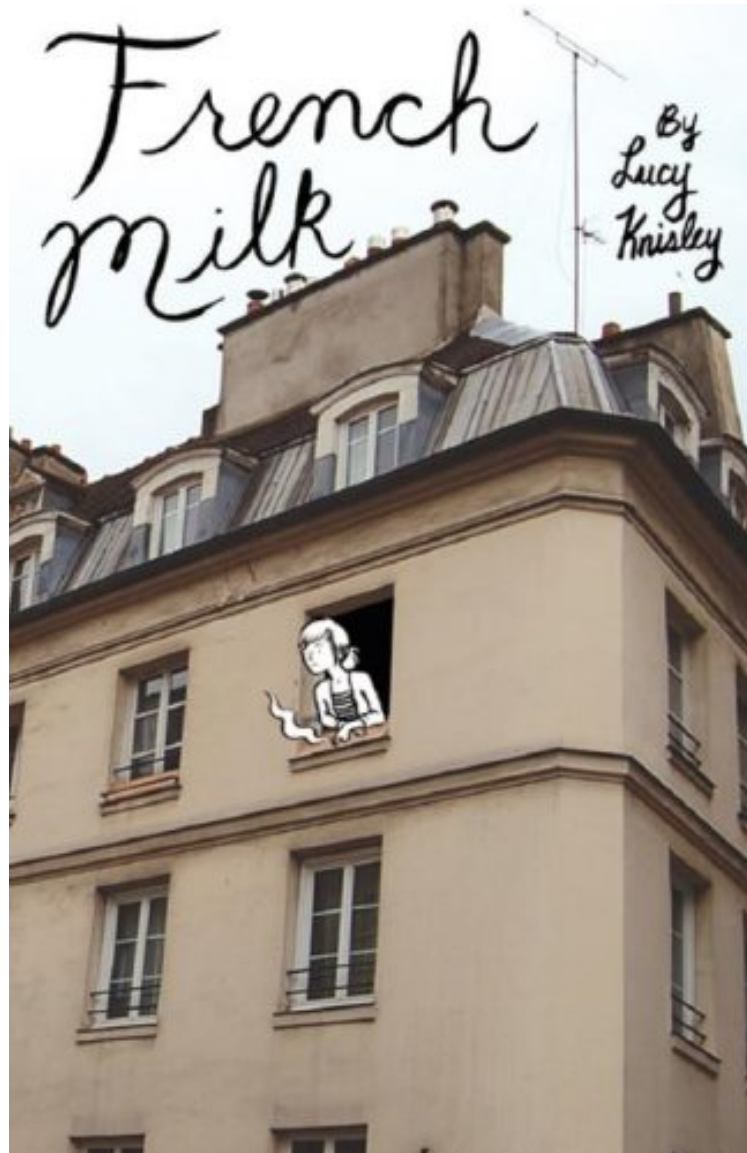


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## French Milk

*Lucy Knisley*

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**Lucy Knisley : French Milk** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised French Milk:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A rough draft of later, better work By Peter J. Orvetti I have enjoyed Knisley's graphic travelogues, which have a common theme of enjoying food while away from home. But this first work, viewed from the vantage point of later in her career, is not particularly successful. The book is actually a comic journal of her trip to Paris with her mother at age 21/22, and it is lovely for that -- there are sweet notes about the food

and what they have seen. But since it is essentially a personal journal, it does not offer much more. Knisley writes a bit about her boyfriend back home and some of her friendships, but "French Milk" basically recounts what she and her mother saw, and ate, each day during her month in France. Knisley is a gifted comics artist and writer, and her work would soon mature considerably. "French Milk" can be seen as a rough draft of her later, better work.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great Memories! By Kinx's Book Nook About a month ago I read *Relish* by Lucy Knisley and instantly became a huge fan of her work. After I read *Relish* I had to get her earlier, *French Milk*; and I'm so glad I did. Lucy has a way of telling her life experiences with a sharp wit that you just want to know more about her life. You can completely empathize with her. The entire book is about her trip to Paris with her mom. When I was twenty-two, my mom and I went to Europe. We had such a great time. But, at the same time, we had those mother/daughter spats and so did Lucy and her mother. This book brought back such great memories for me. The mom/daughter bonding is something that you will treasure forever. Lucy is hardly ever critical of her mom which I find rather refreshing. They had such a great time in Paris. I thought that Lucy really illustrated how close her mother and her really are. Another thing I really loved was how Lucy was able to show her angst on her soon to be graduation from college. I remember when I was twenty-two and trying to figure what I was supposed to do with my life. Her depressive fits were fitting for her time in life. To me, every college-graduate feels the uncertainty after graduating from college. It's scary and depressing. I loved Lucy's Paris. It was all about food and art. She is a milk and foie gras aficionado. She loved the milk in Paris so much that she named her book for it and I totally get it. I remember when I was in Paris and I thought the vegetables never tasted better. It's probably all the nasty preservatives Americans use. But the food DOES taste better in Paris! Most of her memories centers around food. She documents most of her meals during her trip. I loved that her most favorite meals were at their apartment. Lucy and her mom have such a great bond over food. Lucy's illustrations are fun and fairly simple. I liked how she attempted to portray some classic pieces of art. I found it really amusing. *French Milk* is a fun graphic memoir about a twenty-two year woman coming of age in Paris with her mom. It is funny and sweet. I highly recommend it!

