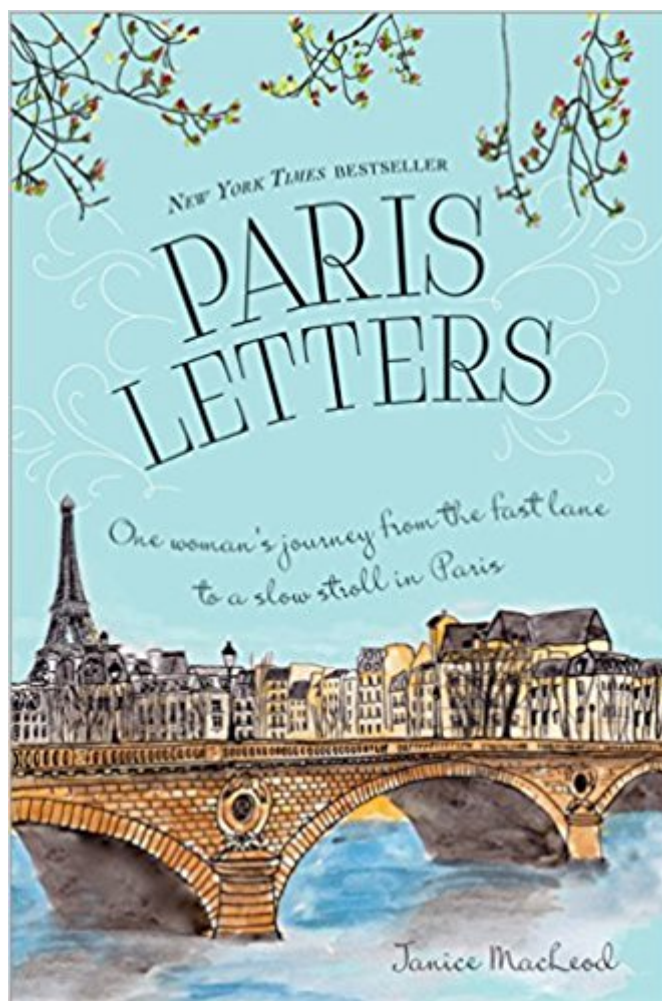


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Paris Letters



Synopsis

A New York Times bestseller Finding love and freedom in a pen, a paintbrush...and Paris How much money does it take to quit your job? Exhausted and on the verge of burnout, Janice poses this questions to herself as she doodles on a notepad at her desk. Surprisingly, the answer isn't as daunting as she expected. With a little math and a lot of determination, Janice cuts back, saves up, and buys herself two years of freedom in Europe. A few days into her stop in Paris, Janice meets Christophe, the cute butcher down the street-who doesn't speak English. Through a combination of sign language and franglais, they embark on a whirlwind Paris romance. She soon realizes that she can never return to the world of twelve-hour workdays and greasy corporate lingo. But her dwindling savings force her to find a way to fund her dreams again. So Janice turns to her three loves-words, art, and Christophe-to figure out a way to make her happily-ever-after in Paris last forever.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Girlfriends! If you are single and full of untapped creative energy (say, you've dabbled in photography, jewelry making), former junk-mail writer turned memoirist MacLeod's tell-a-lot might prove inspirational. Feeling trapped, MacLeod scraped up some cash (she helpfully lists the 100 ways she saved; number 32 is simple enough: "Traded stocks"), went to Paris (and proves she is in Paris by scattering French phrases throughout), and met an amazing man, a butcher. "He and his sexy jeans would bend down to stir up the potatoes that were roasting in drippings at the bottom of the oven." MacLeod

points out in an author's note that most of the men she describes have more stunning qualities here than they "actually cultivated in themselves because that is how she once rolled." The book itself, once rolling, may be chick lite, padded with sketches and letters and such, but it has a happy ending. "It had only occurred to me in that moment that I was indeed an artist. In Paris! And she gets the guy, too. --Eloise Kinney

"Inspiration for others longing for adventure ... A romantic romp from Santa Monica to Paris with loads of advice on how to live minimally and take risks in life and love." - Kirkus
"Charming ... How memorist Janice MacLeod rewrote her life story, one gorgeously illustrated letter at a time" - Flare Magazine
"Written as though to best friend telling her story over lattes-or coffee-me. Relatable and inspiring ... cleverly crafted with wit and unexpected wisdom" - New York Journal of Books
"Janice MacLeod's charming Paris Letters takes us on her starry-eyed discovery of Paris, the joys of learning the French language, a unique career in art and, best of all, the romance of a lifetime! C'est bon!" - Lynne Martin, author of Home Sweet Anywhere
"Aspirational fiction? No, a true story to inspire similar dreamers out there." - National Geographic's "Intelligent Travel"
"Through Janice's letters to friends and subscribers, as well as her writings, we can discover the delights she finds ... Follow your heart and dare to live your dreams but prepare for them first" - Dear Author
"I can't do justice to their beautiful love story-you need to read a firsthand account." - CanadianLiving.com
"Paris Letters will inspire people ... MacLeod's finding her bliss gives everyone else hope that the impossible is anything but." - Shelf Awareness
"Escape for a few hours with this delightful and breezy memoir from a Canadian writer and artist living in Paris. " - Canadian Family

