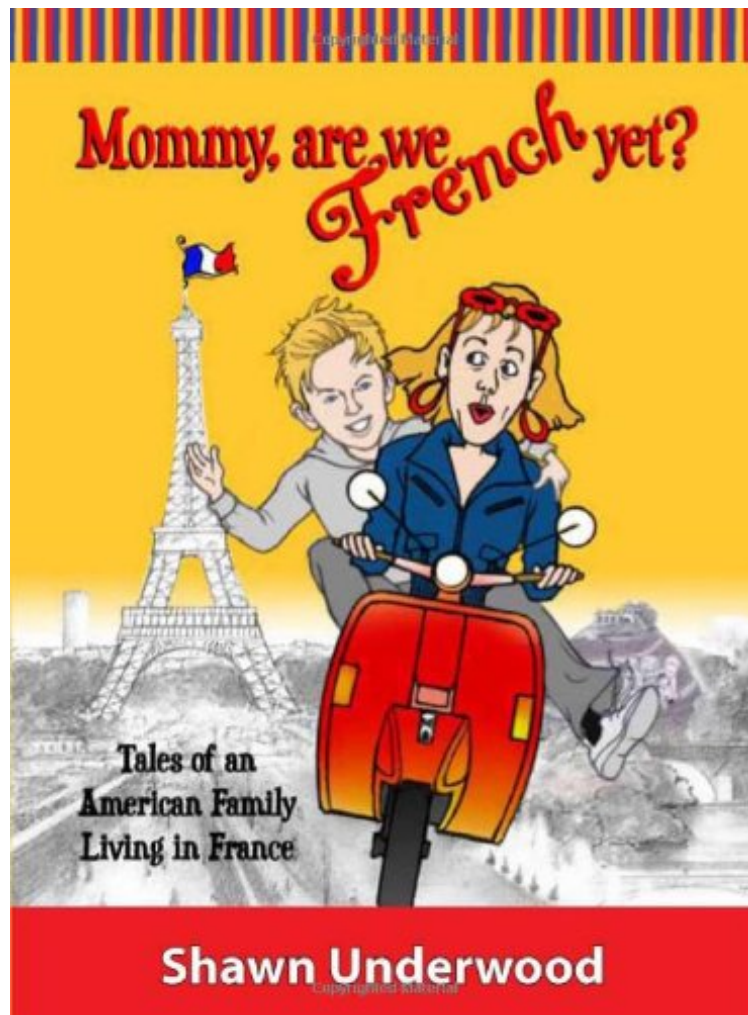


# Mommy, Are We French Yet?: Tales of an American Family Living in France

Shawn Underwood

\*Download PDF / ePub / DOC / audiobook / ebooks



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

2010-06-01Format: Bargain PricePDF # 1 .56 x 5.56 x 7.50l, #File Name: B00D9U41OY194 pages | File size: 47.Mb

**Shawn Underwood : Mommy, Are We French Yet?: Tales of an American Family Living in France** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mommy, Are We French Yet?: Tales of an American Family Living in France:

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. UGH!By Working MomThis is the first review I have written on and the reason I am so fired up about this book is that it is AWFUL!!!!!!!!!!!! The people who wrote such positive reviews must be friends of the author. This book is so poorly written and edited that it has grammatical mistakes, like switching of tenses, and missing punctuation such as periods. My husband is from the south of France and I have probably read every memoir written about France. Until now I had enjoyed all of them and found myself laughing at

