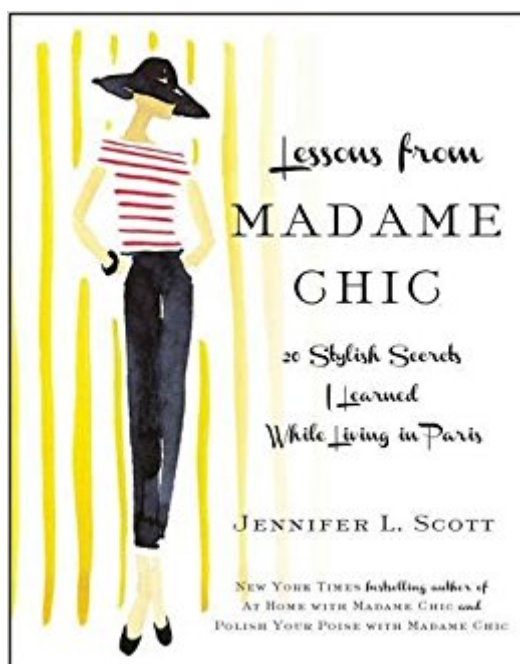


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Lessons From Madame Chic: 20 Stylish Secrets I Learned While Living In Paris



Synopsis

Inspired by Paris, this lighthearted and deceptively wise contemporary memoir serves as a guidebook for women on the path to adulthood, sophistication, and style. Jennifer Scott's self-published success is now a beautifully packaged and fully illustrated gift book, perfect for any woman looking to lead a more fulfilling, passionate, and artful life. Paris may be the City of Light, but for many it is also the City of Transformation. When Jennifer Scott arrived in Paris as an exchange student from California, she had little idea she would become an avid fan of French fashion, lifestyle, and sophistication. Used to a casual life back home, in Paris she was hosted by a woman she calls "Madame Chic," a mistress of a grand apartment in the Sixteenth Arrondissement. Madame Chic mentors Jennifer in the art of living, with elegance and an impeccably French less-is-more philosophy. Three-course meals prepared by the well-dressed Madame Chic (her neat clothes covered by an apron, of course) lure Jennifer from her usual habit of frequent snacks, junk food, sweatpants, and TV. Additional time spent with "Madame Bohemienne," a charming single mother who passionately embraces Parisian joie de vivre, introduces readers to another facet of behind-closed-doors Parisian life. While Francophiles will appreciate this memoir of a young woman's adventure abroad, others who may not know much about France will thrill to the surprisingly do-able (yet chic!) hair and makeup lessons, plus tips on how to create a capsule wardrobe with just ten useful core pieces. Each chapter of Lessons from Madame Chic reveals the valuable secrets Jennifer learned while under Madame Chic's tutelage—tips you can master no matter where you live or the size of your budget. Embracing the classically French aesthetic of quality over quantity, aspiring Parisiennes will learn the art of eating (deprive yourself not; snacking is not chic), fashion (buy the best you can afford), grooming (le no-makeup look), among other tips. From entertaining to decor, you will gain insights on how to cultivate old-fashioned sophistication while living an active, modern life. Lessons from Madame Chic is the essential handbook for a woman that wants to look good, live well, and enjoy that Parisian je ne sais quoi in her own arrondissement.

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Customer Reviews

Scott spent six months in Paris in 2001 as part of a foreign-exchange program. What she observed and learned fills this book. Many of these style secrets—[for instance, how to eat and what to wear](#)—can be found elsewhere, but Scott's 20 tips cover much more than the traditional diet-and-exercise and style-and-beauty. Extremely readable short chapters include recaps of the major points discussed in them, and those points include always looking presentable, realizing that clutter is not chic, cultivating your mind, and living life as a formal affair. Each of those lessons features tidbits Scott picked up from her two Parisian families, here called the Chics and the Bohemians. Throughout, two words appear most often—quality and passion. --Barbara Jacobs

"A guide for women who yearn to channel Audrey Tautou. . . . Personable, anecdote-filled, and studded with lifestyle tips . . . its vivacity and sincerity have struck a chord among women who would like a French role model of their own, but don't have a year to spend apprenticing with one in Paris." (The New York Times)"Part tribute to the effortlessly glamorous Parisian way of life, and part tutorial . . . on how to emulate the French je ne sais quoi." (Daily Mail (UK))—["Downright intriguing. . . . You'll close the book feeling inspired."](#) (The Plain Dealer)"The writing here, a combination of elegance and breeziness, seems to reflect Madame Chic's personal philosophy that life is to be lived fully and elegantly." (Smoky Mountain News)—["Winningly combines sincerity and self-deprecation . . . sweet-natured and well-intentioned . . . full of advice."](#) (Kirkus Reviews)"Scott's book encourages American women to live simply and beautifully by eating well, slowing down, simplifying their lives and enjoying life." (The News and Observer (Raleigh, NC))"Scott blends vignettes and fun encounters with philosophies and lessons that helped her evolve a sense of style and aesthetics. Lessons from Madame Chic is a fine pick for anyone interested in women's fashion, style, and how the French have recreated style lessons." (California Bookwatch)

I'm a fan of Mrs. Scott's vlog and after I discovered her book I was anxious to read it. I wasn't disappointed! It's a fun little book with cute, honest stories of her travels to France, what she observed and learned and how she applied what she learned to her everyday life at home in the U.S. I'll admit that the negative reviewers were right about the editing and the "lessons." There is very little that's new with regard to European sensibilities, especially for anyone that's read a lot about French living or traveled there. But I gave it four stars anyway, mainly because I just enjoyed the stories that Jennifer shared. What others thought pretentious, I thought were honest reflections on the things she experienced and that made the book interesting. I did take a few new pointers from the book. The rest were things I knew of and either had applied to my life already or dismissed as not for me. I most enjoyed Jennifer's validation of some of the things (that get me odd looks and comments) regarding the way I choose to live - in a small, modest home, eating on real china every day (even with little ones), having a little restraint in decorating and furnishings, keeping a quality wardrobe, rolling out the red carpet to even the most casual of guests and living within (or even what may be considered by some people below) our means. Thanks, Jennifer. I can't wait to read your home book!