If ever there were a book I'd love to climb inside, an author through whom I could live vicariously, it's Janice MacLeod and PARIS LETTERS. After climbing the metaphorical advertising ladder in Los Angeles, Janice realizes her "dream job" -- and dream life -- aren't quite what she imagined. Worn out by her 9-to-5 and dreaming of so much more than a dull commute and another birthday cake for a coworker, she begins to fantasize about a life beyond the square walls of her office. Encouraged to journal her thoughts and think about something more, a question rises to the surface: How much money does it take to change your life? The answer is roughly 60K, actually -- enough to quit her job, sell most of her worldly possessions and leave California for a walkabout in Europe. By scrimping wherever possible, she amasses enough to arrive in Paris and walk sip creamy lattes in the sidewalk cafes just as she imagined. Though she speaks no French, her arrival in the City of Light isn't burdened by language barriers. She soon meets Christophe, a handsome butcher, and

begins her French education rather romantically. When she considered her talents back in America, one passion kept returning to her: art. Painting. With the time and freedom to now explore those dreams, she sets to work cultivating and fashioning an entirely new life for herself. And the results are pretty extraordinary. How to describe my love for PARIS LETTERS? Picture me in my pajamas sipping coffee on a snowy day, imagining what it must feel like to step off a plane with only a tiny suitcase in a foreign city -- unburdened, untethered, totally free. Though I love my own work, I know the constraints of a desk job all too well. The idea of abandoning it all to chase your passions -- in Paris! -- holds an allure I can't deny. For Janice, shedding her old skin and finding love in France is revelatory. Who among us can't relate to holding that holy grail of professional accomplishment -- that "I did it!" cup declaring you finally met a longstanding goal -- only to realize . . . you're not happy? It isn't what you wanted after all? If the joy is in the journey, reaching the end of that journey -- job stability; boring routines -- isn't actually so joyous in the end. And that's okay. Janice's experiences in Europe are absolutely enchanting -- and I'm going to be honest here. It's been a long time since I read a Paris- or London-themed book that didn't make me green and rage-y with jealousy. Usually when I read a memoir about an American/Canadian upending their lives to eat macarons, write and paint abroad with a seemingly unending pile of cash, I think, "Oh, golly -- must be freakin' nice." But here? All I felt about Janice's story was complete enchantment. She's down-to-earth, friendly, funny, interesting. Writing honestly about both her feelings on leaving behind her old life and the stress of beginning a new one (and with a new man), I bonded with Janice immediately -- and that's all to say nothing of her actual Paris letters, which she paints, writes and addresses to subscribers through Etsy. When I finished PARIS LETTERS, I made a mad scramble to see if her work is still available online -- and it is! And my delight will continue. Recommended to fans of contemporary memoirs, armchair travelers, francophiles, dreamers . . . anyone who has imagined giving up a life of desk-bound duty for adventure. One I'll be sharing with friends for sure in 2014.

Janice is sweet, her boyfriend/husband is a dream but the book is a little....boring. I feel terrible saying this. She is a fabulous artist, her story is envy inducing, she is funny and seems like someone you would love to call a friend. Yet. It seemed a little predictable at times and at times I could barely be interested in continuing to read it. I say all of this but yet if she wrote a sequel I would read it in a heartbeat. Did she end up living in France or Canada? Did she have kids? Move to a bigger apartment in Paris or to the country? Janice I am waiting to find out. And as a fellow Polish (via America) patriot-well DONE on you choice of grooms!

This book is a non-fiction memoir that reads better than a contemporary romance. Janice Macleod (insert "Highlander" reference here), burnt-out high end LA copywriter, figured out how to leave her job and do what she loves: traveling. After a year of scrimping, saving, downsizing and giving up "stuff", she's doubled her one year monetary goals, boarded a plane, and off she goes into her dream adventures. And straight into the arms of a French Delicatessian worker. Talk about changing your life! He proposes they share living space, they share lives. And when the money becomes tight, she figures out just how to live where she loves, with who she loves doing what she loves. And then tells us how she did it

Maybe what we have isn't really what we want. You should make a plan. Listen to your inner voice. Believe there is a plan for your life. This is one woman's story of how she realized that her current life isn't what she wanted, the steps she took to change it, and what she found when she did. It also offers charming drawings and letters from Paris.

I adore Europe. I've read books about expats moving to Europe. With only one exception, they've always been a disappointment. Not this time. The author crafted a book that was honest without trying to patronize the reader. I loved the beginning to include HOW she started her journey. The reality was interesting and inspiring. (The list of 100 ways at the end was a nice touch.) Her writing style is easy and descriptive. I feel many writing this type of book try to force their charming observations. Hers came across as real. I dream of retiring to Europe in about five years. This story has moved me to start paring down my life in anticipation. This is a book I will keep and read again.

I visited Paris with a girl friend and our daughters, and we visited many of the sights she mentions in Paris. So I loved reading about her exploring the city, much like we did as tourists. I could hear and smell the sights that she was describing because I had been there. She writes very well, and has a great sense of humor. I enjoyed reading about her feelings and thoughts in the days and months leading up to her trip to Europe and working thru the reasons to stay or go. I have recommended this book already to my friend and many others. I loved every page.

Last year my husband and I lived in France for six months for his job, so I was immediately drawn to this book. It's about a woman from California who saves up for a year to quit her rat-race job in advertising (believe me, I feel for her) to travel around Europe. While she's traveling, this vegan

meets a hunky butcher boyfriend in Paris, where she eventually moves. Paris Letters are not only her way of recording her adventures, but also supporting herself to be able to stay in the country. Lord, how I identify with this woman and her travels, especially in Paris. Plus, her writing is light, to-the-point, and funny. Highly recommended. I also went on Etsy and ordered a subscription to her "Paris Letters" - that's how compelling the story is. And I haven't regretted it!

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