tales of experiences that matched my own or points that I agreed with. This woman has nothing insightful to say about French culture and did NOT experience life as a real French family. Her family did all the touristy things and interacted more with British expats than they did with French people. Her tales of long weekends and school holidays were about trips to places like Spain and Egypt-that's not what I signed up for when I bought the book. The author's observations were stereotypical and lame such as "the French tend to have dour looks on their faces"....and her stories were beyond banal (like the "hilarious" adventures of finding a turkey for Thanksgiving and her sister getting irritated because she booked a manicure and pedicure on the day they were supposed to pick it up)... The author exaggerates every experience but the stories are still boring. I have shopped at the Carrefour they supposedly thought was "crazy" and it is nothing more than France's version of Target. Yes, you have to use a Euro to unlock a shopping cart, and bag your own groceries but big deal. I find my local Costco to be much more stressful and confusing than Carrefour but I would not consider Costco as fodder for an amusing anecdote, let alone the highlight of a chapter of a book! The author's "caveman French" and her husband's refusal to learn any French, is the kind of behavior that make me embarrassed to be an American. To make the book even more boring, she includes her husband and sister's versions of the very same events we just suffered through. I suppose we are supposed to chuckle that their version differs from her memory, but I started skipping over the recounts because they were basically the same inane, irritating, self-mocking accounts of their "misadventures". Ha, ha, "my wife told a waiter he loved him and his watermelons"-yes we know she told us already. I am sorry that this family ( obviously already rolling in dough based on the vacations they took, private school etc.) were successful at cashing in on their ignorance and ethnocentricity and that I wasted my time and money on this drivel. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Accentuates the Negative By BVJR Picked this book up, hoping (like WorkingMom) for a fun and funny look at a family adjusting to life in France. Won't go into too much details -- Workingmom's UGH review really says it all -- but there is so much emphasis on what they did not like, or the difficulties they had, and very little on the cultural differences that are so positive, For instance, she complains of the shopping at the Carrefour, and how hard it is to find Velveeta -- VELVEETA! -- in France, but never mentions the fifty-foot cheese counter that is a staple at most French grocery stores and contains a sublime array of the best cheeses on the planet. She mentions her difficulties in communicating at the local street market, but does not spend much time on the wonderful items to be had there. While it is nice that Underwood herself at least attempted to communicate in French, it is incomprehensible that her husband would choose to move to a country with a determination to not even attempt to learn the local language, and depend for a year on hand signals and raised voices. Coming away hungry from a French mall because there is no food court should not have surprised her, since she knows that the French, Lord bless 'em, disdain fast food and have preserved traditions of devoting appropriate time to both their cuisine and their friends. At base, was disappointed to see that this family came away with so little from their year. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not good By Robynn Attempts at being funny fail miserably. Other people's versions are as boring as the author's. I started skipping. Bad sign. Disappointed.

With bravado, good humor, and just a smattering of French, a dauntless American family begins a year-long adventure living and absorbing the local culture, customs, and language in the South of France. If you have ever wondered what it would be like to live in another country for a year with your children, you will discover in this book that it is no an insurmountable task, but it's made doubly rewarding when day-to-day chores and challenges are approached with humor. Shawn Underwood moved her family, her husband and three kids, along with her sister's family to the South of France to experience first-hand the joys and frustrations of living abroad. ----- Shawn's tips for travelers living abroad: 1. Leave all expensive and showy jewelry at home. 2. Represent the U.S. in a positive way. Be courteous, polite, and respectful of local customs and traditions as you encounter them. 3. Study the language of the country you are planning to visit. 4. Pack wash-and-wear clothing only. Buy whatever else you need when you get there. 5. Always have a set of earplugs handy for the plane, noisy hotel, or snoring spouse. 6. Eat half as much as you would like. Walk! Take advantage of the Eurail System.

About the Author A native of Bellevue, Washington, Shawn Underwood attended Washington State University, earning a bachelor's degree in speech and a graduate degree in audiology--fields that she notes 'proved to be particularly useless in her future endeavors as a humor writer.' Over the years, Shawn held a wide variety of jobs, which gave her much fodder for her writing but little pay. She failed to make her mark as a strawberry picker due to her languid picking style and flipping burgers left her feeling greasy. She also served as an 'under' maid to the rich and famous in a resort town where she served appetizers at Secret Service-staffed cocktail parties and picked up the dirty underclothes of important people. Then, she found her true calling--humor writing. She contributes regularly to several blogs. One of her short stories, 'Mom Versus Computer,' has appeared in two anthologies. A resident of Seahurst, Washington, south of Seattle, Shawn these days divides her time between her office in her neighborhood Starbucks (the only place she can concentrate on her writing), her three children, two poorly behaved Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, known as Mr. Big and Mr. Small, her long-suffering husband of thirty years, and her Red Cross volunteer

duties.