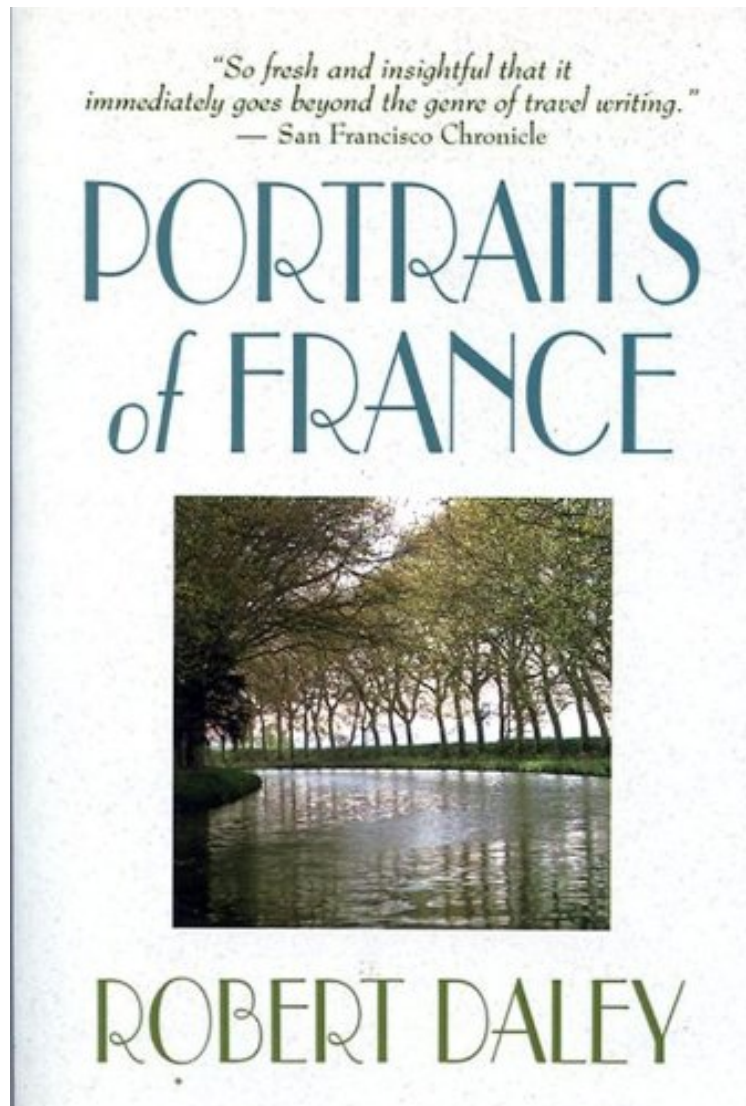


(Download free ebook) Portraits of France (English Edition)

Portraits of France (English Edition)

Von Robert Daley

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Von Robert Daley : Portraits of France (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Portraits of France (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Very special and perspicacious.Von Ein KundeI read this book while staying at my friends home in Venasque, France. It was clear from the beginning sentence that Robert Daley had a very special eye and ear for story telling. I became deeply fascinated with his story of the great revolutionary the Marquis de Lafayette. And I was deeply touched that Lafayette was buried in American soil that he carried back to France and used for his grave at Picpus cemetery. And as

a serious recreational cyclist I loved the Jacques Anteill story. This is a very special book written from a perspective that would be difficult to duplicate today.

Kurzbeschreibung Publishers Weekly Freely mixing travelogue, history and offhand cultural commentary, Daley's serendipitous journey appraises France's soul. Whether he is expressing consternation at Avignon's immense Palace of the Popes, monument to medieval extravagance, or tracking the legend of bike racer Jacques Anquetil, Daley has a knack for the telling detail, the unusual observation. A few of these 19 vignettes delve into little-known events, like the building of French concentration camps in the Pyrenees during WW II. Among the indelible portraits we find those of French soldier-politician-aristocrat Lafayette, Grace Kelly, Scottish novelist Tobias Smollett (inventor of the "fabulous Riviera" mystique) and De Gaulle, an obscure brigadier general in 1940 worried mainly about his wife and retarded daughter. Other pieces deal with Lourdes, Bordeaux, a perfume factory in Grasse, Jules Massenet writing operas in Paris and the Sansons family, which operated the guillotine through six generations. Library Journal Popular writer Daley whips up a delightful blend of history and anecdote mixed with a little travelog to provide an intimate, refreshing look at France. Each chapter draws a revealing portrait of a place. "As much as possible, I have based my descriptions on scars that can still be seen today," Daley writes, "scars on the national body, each one dating from some accident in its past." All of the familiar cities (Paris, Nice, Bordeaux) are here, but not sites like the Eiffel Tower and Versailles. Daley's anecdotes are fascinating. He writes about Charles Deville Wells, "the man who broke the Bank of Monte Carlo," and a renegade cop who ran a Paris gestapo. Recommended for those who enjoy a richer form of travel writing and seek a deeper appreciation of France.

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Synopsis In the early 1950s the author fell in love and married a French girl. Now he returns to France to record his experiences in this book. The subjects covered include the life of General Lafayette and an account of the buildings of Paris.