian swordmaster Mayerling to the old scarfaced Ewe tribesman Lucius, is trapped in the web of their unsavory culture. It's a clear indictment of the human race; we should all be whipped for letting stuff like this go on. Only the outsiders like Ben and the ridiculous Kaintuck policeman Abishag Shaw have a chance to rise above the steamy, muck-filled gutters and see a hopeful future. A good mystery book, too: all the clues are there if you look back. But I think I'm developing a prejudice against white people after reading it ...

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Fascinating! ! Von Kindle Customer When I first saw that Barbara Hambly was moving away from fantasy, I was disappointed. She is one of my favorites. But then I read "A Free Man of Color" and "Fever Season" and was blown away. The characters are rich and the amount of research and work that went into the story must have been massive. She picks you up and puts you right down in 1833 New Orleans. One thing for sure, you don't go to New Orleans without wondering where it all happened. Thank you for a wonderful book.

2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Free Man of Color Traps The Reader Von Melodie Kate Ford I agree with several of the reviewers that this book was difficult to get into and Ms. Hambly added a tremendous amount of detail...that is where I end my agreement with those readers that felt it was too much information. I think we sometimes get lazy and just want the facts. To often we just want story to move along quickly. Yes, I struggled to keep the characters straight and this was definately not the best book for reading on the subway 5 to 10 minutes at a time. But it was wonderful and brought the reality of people outside the norm (indians, blacks and the poor) to the fore and lets those who don't understand their plight an opportunity to get it. I loved the book! But it is best read where you can concentrate on the content.

Kurzbeschreibung A lush and haunting novel of a city steeped in decadent pleasures...and of a man, proud and defiant, caught in a web of murder and betrayal. It is 1833. In the midst of Mardi Gras, Benjamin January, a Creole physician and music teacher, is playing piano at the Salle d'Orleans when the evenings festivities are interrupted--by murder. Ravishing Angelique Crozat, a notorious octoroon who travels in the city's finest company, has been strangled to death. With the authorities reluctant to become involved, Ben begins his own inquiry, which will take him through the seamy haunts of riverboatmen and into the huts of voodoo-worshipping slaves. But soon the eyes of suspicion turn toward Benfor, black as the slave who fathered him, this free man of color is still the perfect scapegoat.... From the Paperback edition.. de In Barbara Hambly's rich and poignant thriller, it's 1833 and Ben January--a man of mixed blood making his living as a musician because he's not allowed to practice surgery--is back home in New Orleans after years of freedom in Paris. Trying to walk a caste line more complicated than India's, January risks his precarious position to investigate the killing of a young woman who--like his own younger, lighter half-sister--is the mistress of a wealthy white man. What has changed most in New Orleans while Ben was away is the influence of the white Americans: rough, ignorant, instinctively racist. Only one of these--a policeman named Abishag Shaw--seems to understand that January is at least as smart and valuable as he is, and even he at times appears to be ready to side with the white majority and pin the crime on Ben.. com In Barbara Hambly's rich and poignant thriller, it's 1833 and Ben January--a man of mixed blood making his living as a musician because he's not allowed to practice surgery--is back home in New Orleans after years of freedom in Paris. Trying to walk a caste line more complicated than India's, January risks his precarious position to investigate the killing of a young woman who--like his own younger, lighter half-sister--is the mistress of a wealthy white man. What has changed most in New Orleans while Ben was away is the influence of the white Americans: rough, ignorant, instinctively racist. Only one of these--a policeman named Abishag Shaw--seems to understand that January is at least as smart and valuable as he is, and even he at times appears to be ready to side with the white majority and pin the crime on Ben.