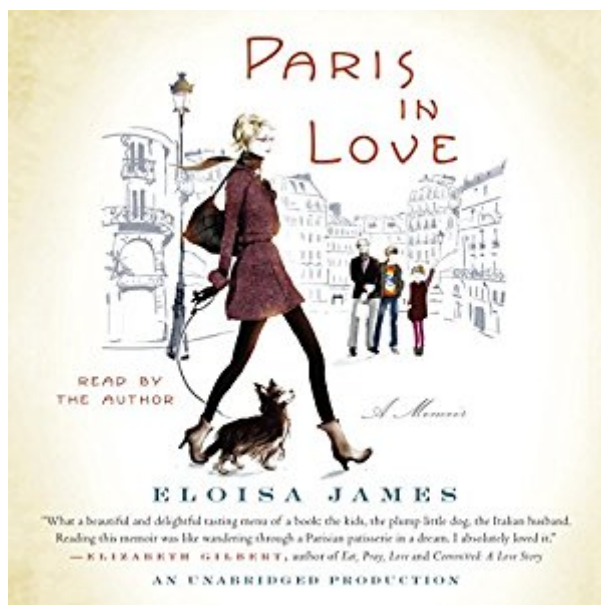


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Paris In Love: A Memoir



Synopsis

In 2009, New York Times best-selling author Eloisa James took a leap that many people dream about: She sold her house, took a sabbatical from her job as a Shakespeare professor, and moved her family to Paris. *Paris in Love: A Memoir* chronicles her joyful year in one of the most beautiful cities in the world. With no classes to teach, no committee meetings to attend, no lawn to mow or cars to park, Eloisa revels in the ordinary pleasures of life - discovering corner museums that tourists overlook, chronicling Frenchwomen's sartorial triumphs, walking from one end of Paris to another. She copes with her Italian husband's notions of quality time; her two hilarious children, ages eleven and fifteen, as they navigate schools - not to mention puberty - in a foreign language; and her mother-in-law Marina's raised eyebrow in the kitchen (even as Marina overfeeds Milo, the family dog). *Paris in Love* invites the reader into the life of a most enchanting family, framed by la ville de l'amour.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I absolutely loved *Paris in Love* by Eloisa James. Quite different from other books I have read but so enjoyable. I really looked forward to each time I could sit down and read for a while. Ms. James writes of her and her husband's one year sabbaticals to Paris with their two children. It felt like I was having a visit from a dear friend who was regaling her thoughts and adventures while abroad. Having always wanted to travel to Paris I thoroughly enjoyed Eloisa's descriptions of the streets, cafes, people, food and everything else she wrote about. Such an enjoyable read!

This book contains mostly short tidbits originally written for Facebook and/or Twitter by the author with a few 5-8 page stories sprinkled in. I don't buy a book to read the same things I can get on Facebook or Twitter. I buy a book to get in-depth stories that make me see, hear, and smell a place. It's not that she doesn't have some interesting stories, it's just that I was always wanting more detail than the few lines for each piece. I also think the title is misleading in multiple ways: 1. Much of the time is spent in Paris, but much of the time is also spent in other places; 2. I never figured out who or what the "in Love" part refers to. Her family? Paris itself? I like a title that makes sense, not one that misleads; 3. Many of the short blurbs could have happened anywhere as the author muses about clothing, dogs, children, the weather, etc. It didn't make me feel like I was in Paris.

Loved this book! It is mostly snippets of observations loosely forming a story. I don't usually enjoy short stories or romance novels so wasn't sure that I would like this. Her observations are delicious, beautiful and funny. They are so easy to visualize that you can get lost in them. I have been wanting to return to Paris. Now I really want to go. People ask me what I love to do in Paris. My answer is walk around. This was a close second to walking in Paris.

I think that many people have thought about leaving the life they are living behind, and doing something completely different, if only for a little while. Most often when people do find the inner resolve to make a big life change it is because some life event has occurred to spur them on. Such was the case of Eloisa James. It was watching her mother lose a battle with cancer and then James herself being diagnosed with cancer that spurred her thinking about somehow experiencing life more fully. After her own cancer was dealt with, because thankfully it was caught early and was treatable, she and her husband took the steps to make a change. They sold their home and cars, took leaves from their academic positions, uprooted their children from their familiar neighborhood and schools and left for Paris. They went for a year. This lovely book chronicles that year. It is written in snippets of experiences as life for her family unfolds in Paris. These snippets include pictures of life revolving around Parisian florists and butchers and restaurants and dealing with their children experiencing school in a foreign country. There is much humor in this book as James speaks of her family and her extended family who happen to be Italian coming to visit, along with the obese family dog, Milo. When James describes the snowfall of Paris drifting outside her family apartment you are standing by those windows with her. When she tells of her daughter's school play, which is one of the funniest scenes in a memoir that I have ever read, the reader is in the

audience - laughing. And when James tells of traveling to see one of her dearest friends lose her own battle with cancer, the reader is touched beyond telling, because it is here where her friend tells all of us, through James, to be there for our own lives. In the reading of this sweet, funny and touching book the reader is gently told to be present for life, because it is short and not to be missed. So, don't miss this book, you will love it.

Like several others who have left reviews, I love memoir books about Paris. This is NOT a memoir. It is a lovely essay followed by a long string of unrelated Facebook posts. I was incredibly disappointed. If the publishing industry wants to hand out advances for Facebook posts and tweets, mine are available. They're no less interesting than anyone else's. Some of the posts in this book are a single sentence long! There is no flow in the narrative whatsoever. If you want to read a good book about Paris, read Adam Gopnick, or "My Life in France" by Julia Child. If this author decides to write an actual book, it might be interesting. This jumble of tweets and posts is not.

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