

La Vie En Rose: Notes From Rural France

Susie Kelly

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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.

La Vie En Rose: Notes From Rural France Details

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
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From Reader Review La Vie En Rose: Notes From Rural France for online ebook

Sylvia M Anderson says

Very entertaining!

A quick read, very satisfying. I really enjoyed her honest reflections and experiences. It made me see France in a more realistic light than the fairytale place it is often made out to be!

Cindy says

This is not really a full book, but rather excerpts from the author's blogs. Little glimpses into life in rural France for an English expat during the early 2000s. Interesting. I may pursue something more complete from this author.

Tibia says

Such a charming book! 3.5

Susan Keefe says

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 raising 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 – you will not be disappointed!

A thoroughly entertaining book which captured me from the moment I opened it, until the very last word.

Sandra McKenna says

A selection of Susie's diary notes on her life in France from 2007 to 2011.

This was such a pleasure to read; it was funny and entertaining. I wanted it to go on and on.

I loved her style of writing and wonderful sense of humour, and am look forward to reading more of her books.

Jeana Rock says

I loved this short memoir. We are heading to France in January and this gave me a little glimpse of life there from the British perspective. Kelly's humor is delightful!

Pat Ellis says

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. I've read other books by this author and this one didn't let me down. Taken from journal entries on day-to-day activities giving tidbits of life in rural France - funny and enjoyable. It's not a tome by any stretch of the imagination - it was a quick read for me (a slow reader) - but that didn't detract from my enjoyment of it at all.

Jacqueline says

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'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'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's life before falling asleep put a smile on my face and was just what I needed.

Another great read Susie, thank you.

Barbara M says

An enjoyable collection of diary notes from the author re: her life in rural France. As the author notes, living in rural France is not just drinking wine and eating cheese. She shares some of the work involved in living in a rural area, the annoyances of French life, and the simple pleasures!

I enjoyed this particular book drinking my coffee in the morning. Each entry is short and I was able to read quite a few while sipping my coffee. I could picture myself in France with the author!

The author included a lot of French expressions and words throughout the book - which I enjoy. I do know a little French and was able to understand a lot of them. However, some were unusual and it would have been nice if she included an English translation in the footnotes since the book was written in English. Since I was reading the book on my kindle, I highlighted the ones I didn't know and will look them up.

I enjoyed her writing and would be interested in reading a full book by this author. This was more a collection of diary notes with different anecdotes about her daily life.

Frank Hubeny says

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.

Carmen says

I found Susie Kelly's tales of French life quite endearing; it ended up being a really delightful book. I got a copy in exchange for an honest review.

Susan Franey says

What a fun book! Susie's blogs always make me chuckle so with a compilation of the best bits AND recipes?? What more can a girl need.

The many animals and birds that seem to flock to Susie's home and try to share it with her are an endless source of fodder for her musings. I want to live in this wonderful country house along with all its quirks and problems.

Susie sure knows how to deliver a tale. I love all her books and can't wait for the next one. But three books in one year would be far to much to ask!
