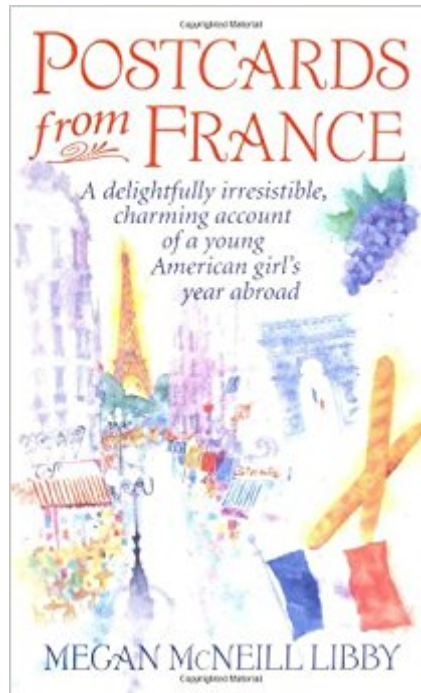




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# Postcards From France



## Synopsis

Could you leave all the things you love for the adventure of a lifetime? As a junior in high school, Megan McNeill Libby left behind the familiar comforts of suburban New England to live abroad as an exchange student. Now, in this charming collection of thoughts and vignettes, she takes readers of every age on a delightful, memorable tour through her year in France. Poignant and endearing, innocent yet wise. *Postcards from France* captures her adventure in vivid detail: waging war with the French language and the magic moment when she finally understood everyone around her; her wonderfully hilarious attempt at making Thanksgiving dinner--with a deer; her feelings of loneliness on the first day at a foreign school, and so much more. The perfect letter from a friend, *Postcards* is a rare gem of a book that will delight anyone who has ever dreamed of traveling or living in a foreign country.

## Book Information

Age Range: 12 and up

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## Customer Reviews

Grade 8 Up. Libby, a high school junior from Ridgefield, CT, spent the 1994-95 school year in France as an AFS (American Field Service) student. Her account of this year abroad is organized into 12 "postcards." These short chapters cover language, food, school, friendships, dogs, and other aspects of French life. The author is an intelligent, perceptive young woman who writes with style, insight, and a touch of humor. Her book's principal disadvantage is its brevity. Readers will want

more, much more detail and information. Nonetheless, Postcards from France is an enjoyable and thought-provoking read that will be useful for French students as well as for all teens who have been, or hope to be involved in foreign exchange/study abroad programs. ?Ann W. Moore, Schenectady County Public Library, NY Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 8<sup>^</sup>-12. Before Connecticut high-schooler Megan Libby leaves to spend her junior year in Valence, France, she arranges to write a monthly column for a local newspaper about her experiences as a foreign exchange student. Those 12 columns (now chapters) cover a variety of subjects, from the total exhaustion of language immersion to French dogs at the dinner table. Sophisticated and witty, Libby does a fine job of exploring, confirming, and blasting American stereotypes of the French. Although this slender and highly entertaining memoir will be especially appealing to Francophiles and French students, it should also appeal to any student who has ever toyed with the idea of living abroad. There is a certain careful, studied feel to the text, but the laugh-out-loud passages (such as Libby's attempt to provide an authentic American Thanksgiving feast with venison instead of turkey) temper the formal essay quality that occasionally appears. An attractive photo-collage dust jacket with snapshots of Libby in France completes the enticing package. Debbie Carton --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

purchased as a gift for a French exchange student.

Very well written and entertaining.

arrive on time. This bread product is by far the best bread product I have ever owned! As a former Chef, kitchen tools are very important to me. I have an extensive collection of products and am always looking for the best tools. This is not only an excellent bread product, at a good price but a beautiful design and feels great in my hand. It is sharp and effective. I am so happy with it I bought two and have put it on my gift giving list for years to come. If you enjoy great kitchen tools this product should not be missed! as the price. very nice . send it to my boyfriend ,

On the cover of this book, the publisher exudes, "A delightfully irresistible, charming account of a young American girl's year abroad." For once, this kind of description is actually an understatement. Yes, the book is in fact "delightfully irresistible" and truly charming. But the writing is also

exceptionally limpid and evocative and betrays an exceptional maturity and talent. Megan McNeill Libby gives us beautifully impressionistic portraits of France, the French, and her very personal struggles, disasters, and triumphs. Her depiction of the French is extraordinarily perceptive and from my own experience living in France totally accurate. At times, I laughed until I cried; more frequently, I caught myself involuntarily smiling and nodding in agreement. But the deeper reward of reading this book is simply seeing the way that Ms. Libby writes and thinks. She is one of those rare authors with whom one falls in love after (no, during) a single reading. I am normally sparing with my praise, but I readily admit to being a gourmand for this book. Merci bien, Megan, and please give us more!

I've been on two two week exchanges to France...both the best experiences thus far in my life. I related with this book so well. I laughed, I cried, and then I read it again. My parents read it, and have decided that after my two two week exchange experiences, and my one week family vacation experience (when I was nine) in France, that it's time for me to go spend a year there. I loved every page of this book. The author did a good job of conveying the feelings of an exchange student. She told of how it isn't always easy, but in the end you don't want to leave. Thank you Megan for an inspiring book that has helped to mold my future...I'll bring your book with me when I go to France...and I'll treasure it for the rest of my life

Yes, this book is very witty and very easy to read. I am en route to France for a year next year as an American exchange student, and I found this book to be very helpful for every aspect of the process--except I wish she added more information like "Why did she switch host families?" and about school. She barely mentioned anything about homework, the lycÃ©e, or anything like that. But I loved everything else about the book. It was intriguing and exciting. And also, it's a very nice quick read. If you are, going to be, or was an exchange student, this book is a must-have. Another book I recommend is The Exchange Student Survival Kit. Au revoir!

Libby perfectly captures the trip in chapter-size stories, each with a different subject on France and French Culture. And throughout the book Libby recounts her struggle with the language. Years of schooling didn't help much. Think back to when you were a teenager, and the vivid memories that you keep with you. Libby's experiences are not much different, only their in the France (along with trips to England and Switzerland). This book is perfect for anyone, but especially children and parents thinking about spending anytime abroad. It's a book that you want to read more about

Libby's further trips.

The moment I saw this book in the bookstore, I knew I had to get it because Megan did what I have always wanted to do: be an exchange student in another country. This book is just so charming, delightful, and cute. I finally was able to be an exchange student this summer in a Spanish speaking country, and while I was not gone a whole academic year but only for a couple of weeks, I always had this book by my side because so many things were the same. So if you have ever been an exchange student before/hosted one in America, or are going too I recomend this book right away, and if you are just looking for a good book to read you'll have a ball.

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