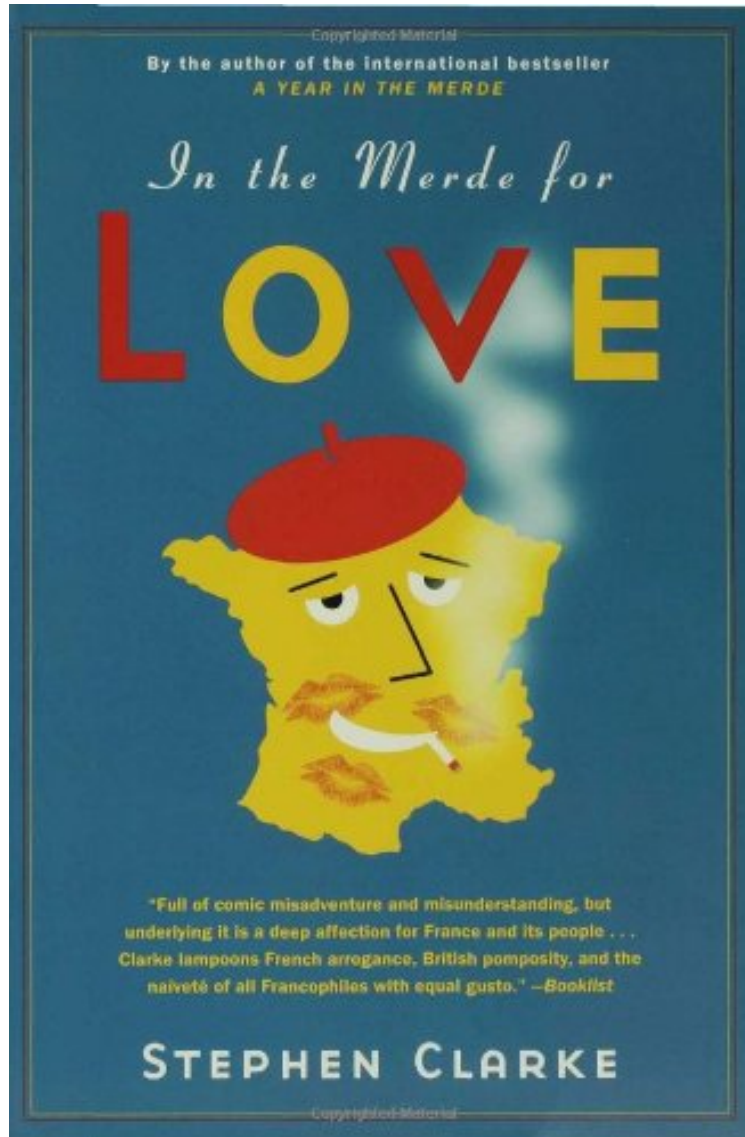


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In the Merde for Love

Stephen Clarke

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Stephen Clarke : In the Merde for Love before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In the Merde for Love:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A hit with a Brit doing a bit of a dance in France...By Jill-Elizabeth (Jill Franclemont)I have only read the first two (In the Merde for Love and A Year in the Merde) in this series of novels about a British ex-pat who travels to Paris for business (What business you ask? Why the only business an Englishman could have in Paris - opening tea shops, of course...), but feel like I can fairly confidently recommend the

entire series based on those two alone. Clarke's protagonist - the fairly goofy yet oddly self-confident Paul West - is a classic bumbler. He means well and genuinely tries, yet somehow keeps falling just that little bit flat. Whether this is due to his own shortcomings (his grasp of French is about as good as mine when he moves to Paris to conduct business, after all) or to the challenges inherent in being a Brit in Paris (which must be somewhat like being the pasty glasses-wearing girl in a lunchroom full of cheerleaders - no matter how smart you are, they are just so much cooler than you!) is up for debate. Regardless, the tales of his run-ins with French custom and law (as well as Frenchmen and -women) are silly and entertaining and sure to have you muttering a well-placed "merde!" or two of your own as the shenanigans unfold. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Almost as fun as the first book in the series. Had to mark it down for the innumerable spelling errors, in both English and French words. Doesn't anyone proofread ebooks before pushing the publish button? 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars

