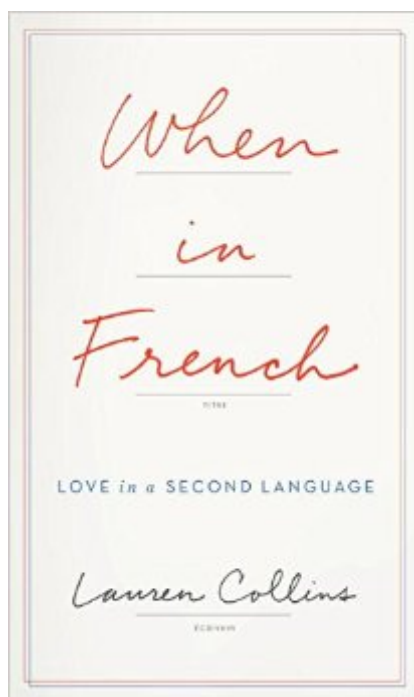


The book was found

# When In French: Love In A Second Language



## Synopsis

A language barrier is no match for love. Lauren Collins discovered this firsthand when, in her early thirties, she moved to London and fell for a Frenchman named Olivier—a surprising turn of events for someone who didn't have a passport until she was in college. But what does it mean to love someone in a second language? Collins wonders, as her relationship with Olivier continues to grow entirely in English. Are there things she doesn't understand about Olivier, having never spoken to him in his native tongue? Does *l'œl love you* even mean the same thing as *l'œje tâ aime*? When the couple, newly married, relocates to Francophone Geneva, Collins's fearful of one day becoming "a Borat of a mother" who doesn't understand her own kids decides to answer her questions for herself by learning French. When in French is a laugh-out-loud funny and surprising memoir about the lengths we go to for love, as well as an exploration across culture and history into how we learn languages and what they say about who we are. Collins grapples with the complexities of the French language, enduring excruciating role-playing games with her classmates at a Swiss language school and accidentally telling her mother-in-law that she's given birth to a coffee machine. In learning French, Collins must wrestle with the very nature of French identity and society—which, it turns out, is a far cry from life back home in North Carolina. Plumbing the mysterious depths of humanity's many forms of language, Collins describes with great style and wicked humor the frustrations, embarrassments, surprises, and, finally, joys of learning and living in French.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 256 pages

Publisher: Penguin Press (September 13, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1594206449

ISBN-13: 978-1594206443

Product Dimensions: 8.8 x 0.9 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars See all reviews (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #856 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Books > Travel > Europe > France > General #4 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Travelers & Explorers #5 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Parenting & Families

## Customer Reviews

The book can be divided into two parts -- the first part is Lauren Collins telling of her struggles to learn French and not being able to make any progress. There she is, stuck in Switzerland with her French husband who is at work long hours and she is helpless because she can't speak the language. Even when she tries to speak French, she is thwarted by well-meaning people who recognize her accent and switch to English. This part of the book is gloomy and you want to give her a nudge and say "Get out there and take a language class, talk to strangers, it'll get better!" The second part is where she actually does these things and soon she is speaking and understanding French and finding a different dimension to her husband when he speaks in his native language and she can understand him. She finds a new dimension to herself as well and the story picks up and becomes more upbeat. Meanwhile Collins takes us down many side roads, discussing linguistics and language learning and the history of French. I found these diversions very interesting and if you've read any Steven Pinker, Guy Deutscher, or Julie Barlow and Jean-Benoit Nadeau, you'll enjoy hearing her take on their theories. Also of interest on the subject of the difficulty of learning French is *The Philosopher's Demise* by Richard Watson.

I loved this book. I think a lot of it has to do with the fact that the author and I learned French for similar reasons and around the same time in our lives, so I was able to relate to so many of her experiences. The other reason I really enjoyed it is because Collins is a journalist by trade - she asks and researches questions about the French language that I would never even think to ask. I learned a lot while reading and also was able to laugh and enjoy her personal account. A thoughtful, interesting and fun read!

This book started out as a memoir about Lauren Collins attempting to learn French after marrying a Frenchman and moving to his home country. Then it became a history of the French language. Then it turned back into a memoir. This switching back and forth continued through the rest of the book. While both the memoir and the history were interesting, she needed to focus on one aspect or the other for the entirety of the book so we could get a full story, rather than just snippets of two different ideas.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

10 Bed-Time Stories in French and English with audio.: French for Kids - Learn French with Parallel English Text (Volume 2) (French Edition) Lightning-Fast French for Kids and Families: Learn French, Speak French, Teach Kids French - Quick as a Flash, Even if You Don't Speak a Word Now! Classical Sheet Music For French Horn With French Horn & Piano Duets Book 1: Ten Easy

Classical Sheet Music Pieces For Solo French Horn & French Horn/Piano Duets (Volume 1) Learn French Step by Step: French Language Practical Guide for Beginners (Learn French, Learn Spanish, Learn Italian, Learn German) Dual Language Development & Disorders: A Handbook on Bilingualism & Second Language Learning, Second Edition (CLI) I Love My Mom J'aime Ma Maman (English French bilingual children's books): Bilingual Children's Books (English French Bilingual Collection) (French Edition) Aloha: Love, Suite Love/Fixed by Love/Game of Love/It All Adds Up to Love (Inspirational Romance Collection) Love's Unending Legacy/Love's Unfolding Dream/Love Takes Wing/Love Finds a Home (Love Comes Softly Series 5-8) When in French: Love in a Second Language Larousse College Dictionary French-English/English-French (English and French Edition) Barron's French-English Pocket Dictionary: 70,000 words, phrases & examples presented in two sections: American style English to French -- French to English (Barron's Pocket Bilingual Dictionaries) French Verb Drills Featuring the Verb Pouvoir [French Edition]: Master the French Verb Pouvoir French Verb Drills Bundle 3: Master the French Verb Pouvoir/Vouloir/Finir/Manger - with No Memorization! [French Edition] Power French 2 Accelerated - 8 Hours of Intensive High-Intermediate French Audio Instruction (English and French Edition) Power French 3 Accelerated - 8 Hours of Intensive Advanced Audio French Instruction (English and French Edition) Barron's AP French Language and Culture with MP3 CD (Barron's AP French (W/CD)) French For Cruisers: The Boater's Complete Language Guide for French Waters Easy French Phrase Book NEW EDITION: Over 700 Phrases for Everyday Use (Dover Language Guides French) French Level 4: Learn to Speak and Understand French with Pimsleur Language Programs 1000 French Verbs in Context: A Self-Study Guide for French Language Learners: 1000 Verb Lists in Context, Book 2

[Dmca](#)