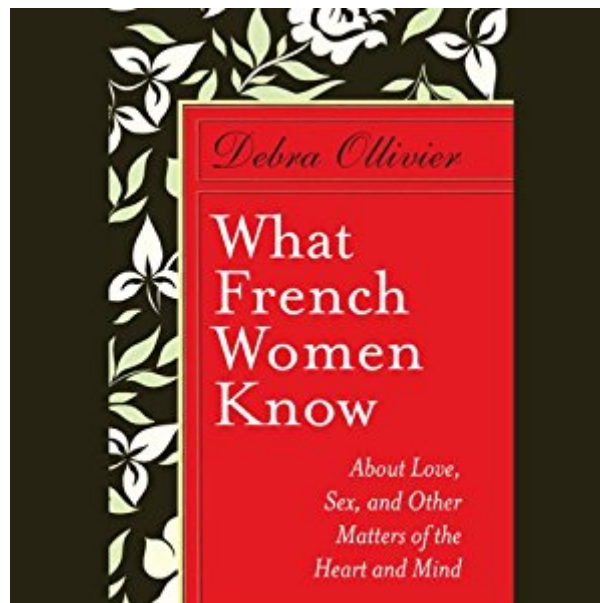




The book was found

What French Women Know: About Love, Sex, And Other Matters Of The Heart And Mind



Synopsis

The Los Angeles Times bestseller! "A Gallic prescription for living a life that is richer, more sensual, messier, and a lot more fun" (Boston Globe) It's not the shoes, the scarves, or the lipstick that gives French women their allure. It's this: French women don't give a damn. They don't expect men to understand them. They don't care about being liked or being like everyone else. They accept the passage of time, celebrate the immediacy of pleasure, embrace ambiguity and imperfection, and prefer having a life to making a living. In *What French Women Know*, Debra Ollivier goes beyond stale ooh-la-la stereotypes, challenging ingrained notions about sex, love, marriage, motherhood, and everything in between. With savvy, provocative thinking from French mistresses and maidens alike, Ollivier presents a refreshing counterpoint to the tired love dogma of our times, and offers realistic, liberating alternatives from the land that knows how to love. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I, like many other reviewers, bought Ollivier's first book on the subject-*Entre Nous*. Since I enjoyed that book so much I decided to also purchase this one. Yes, it does have a lot of the same examples, HOWEVER, I felt that in this book she took those examples and went into much more detail on them so I didn't mind at all. While I loved *Entre Nous*, I found this to be the much better book because the information was clearer and more detailed. I read most books like this because I'm a graduate student with an emphasis on French culture AND I'm married to a Frenchman. Ollivier's

book, to me, is the best that I have read in this genre, and the one that comes closest to real French culture (aimed at a normal, female audience and not scholars). I would recommend this book.

Whether you like the French or not, every American woman should read this to get a different perspective on love and living life, as I think the French perspective on relationships, concepts of beauty and age is much more realistic and healthier than ours. We tend to focus on shallow concepts of love and youth in this culture, which is absolutely insane and a detriment to women of all ages.

Oh my, what an absolute delightful romp thru French culture! The stark contrast between French and American women's views on sex and love intrigued me. The author is quite direct and includes humorous anecdotes and jokes. Historical and literary influence create an extraordinary culture mix to topics of body comfort, pretty-ugly, less is more aesthetics.

As a French decent who grew up in Canada, I was amused to read about French women from a North American perspective. I enjoyed the penmanship, and the mix of modern day France with bits of historical background. This book digs deeper than superficial clichés about French women which I greatly appreciated.