By MR. JAY DAVIES
GREAT AMUSING READ

The latest episode in Stephen Clarke's almost-true account of his adventures as an expat in France is just as winning as the first. This "anti-Mayle" will have readers chortling over their croissants and caf au lait while Paul West struggles to solve the mysteries inherent in life in France. What is the best way to scare a gendarme? Is it really polite to sleep with your boss's mistress? And why are there no public health warnings on French nude beaches? Paul discovers how to judge a French vacationer by the rustiness of his bicycle; opens his English tearoom; and finally understands why Parisian waiters are so cranky. Just in time for spring in Paris, find out if Paul finds the perfect French mademoiselle or if it all ends in merde! Stephen Clarke is a British journalist who has written comedy sketches for BBC Radio. He is the author of *Talk to the Snail* and the international bestseller *A Year in the Merde*. Praise for Stephen Clarke and *In the Merde for Love*: "Call him the anti-Mayle. Stephen Clarke is acerbic, insulting, un-PC and mostly hilarious." -*San Francisco Chronicle* "Highly entertaining...Clarke renders the flavor of life in Paris impeccably: the endless strikes, the sadistic receptionists...Clarke's eye for detail is terrific." -*Washington Post* "Those who enjoyed Clarke's first book will certainly delight in his newest production." -*Library Journal* "This memoir is full of comic misadventure and misunderstanding, but underlying it is a deep affection for France and its people. Along the way, there is plenty of hilarity." -*Booklist* "Paul [West] is also a comic, canny observer of French rural customs and English business practices alike." -*Kirkus Reviews*

From Publishers Weekly Clarke, a British journalist working in Paris, offers fans of his international roman clef bestseller *A Year in the Merde* a novel-sequel that mixes adolescent humor with occasionally astute observations about an expatriate's life in France-with happy results. Clarke's alter-ego Paul West, a 27-year-old Englishman and culinary school graduate turned entrepreneur, opens a tearoom in Paris. After "accidentally screwing someone else," Paul must prove himself to Alexa, the woman he loves, and many shenanigans ensue. A chef with the Breton name of Yann Kerbolloc'h and the French seaside resort town of Ars are sources of great mirth, as are bum jokes, see-through nighties, the many names for male genitalia (dongler, todger, zizi, pair of walnuts and a chipolata, and "what I hoped was an adequate bump in my surfer shorts," to name a few). Clarke doesn't gloss over the racial tensions in Paris, and an occasional editorial voice can be heard, as when the protagonist laments "the dire state" of Britain's railways. On Nutella, he says, "Teenagers and jobless graduates turn to it with a spoon in times of stress." This quick summer read is a rollicking, self-mocking, and brazenly uncouth meal of bonbons coton. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Clarke continues his gentle spoofing of Peter Mayle's Provence memoirs. Paul West, Clarke's alter ego, the Englishman who came to Paris in *A Year in the Merde* (2005), is now trying to bring to fruition his dream of opening a chain of tea cafes. But first he must make it through a weekend in the country with his new girlfriend's family. This memoir is full of comic misadventure and misunderstanding (Paul briefly thinks his girlfriend's nephew's name is Semen), but underlying it is a deep affection for France and its people. Along the way, though, there is plenty of hilarity. An equal-opportunity satirist, Clarke lampoons French arrogance, British pomposity, and the naivete of all Francophiles with equal gusto. Like Mayle, though, he writes not to condemn the French but to celebrate them. Both *Merde* titles have been number-one best-sellers in the U.K. David Pitt Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved Call him the anti-Mayle. Stephen Clarke is acerbic, insulting, un-PC and mostly hilarious. *San Francisco Chronicle* Highly entertaining Clarke renders the flavor of life in Paris impeccably: the endless strikes, the sadistic receptionists Clarke's eye for detail is terrific. *Washington Post* Those who enjoyed Clarke's first book will certainly delight in his newest production. *Library Journal* This memoir is full of comic misadventure and misunderstanding, but underlying it is a deep affection for France and its people. Along the way, there is plenty of hilarity. *Booklist* Paul [West] is also a comic, canny observer of French rural customs and English business practices alike. *Kirkus* s