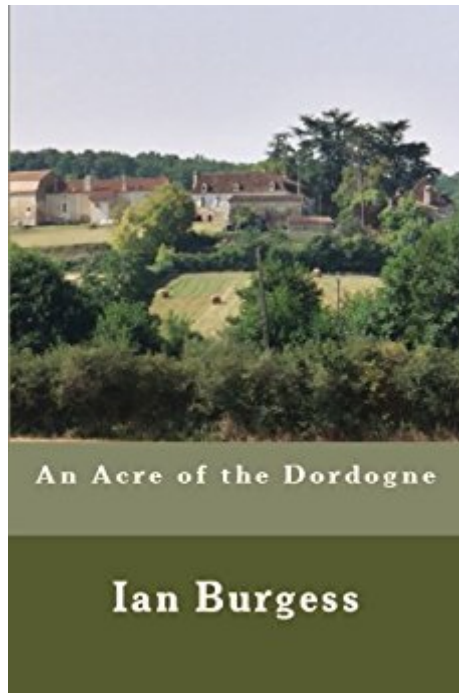




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An Acre Of The Dordogne



Synopsis

SECOND EDITION. Updated and improved. In 2003 a lovely 200 year old stone cottage called Laurie, sitting in 4000 square metres or one acre of the Dordogne was bought by an English family. It changed their life completely and brought them joy and pain in equal measure, and in particular the husband and author of the book Ian Burgess. The book traces their first tentative steps into foreign property ownership, the happy years in the middle and then in total honesty and candour the tragedy of a long marriage breaking up. Life starts again for the author when he moves to Laurie to get away from the pain of divorce for a few months, and ends up living the French dream in all its glory for three wonderful years! The book is funny, touching and heart warming and sets off at a pace that never lets up. It also gives valuable tips, information and advice to would be house hunters in France and those who just love to dream about one day leaving UK to live abroad. Covering a six year period in nigh on 70,000 words from search and purchase, to eventual sale and au revoir France for a new life in the Far East this book is a winner.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Cast this book as one of the genre of "armchair traveler" under the sub-heading of "Buying a house in France" , but, regrettably it falls into the not-so-well-written-books category. Mr. Burgess probably used this first book to vent his personal story of a painful marriage break-up which runs parallel to

his home-buying and renovating story. One story doesn't dominate. Some people had a problem with his story of the break-up, but I did not. Such a traumatic heart-break does color our world. We are influenced to our core by such dramatic events. Mr. Burgess showed some raw courage to include those stories. The practical details of this book can surely benefit those who want to duplicate Mr. Burgess's experience. And, he does do a better job than most with his experiences in the Dordogne. I like lots of detail to help me create mental pictures. Mr Burgess was about half-way there. Maybe his next books will be better in this area.

Mr. Burgess writes about himself. Period. Little, if any, description of the French, the food, or any other interesting tales of cultural discovery or exchange while there. After 3 years he finally decided it might be useful to get some tutoring in French. Basically an expat who continually whined about his divorce, abandoned his three teenage sons (he refers to the responsibilities of fatherhood as "babysitting") to live among and associate primarily with other Brits in France for a few years and eventually wound up living in the Philippines with his new, young wife. Wish I had my money back. Waste of time.

The book itself is a fascinating description of the author's experiences with his house "Laurie" and enjoying the beautiful region of the Dordogne, where life still enjoys a slower pace, still savoring its essence. However, what I found most disappointing was Mr. Burgess' ease in separating himself from those who loved him very much, both his children and his dog. Life changes, sometimes very abruptly, but it is not fair to simply abandon them because you need to get on with your own life! What about them?

Don't waste your money, this book should have been called ' Me... Me... it's all about Me' because honestly, this guy was so busy doing his own thing and patting himself on the back, and making new friends, that he seemed to forget he had a wife and family, and then, resorted to childish...very childish... name calling when his wife found someone else, totally unbecoming behaviour in a grown man and, to top it off, it was boring... I think he just wrote the book to vent his anger and because he has an enormous ego

A disappointment. I love to read books about France but found this one to be an autobiography of a man who was self absorbed and just plain selfish. Any parent who does not fight for his children and pet owner who can home and then give away a dog on a whim is horrible. Just horrible. Pretty

clickÃ© for someone with a midlife crisis to end up with a young island girl as well. Just saying.....

A totally self absorbed account from someone who totally lacks any insight!Why do you really think your wife left you mr burgess. I suggest you we're a prat from the first page!!Did your wife even feature in your marriage or was it all about you. She had a lucky escapeA boring and self serving account

A great title to what should have been a terrific book. Some judicious editing would have made this a great read, but repetitive writing, poor punctuation and a bitter "she done me wrong" twist created a story which at times was tiresome read. The self indulgence of the author, especially on the subject of the sons he left behind in England, is truly amazing. Will they, as he asks, forgive him? Possibly not, if they ever bother to read this book.

The best part of this book is the title. It is full of sentence fragments as well as run-on sentences. I could live with that if the author had some idea of how to create an interesting story. Reading about which highways were congested versus which were uncrowded and forgetting to mention wife and children's names until half way into the book...well you probably can guess how fascinating I found this book to be.

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