"C'est Magnifique!" The intoxicating allure of Sophie Marceau, the disturbingly deep dark erotic attraction of Eva Green, and seductive sensualizing hypnotic essence of Marion Cotillard all make perfect sense now!!! French women may not be as voluptuously endowed as their fellow female counterparts across the pond but their sophisticated "laissez-faire" demeanor and unapologetic sense of personal style, classic fashion awareness and impeccable taste places them on a whole different level. Debra Ollivier has definitely done her research, as one (an American male) who has dated French women from various regions within France, "What French Women Know: About Love, Sex, and Other Matters of the Heart and Mind", is quite accurate in numerous areas. Admittedly, many years ago, I was among the uninformed regarding the subtleties and nuances of dating various types of woman from abroad. I had somehow come to believe (I guess as a result from watching way too many foreign films...Lol) that most women were pretty much the same all round the world....how wrong I was!!! Every moment and experience shared with my former French loves took on a whole new meaning. Every meal prepared with fresh organic ingredients that we shopped for daily and shared with friends became a culinary etiquette masterclass for me. Every

unforgettable improvised summertime picnic spent frolicking in the warmth of the sun, eating baguettes, cinnamon apple slices, and Brie de Melun cheese created luxurious landscapes of Monet's famous Giverny Garden within my mind's eye. Wine for the first time in my life took on an aromatic flair and seductive essence that only a seasoned lover could. Like an elegant bolshoi ballerina delicately dancing the first movements of Swan Lake, Cabernet Sauvignon leaped across my palette as if to enact a Grand Jeté. No room for egos here, my foreign amours were my teachers and I, their humble student. A education in french female etiquette worth its weight in gold was what I received as I seamlessly transitioned from one romantic relationship (and friendship) to the next. Everything Debra Ollivier touches on was indeed what I witnessed. These French women (ranging in age from 28-49) (From areas: Paris, Bordeaux, Lyon, Orléans, Nantes, Marseille):

- 1) Fashion style was classic, simplistic, yet incredibly chic and simply gorgeous.
- 2) They possessed a genuine Joie de vivre and realistic sense of life /work balance.
- 3) They purchased /ate/ cooked fresh foods religiously and did not eat snacks a lot.
- 4) If they did snack, it was on fruits, nuts, cheeses, things like that.
- 5) If they did have a big meal, they would plan to compensate for it usually the next day.
- 6) They "ALL" had closets full of various types of beautiful lingerie and made a point to have a budget set aside, just for these purchases.
- 7) They were well educated, extremely intelligent, very opinionated and had such an amazing uncanny way to fiercely disagree with your position on a matter while simultaneously loving and adoring you.
- 8) In areas regarding relationships, they saw shades of grey and not American styled puritanical black & white limitations. They seemed to intuitively understand that life was about phases and experiences, not necessarily a "Happily Ever After" goal post to continuously seek. They were present and lived life truly in the moment.
- 9) They held their cards close to their chest. With them it was not a "tell all" and "tell everything" about yourself session, the first couple of dates. They possessed an aura of mystery that literally fascinated me each and every time I spent time with them. To tell the truth, I'd say that's what probably kept me longing for them and wanting their company. Even if it was for simple fun intellectually stimulating conversation.
- 10) Their laughter, humor, and way of not taking themselves so serious made them devastatingly beautiful. It was easy to see and understand why so many men fall for French women. It goes without saying, I highly recommend giving this title a try. Debra Ollivier's narration is simply wonderful. When mentioning various french women she spoke with, the french accent she uses is totally adorable. I think Jason Clarke said it best regarding French women: "You need mystery. You actually do. I think that's what foreign women, French women in particular, are good at. There's still a sense that you need to keep some of the unknown because that's where the soul resides, or something."

A friend told me about this book and I wanted to read it myself. Having lived in France for 5 years it all made a ton of sense to me, and actually....it changed my life in at least one albeit small way. I remembered the joy of heterosexual flirting, from way back when, before the era of women's lib and sexual harrassment that has made us all so serious and careful and anxious. This book reminded me that it can be fun to be a woman talking to man - in the checkout line, at the dinner table, and etc. A great read. And, possibly for you as for me, a great infusion of fun in the heterosexual world.

Lovely little book to distract yourself from the daily grind of American life. Nice insight into a world that is far far away from the average American gal's life.

I found this very enlightening. It helped me to more fully understand my ex French lover. It was also a lot of fun.

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