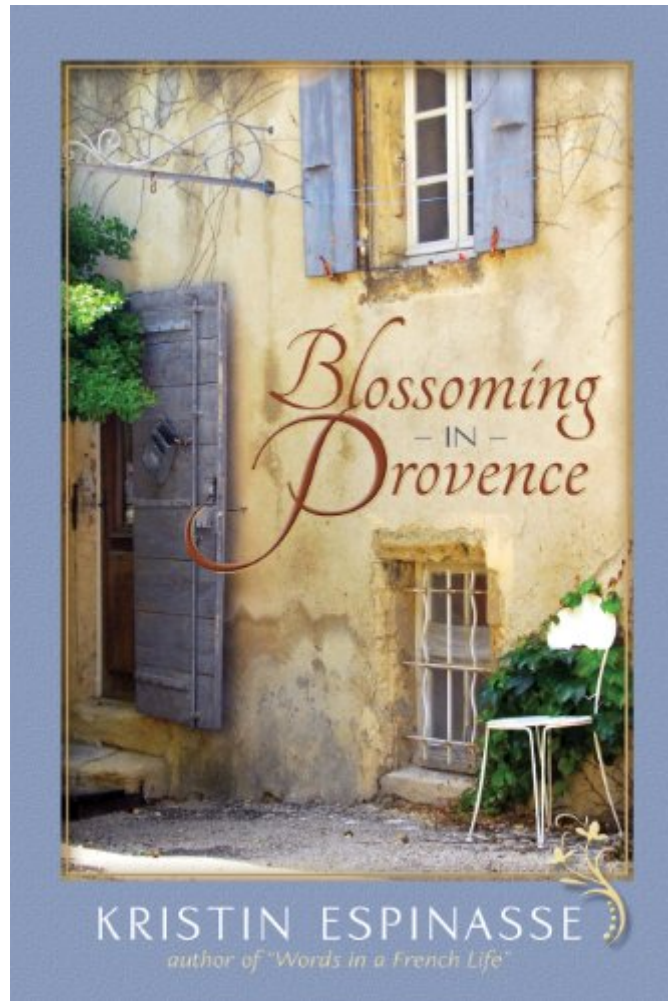




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Blossoming In Provence



Synopsis

For American Kristin Espinasse, every encounter with the French— including her own Francophone family— is a chance to learn more than a country's language or etiquette— it is an opportunity for growth. Follow along with Kristin as she meets and overcomes obstacles along the path to French integration: sit on the edge of your seat at her wedding, when her future husband's ex shows up in a slinky dress; buckle your seatbelt as she gets in the car to take the French Drivers exam; share a slice of humble pie with her as her children continue to enlighten her, in their native tongue, about the mystery and meaning of *la vie en rose*. "Espinasse recounts her adventures with honesty and humor, never afraid to have a good laugh at her own expense." — Publishers Weekly

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Customer Reviews

I've been trying to read, speak and understand French for over 40 years. I consider myself pretty fluent for everyday conversations; less so during academic theory. However, I realized how hard it is to totally get inside another language when I found Kristin Espinasse's 'French-word-a-day' blog a number of years ago. So many other meanings and wonderful idiomatic phrases for words I already knew! If only I could keep them all in my head, I'd sound like a native. The best thing about her

books, however, is that one does not feel like one is learning a language when one reads her stories (and I have all three previous books, each one sweetly autographed with a kind comment before mailing). There are word lessons, yes, but also lessons about culture, family, neighbors, livelihoods, values, personal growth. She believes she is simply writing little anecdotes from her life as an American married to a Frenchman with a vineyard to illustrate the use of French terms. She is doing much more than that; she is sharing her uniquely artistic and optimistic view of life with us--perfect strangers--who become enthralled. Witness the dozens of comments from her 'fans' for every post on her blog. When the puppy was injured, we all agonized through the vet reports. When her children reach milestones, we remember and we empathize. When her mother visits, we laugh and enjoy her antics. When a social occasion is awkward, we squirm with her. When she meets a wonderful stranger and tells us of their conversation, we eagerly look for their photo further down the page. Now she is going through the terror of surgeries for skin cancer and everyone who reads her blog has become part of an international cheering section. This book chronicles a few years from the best blog stories and photographs. Don't be left out of the Espinasse family! You don't have to be interested in learning French to enjoy these heartwarming stories.

Kristin Espinasse exemplifies the new face of great writers. She is among those brave few who are willing to put their daily lives on display with indelible ink .. a daunting task that takes huge amounts of courage, dedication, and tenacity. Those of us who are privy to her writing are truly witnessing history in the making. Following her blog @ French-Word-A-Day has become a daily staple for nearly 35,000 people, and with good reason. Buying her books is an honor .. an honor because that act will make it possible for her to continue giving herself to us in the most gracious and unselfish manner she constantly exhibits. Kristin is leaving a beautiful footprint, which history will surely recognize. Read her stuff .. you'll be glad you did.

Having read many of Kristin Espinasse's stories of her life in France in her French Word A Day blog, I decided to buy her book *Blossoming in Provence*. I am so glad that I did, as Kristin's short stories about her family and her life are very uplifting and often amusing. She has a great eye for detail and always seeks out the best in everyone and each situation. The odd French word appears in the story and there is a translation and other related vocabulary at the end of each story which is also educational! Altogether an entertaining and atmospheric book. I hope others will buy it and enjoy it as much as I have.

This book is okay, but I was expecting a story - maybe something like "My Grape Escape". Instead it is a collection of short stories. I guess the advantage is you can read them out of order. The disadvantage is you're not curious about what happens in the future - there isn't one. The stories are okay, just not what I was expecting. I think the back cover should mention it is a collection of short essays.

If you are purchasing this book because you want to learn how glamorous it is to live in Provence, need a traveler's guide, or are in search of a crash course in beginning French, look elsewhere. To be sure, this book will teach you French words and everyday expressions, all woven into short vignettes about one American woman's life in Provence with her French husband, their two children, assorted pets. You'll learn about feeling like an outsider at times, the hard work of making a vineyard successful, and the quiet daily rounds and chores that are part of a life anywhere when you are actually living in the place and not just on vacation. The author writes with insight that is both delicate and wise. She can capture a lot in a short sketch. What she sees, and how she grows and thinks about her life can touch a reader living anywhere, even one who has no interest in Provence. Her voice is understated, and quietly elegant. You can learn a lot more than French phrases from this insightful and lovely book. I read this on the plane coming back from France last summer, and even in these late autumn days, I still think about the book and look back at some of the stories.

Having spent a month in Provence three summers ago, I am always yearning to return, and next time a visit "chez Espinasse" and their marvelous vinyard, Domaine Rouge-Bleu, will be top of the list. I have Kristen's earlier books and follow her thrice-weekly blog. These essays are full of family adventures, including the popular, scene-stealing family pets, Goldens Braise and her pup, Smokey. It is a pleasure to read her accounts of life in France and to attempt to increase my French language skills with the many French words and expressions offered in her writings. A pleasure to read and an excellent holiday gift for my friends. I highly recommend.

I got my copy of this book in September 2011. As an avid reader of Kristen's blog, I was very excited to get my copy of her new book. I love how Kristen tells her stories because I can relate to them in a lot of ways as I am married to a Frenchman!! may sound a little "cuckoo" but Kristen is one of those people who I feel is my friend although I have never met her...lol..I admire her so much and I really hope to meet her some day! As far as reading the book, once I picked it up I could not

put it down and when it ended I wanted more..Keep up the good work Kristen, I am anxiously awaiting your next book...:)

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