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Such fun, and such great food! By Anne Salazar I loved this little book. I like anything that's a little different, and this illustrated travel journal definitely caught my eye in the bookstore. I bought it some time ago but I actually didn't want to read it right away, because, you know, then I wouldn't have it to read anymore; I would have to put it on my shelves with books I have already read, and I always think I am running out of special books I really want to read ... I related completely to Lucy's trip with her mom! My husband and I stayed in a hotel in Paris in the very same area, saw the sights and ate in the restaurants and took the same walks, went to the museums, and all of the rest. The food, oh my gosh, the food! Like Lucy I loved it all and every meal and every snack was delicious! Even the food served on Air France was great. But the clincher for me with this book was her comment on page 189, almost the very last page where she has drawn a picture of herself in a crowd and comments: "At the airport in Albany, I am shocked by how ugly and huge Americans can be. The fashion and aesthetic differences between Paris and America are vast!" I kept a journal of my trip to Paris and wrote almost the exact same thing when we had to change planes in Texas: about how utterly tacky Americans are in their turquoise shorts and tank tops (and they are all so fat!) and how truly awful the food was. It's true! And we went to Paris in 1992, fifteen years before Lucy went. Obviously, some things do not change. I'm looking for another book by Lucy Knisley but don't see one. Maybe her mother could take her to London. They would also love London.

A place where young Americans can seek poetic magic in the winding streets of a beautiful city. The museums, the cafes, the parks. An artist like Lucy can really enjoy Paris in January. If only she can stop griping at her mother. This comic journal details a mother and daughters month-long stay in a small apartment in the fifth arrondissement. Lucy is grappling with the onslaught of adulthood. Her mother faces fifty. They are both dealing with their shifting relationship. All the while, they navigate Paris with halting French and dog-eared guidebooks.

From Publishers Weekly For her 22nd birthday and her mother's 50th Lucy Knisley and her mother went to Paris. For more than a month, they toured the City of Lights from their fifth arrondissement flat, exploring museums and cafes, taking photographs, eating pastries and drinking French milk, which Knisley says is sweeter than its American counterpart; she compares it with the influence we take in from our mothers. Knisley's first book is unquestionably a travel journal first and foremost: Lucy-the-writer is so close to Lucy-the-subject that at times the story lacks background and emotional complexity. But as a travel journal *French Milk* shines. Knisley's photographs from the trip punctuate sketches of her daily adventures and musings about graduating from art school, first love and having an adult relationship with her mother. Best of all are Knisley's portraits of home at the beginning and end of the book, which capture her childhood home and college life lovingly but with clear eyes. Knisley's cartoony drawings are pleasingly clean in one panel and tellingly detailed in the next. A word-of-mouth hit when it first came out in a self-published limited edition, *French Milk* will remind readers of their own early trips to Europe and of traveling in their 20s. (Oct.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "A keenly observed letter back home...the pleasure Knisley takes in food and company is infectious." -- Douglas Wolk,

slate "Charming." -- Publishers Weekly "Wonderful...Read it and you will not be disappointed." -- Whitney Matheson, Usa Today  
About the Author Lucy Knisley is a recent graduate of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and currently attends the Center for Cartoon Studies. During the month and a half she spent in Paris she estimates that she ate approximately sixty croissants, more than four hundred cornichons, and a metric ton of chocolate mousse. Born and raised in New York, she now lives in Chicago. Visit [www.stoppayingattention.com](http://www.stoppayingattention.com) for more information.