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La Vie En Rose: Notes From Rural France



LA VIE
EN ROSE
Notes From Rural France
Susie Kelly



Synopsis

Living the French dream – vineyards, sunflowers, lavender fields, glasses of wine and platters of fromage. French ladies slender and chic, French men wearing berets and riding bicycles with baguettes clamped under their arms when they are not flirting outrageously, and all the while the sun shines down benevolently upon uniform rows of ripening vegetables. Dreams are strange and unpredictable, and sometime so is la vie en rose. A pick from some of the best bits of the popular travel author's blog diaries reveal the minutiae of expat day to day life in rural France. A must-read for Susie Kelly fans and anybody thinking of, or dreaming of, moving to France.

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Customer Reviews

Day to day life in a village in the French countryside is described in the form of journal entries. Anyone thinking about moving to rural France should read this book carefully before making any serious decisions.

These are short pieces of creative nonfiction each about a page in length of people, animals, machines, tools, recipes and events Susie Kelly encountered in rural France from 2007 to 2011. Her writing lifts them effortlessly into the reader's memory. One could compare these diary entries to photographs except that I don't see how even many photographs would present what she has done more accurately. My memory now contains a mouse she found in her home and released outside with a bit of meat. If I were that mouse I would be heading back. My memory contains a vagabond family quietly moving through the community with all of its possessions. There are her neighbors, especially the expert gardener she calls Mr. Nextdoor and multiple retail salesmen with whom she had less pleasant contact. The description of the beloved local bakery that closed was amusing as well as why she stopped buying their bread. Her problems with stoves and pasta machines that can't ruin the pasta are treated with the same humor and sensitivity. The main character she describes is herself and she makes the reader feel comfortably at home and on her side. She has found a way to pay attention to her surroundings with heartfelt, humorous and imaginative attention turning what appears ordinary and personal into the extraordinary and universal by writing about it and that is what good creative nonfiction should do. I received a copy of the ebook from the publisher in exchange for a fair review.

Being a real fan of Susie Kelly's style of writing I couldn't resist downloading this book with my Kindle Unlimited subscription, and was not disappointed. Yet again she managed to entertain me thoroughly with a completely new selection of her blog posts written about her observations on life in France. I have to say right now, if you are thinking of moving to France, or are coming on holiday here, this is essential preparation reading, I kid you not! As an expat, living life day to day in France I could immediately laugh, agree, and sometimes commiserate on Susie's reflections on the way real life is over here. Yes, it is wonderful, no I would never go back, however, sometimes the French way of life and doing things is totally mystifying. One lovely observation I had to agree on is that it is rare to see a child misbehaving, or a parent rising their voice to them, they seem to know what is expected of them from an early age, and this is lovely to observe. Some of her comments on shops, their opening times, and repair policies couldn't help but make me smile, yes you get used to life here, but every so often some things do seem a little strange to say the least. There are so many interesting topics to read about, and on a personal note, I have to thank her for giving an explanation to something I have seen many times, yet never used, in the last chapter. At least if I

have to use one in future I will know what to do, and if you want to know what it is, then read the book *La Vie En Rose: Notes From Rural France*. You will not be disappointed! A thoroughly entertaining book which captured me from the moment I opened it, until the very last word.

Susie Kelly and Blackbird Books are on a roll. One month after the launch of her brand new memoir *Safari Ants and Baggy Pants*, they have now released *La Vie En Rose: Notes From Rural France*. While not an entirely new release, *La Vie En Rose* is a collection of Susie Kelly's blog posts from October 2010 handily compiled in one place; her musings on daily life in rural France. From strange dreams to nightmare customer service, and dining room disasters to quirky neighbours, there is a little bit of everything, all served up with Susie Kelly's sense of humour that never fails to make me smile. Initially I wasn't sure how I was going to feel about reading a collection of blogs as a book, however, life has been rather hectic of late and having the energy to read, follow and remember complex plots at the end of the day was proving impossible. Being able to dip into a few snippets of Susie Kelly's life before falling asleep put a smile on my face and was just what I needed. I was sent a copy of this book by the publisher

This book is just plain fun! It's a collection of real-life events that are fun, funny, moving, even dramatic. Can all these things happen to one household, one person? The answer is yes! Here is more Susie Kelly, entertaining us, informing us, amusing us. How wonderful that this collection was bound and published. We the readers are the beneficiaries! Read a few pages each day; keep the book at your side.

Wonderful book, laughed till I cried and just couldn't put it down.

I absolutely loved this book. It was a lovely book to read whilst we were on a short holiday.

Charming relaxing read. Made me chuckle and smile.

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