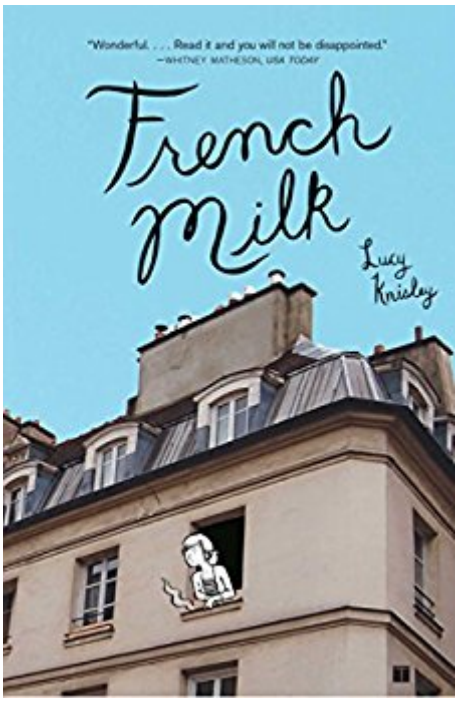
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French Milk



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Synopsis

Through delightful drawings, photographs, and musings, twenty-three-year-old Lucy Knisley documents a six-week trip she and her mother took to Paris when each was facing a milestone birthday. With a quirky flat in the fifth arrondissement as their home base, they set out to explore all the city has to offer, watching fireworks over the Eiffel Tower on New Year's Eve, visiting Oscar Wilde's grave, loafing at cafÃƒÂ©s, and, of course, drinking delicious French milk. What results is not only a sweet and savory journey through the City of Light but a moving, personal look at a mother-daughter relationship.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have enjoyed Knisley's graphic travelogues, which have a common theme of enjoying food while away from home. But this first work, viewed from the vantage point of later in her career, is not particularly successful. The book is actually a comic journal of her trip to Paris with her mother at age 21/22, and it is lovely for that -- there are sweet notes about the food and what they have seen.

But since it is essentially a personal journal, it does not offer much more. Knisley writes a bit about her boyfriend back home and some of her friendships, but "French Milk" basically recounts what she and her mother saw, and ate, each day during her month in France.Knisley is a gifted comics artist and writer, and her work would soon mature considerably. "French Milk" can be seen as a rough draft of her later, better work.

About a month ago I read Relish by Lucy Knisley and instantly became a huge fan of her work. After I read Relish I had to get her earlier, French Milk; and I'm so glad I did. Lucy has a way of telling her life experiences with a sharp wit that you just want to know more about her life. You can completely empathize with her.The entire book is about her trip to Paris with her mom. When I was twenty-two, my mom and I went to Europe. We had such a great time. But, at the same time, we had those mother/daughter spats and so did Lucy and her mother. This book brought back such great memories for me. The mom/daughter bonding is something that you will treasure forever. Lucy is hardly ever critical of her mom which I find rather refreshing. They had such a great time in Paris. I thought that Lucy really illustrated how close her mother and her really are.Another thing I really loved was how Lucy was able to show her angst on her soon to be graduation from college. I rememeber when I was twenty-two and trying to figure what I was supposed to do with my life. Her depressive fits were fitting for her time in life. To me, every college-graduate feels the uncertainty after graduating from college. It's scary and depressing.I loved Lucy's Paris. It was all about food and art. She is a milk and foie gras affionado. She loved the milk in Paris so much that she named her book for it and I totally get it. I remember when I was in Paris and I thought the vegetables never tasted better. It's probably all the nasty preservatives Americans use. But the food DOES taste better in Paris! Most of her memories centers around food. She documents most of her meals during her trip. I loved that her most favorite meals were at their apartment. Lucy and her mom have such a great bond over food.Lucy's illustrations are fun and fairly simple. I liked how she attempted to portray some classic pieces of art. I found it really amusing.French Milk is a fun graphic memoir about a twenty-two year women coming age in Paris with her mom. It is funny and sweet. I highly recommend it!

I loved this little book. I like anything that's a little different, and this illustrated travel journal definitely caught my eye in the bookstore. I bought it some time ago but I actually didn't want to read it right away, because, you know, then I wouldn't have it to read anymore; I would have to put it on my shelves with books I have already read, and I always think I am running out of special books I really

want to read ...I related completely to Lucy’s trip with her mom! My husband and I stayed in a hotel in Paris in the very same area, saw the sights and ate in the restaurants and took the same walks, went to the museums, and all of the rest. The food, oh my gosh, the food! Like Lucy I loved it all and every meal and every snack was delicious! Even the food served on Air France was great.But the clincher for me with this book was her comment on page 189, almost the very last page where she has drawn a picture of herself in a crowd and comments: "At the airport in Albany, I am shocked by how ugly and huge Americans can be. The fashion and aesthetic differences between Paris and America are vast!" I kept a journal of my trip to Paris and wrote almost the exact same thing when we had to change planes in Texas: about how utterly tacky Americans are in their turquoise shorts and tank tops (and they are all so fat!) and how truly awful the food was. It’s true! And we went to Paris in 1992, fifteen years before Lucy went. Obviously, some things do not change.I’m looking for another book by Lucy Knisley but don’t see one. Maybe her mother could take her to London. They would also love London.

I just finished reading "French Milk" and came away with a strong feeling that this book could have been so much more than it was. Instead, it was very much "middle of the road" for me, with the one benefit of it being a very short read.Knisley’s travel diary is littered with photos and cute little drawings that recount her time in Paris with her mother. A large part of the book is spent talking about food. While food is such an essential component of Paris, I really felt that, due to Knisley’s drawing style, the multitude of food pictures could have been totally left out. I mean, it all just looked like scribbles and triangles. I kind of felt like it was filler for the lack of a real, thoughtful experience that you’d expect from a diary of an American girl in Paris. There are glimpses, yes (such as Knisley’s awareness of French men, and body issues as an American in super-skinny Paris) but they are gone a page later - leaving you wanting to know more.The preface mentions that the book "also deals with the valuable and significant influence that we take in from our mothers" yet we see none of that in it’s pages. Knisley’s mother is a side-character that we don’t really even get to know - definitely not enough to draw any ideas about the influence she has on her daughter.One thing I did enjoy about the book was the format - a perfect mix of drawings, photos, and text. Maybe it’s because I myself have always dreamed of going to Paris for a significant amount of time, but the book struck that envious chord in me. I’d recommend picking it up if you’re a Francophile, but don’t expect too much from it.

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