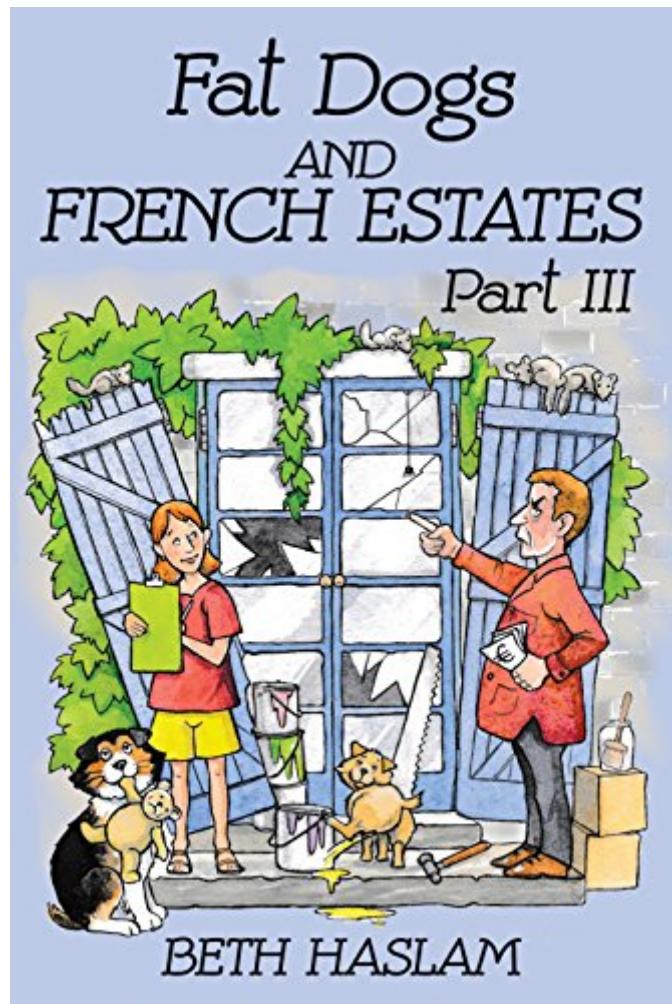


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# Fat Dogs And French Estates - Part 3



## Synopsis

Beth, and her grumpy husband, Jack, have finally bought their dream country estate but their "modest" renovation process soon turns into a project of nightmarish proportions. Join them as they take on a team of eccentric French builders, stampeding wild boar, tap-dancing nocturnal dormice, kamikaze bugs, and a forest that defies all reasonable navigational skills. This is the side-splittingly funny third instalment of the Haslams' French adventures.

## Book Information

File Size: 5867 KB

Print Length: 290 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Ant Press (December 2, 2016)

Publication Date: December 2, 2016

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01M67A0G9

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #144,322 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #39 in Books > Travel > Specialty Travel > Travel with Pets #77 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Travel > Europe > France #295 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Animal Care & Pets > Dogs

## Customer Reviews

Beth continues her tale of adventures of home ownership and remodeling in France and becoming part of the community. Her writing style allows the reader to feel "along for the ride" and to readily picture the surroundings, conversations and scenes as they unfold. I have a preference for writers who enjoy the people in their new surroundings rather than disdaining them and Beth does not disappoint. Rather, she comes across as a kind person who is genuinely interested in the world around her. The love of nature and the deep appreciation for the quiet moments at sunset was also

an element that I related to and enjoyed. The book was well written and I do recommend it if you like to peek over the shoulders of others as they enjoy new adventures--it is a way to make one's way around the world for much less than the price of a ticket!

This is the third book in the series and I can confidently say the standard just gets better and better! I enjoyed this third book very much. It deals with the renovation of the wonderful old house they bought in France in a very entertaining and amusing manner. This author has an endearing 'warts and all' manner of recounting their adventures with the renovation of the estate and dealing with the mountains of paperwork necessary in running it. Her description of the wildlife they are privileged to have on the estate is fascinating to say the least. I am sure her 'grouchy' husband will be horrified by this but I grew quite fond of him in this volume of her memoirs. Well written and a joy to read.

With her third book in the "Fat Dogs and French Estates" Beth Haslam's certainly achieved a Hat Trick. After having finally found their dream estate in France, hopes that renovations would be done in a reasonable amount of time are soon dashed. Beth and her lovable, if sometimes grumpy husband, along with their two adorable pooches have to face an array of obstacles. From vermin infestation to having to deal with a team of most eccentric workmen, the book will make you laugh and smile page after page. Beth has a gift describing with humour, love of nature and a sweet belief in the good of all, her surroundings and fellow men. I really can't imagine anyone not just loving this delightful memoir. The book can be read as a stand alone, but I recommend to also read her first two books in the series.

Absolutely Charming! Beth and Jack have found their dream home and land in France and proceed to set out what their basic needs will be. They soon find out that there is nothing basic about it. Through much hilarity they set about trying to assemble a group of artisans to do the work needed. The group they assemble is nothing short of eccentric. With everyone in place they set out to discover their many acres of forest with their two dogs, Sam and Biff. Not an easy task at times but Beth has you laughing at their folly's. I can't wait for the next installment of Fat Dogs and French Estates!

Another one in the series, and Beth still has plenty to say about taking on the challenges of living part-time in a foreign country. We learn about the difficulties of managing a construction project in not-your-first-language, the joys of being stewards of a large piece of property teaming with wild-life,

and the fun and sorrows of dog ownership. I like that Beth can tell stories about people with whom she comes in contact without disparaging them or being condescending, even when sharing their foibles and voicing her annoyance. Hoping for a Part 4

As with Beth's other "Fat Dogs", etc, I enjoyed Part 3 as well. Beth makes me feel as if she's a good friend, and liking the author is always a good thing! Like many other memoirs along the lines of "we bought a run-down property in France ..." this is also about the endless battles with French handymen and French bureaucracy, plus a few linguistic misunderstandings. However, it's not a 5-star book, because the intricate explanations of what was or should be done to various parts of the rambling structures they are renovating do become tedious. While Beth Haslam has a clear idea in her head of the layout of their "compound", it's not easy at all for the reader to also see a clear picture. I am looking forward to Part 4, but I sincerely hope the painful renovation will be then be over and done with! (However, is it ever? In France?)

I was hoping for something similar to a Peter Mayle book about buying and restoring a home in France by a ex-pat family but this series did not live up to the mark.

Beth has once again managed to time travel us to when she and her lovely husband Jack were remodeling their second home in France. What makes her memoirs stand out from similar stories is the way she colorfully writes about each person or animal. I laughed, I cried, and I wanted to ring the "carpenter's" neck. My husband was a master carpenter for over 30 years before retiring. Reading the many mistakes of Bob's work made me cringe. I fell in love with Nathan, their endearing groundskeeper. I am ready to pack my bags, once they get rid of the snakes, and live real time the beautiful oasis Beth and Jack have created. Thank you Beth for sharing your wonderful and entertaining life with us.

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