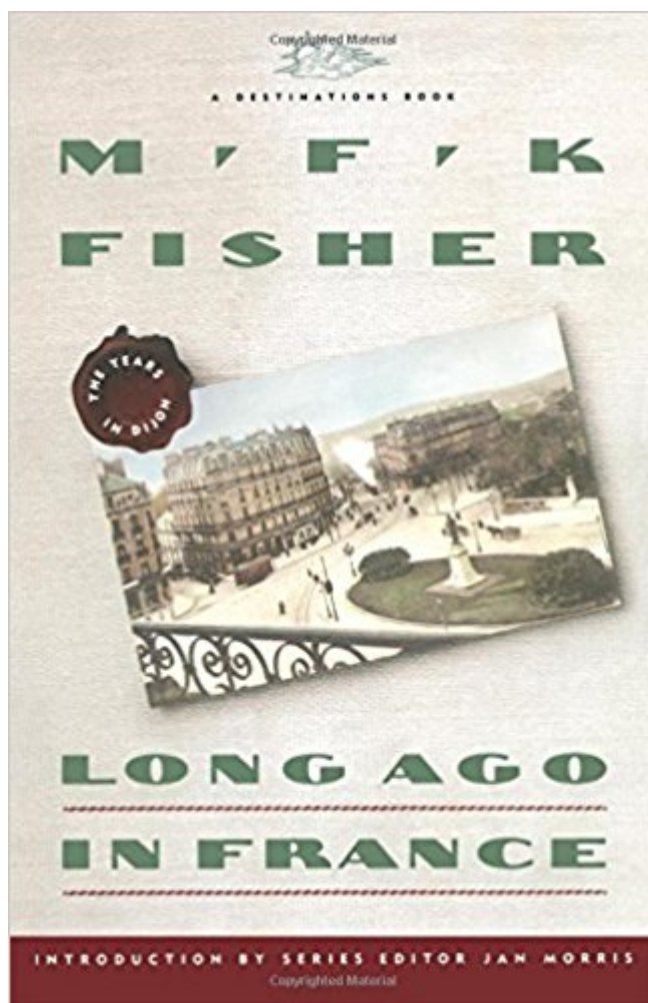




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Long Ago In France: The Years In Dijon (Destinations)



Synopsis

In 1929, Mary Frances Kennedy Fisher arrived in Dijon, the provincial capital of Burgundy and the gastronomical capital of France, there to be initiated into the ways of love and life. *Long Ago In France* is Fisher's exquisitely evocative, deliciously candid memoir of her three-year stay in Dijon. It is a delightful journey backward - in the grandest of company - into a voluptuous, genteel world that has vanished forever.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

M.F.K Fisher went to live in Dijon, with her new American husband, who was working on his post-graduate degree there, in 1929. She was in her early 20's. She published these reminiscences some six decades later, at the beginning of the 90's, which includes an introduction by Jan Morris. An old Army buddy friend, who also enjoyed sharing the many pleasures of France, brought me this book in 1991. I finally got around to reading it! Fisher, and her husband Al, were the only permanent American residents in Dijon at the time. They live in a boarding house, which provided very basic accommodations. The author renders some incisive portraits of French provincial life, its simple pleasures - like walks with the Alpine club - and the shopping rituals, going from one shop for this, to another shop for that. The war - "the Great One" - still marks life there, including the feared invasion of the "Bosches." The landlady, Madam Ollangnier, is described in the greatest detail, including her many cooking rituals. They were young and in love, and in France, and "...we were lucky to know

people of almost every class, and to be within ourselves eager, interested..." and "...there were the proper wines, whether they came out of a spigot into a thick tumbler or slipped from a cradled cobwebbed bottle into the bottoms of glasses that rang thinly in the faintest stir of air." As for their forays into the countryside with the Alpine Club: "And in two minutes my mouth was full of fresh bread, and melting chocolate, and as we sat gingerly, the three of us, on the frozen hill, looking down into the valley where Vercingetorix had fought so splendidly..."

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