Jennifer L. Scott's *Lessons from Madame Chic* is certainly a must-have for Francophiles, but it is also a wonderful resource for anyone who wishes to cultivate a more simply luxurious way of living. Through beautiful narrations, Madame Chic's lessons are shared in three different parts on the subjects of Diet & Exercise, Style and Beauty, and lastly, How to Live Well. Based on Scott's time as a foreign exchange student in Paris as a young woman, she is now a mother of two young daughters, happily married and living in southern California, so she converses with her readers from a relatable platform. Immediately upon reading it again, I was reminded of another author who shares her insights and tips on living well with inspiration from the French - Mireille Guiliano. Scott's tips are weaved skillfully into her experiences and time with Madame Chic and her Parisian family, so much so that you feel you are having a conversation with a trusted, yet wiser girlfriend. And the beauty of discovering her book was that it didn't have to end once I finished reading it. As the founder of the blog *The Daily Connoisseur*, readers are able to enjoy a regular dose of inspiration and YouTube video instructions on how to continually integrate the fine art of French living into their every day lives. The re-released edition of *Lessons from Madame Chic* (279 pages) contains the same content I initially raved about in my review in April, but is now adequately accessorized with illustrations found throughout the entire book from the talented artist and designer Virginia

Johnson. Filled with specific advice, anecdotes and descriptions of Madame Chic and Madame Chic's entire Parisian family, Scott shares ways to live a fulfilling life that are not only simple, but help to create a luxurious life that is rich and focused on what most all of us seem to want to put at the top of our priority list - healthy relationships, good health and the ability to be our best selves. As I was reading I found myself underlining a sentence or two on nearly every page that I didn't want to forget, and after going back over these annotations I realized that the lesson of living formally doesn't have to take the beauty or the spontaneity out of living, but in fact it can enhance it. By showing respect to the life we've been given and then continue to create for ourselves we consciously make it all the more enjoyable. Below are a few ideas for welcoming in a bit more formality and at the same time simplicity that I especially took favor too. Have a look:

1. Play classical music throughout your home if you don't have any Bach CDs laying around the house, simply go to Pandora on your computer, iPad or iPhone and search classical symphonic music, and it will create a radio station for you for free.
2. Eliminate snacking Each meal that you sit down for is an opportunity to eat well. Scott explains how dinner in Paris with Madame Chic's family always included at least three, sometimes four, courses and one was always a cheese platter, yet still her host family was slender because when they ate it was mindful.
3. Create rituals to look forward to Maybe every Saturday morning you wake up and stroll down to your favorite coffee shop for a tasty treat and chat with a good friend, or you play checkers with your son every Sunday evening in front of the fire or perhaps you take a bubble bath and savor a glass of wine after Monday has wrapped up. Take time to discover the activities that you enjoy doing either alone or with those you love and make them regular occurrences that are something to look forward to.
4. Wear luxurious lingerie The mistake that seems to be perpetuated regarding lingerie is that it is worn for someone else. This is not entirely correct. In fact, a woman should wear beautiful, high-quality lingerie for herself. Simply knowing you are keeping something to yourself and at the same time have treated yourself to something luxuriously wonderful is certain to raise your confidence at least a smidge. While it will take time to build your lingerie wardrobe, know that you are worth investing in.

I initially checked this book out at my local library and loved it. In fact, I loved it so much, I wanted to own my own copy. Jennifer Scott's experience as a foreign exchange student in Paris was a life-changing experience for her and I can see why. She opens the reader's eyes to how the French live their lives on a daily basis. I wanted to have my own copy to reread various chapters over again and adapt the lifestyle of the French. I highly recommend this book to young women so they can think about their futures and how they may wish to live their lives.

I am very happy with this book- it is an interesting story weaved with practical advice on how to live more simply and richly. And, not the kind of rich with more money, but a life with smarter choices about how our money is spent, saving the best for now, and living each day feeling pulled-together. Compared to other books on Parisian and French women, I found this one to be doable for any woman. Whether or not this is the every day life of every French woman is not even completely relevant. This lesson book is written from the perspective of a young woman who went to Paris and is now sharing the wisdom gleaned from her experience. Love it!

I got this book after reading a review on one of my favorite blogs. This book tells you different ways to live luxuriously and richly, even on a smaller income. She stresses that you should do what you can afford, but most of her advice is free to implement. I live in a small midwestern town, so it is not all easy to implement for me. However, this book gave me some ideas to amp up the luxury and glamour in my life. One of my favorite chapters was about using the best you have for everyday. Why only use your favorite china at Christmas? Why only wear your favorite dress to really special events. Dinner on Friday with your husband is special! It is a quick read, but I think that it will be a book that I will reference for years to come.

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