



The French House: A quirky and inspiring memoir about turning a ruin into a home

Don Wallace

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"On a tiny French island, a couple of American dreamers redefine their lives by restoring a ruin...*The French House* moves to a soulful, very funny rhythm all its own."-Meryl Streep

Don and Mindy Wallace have always been Francophiles, so when they had the opportunity to buy a home on a small French island off the coast of Brittany, they jumped-sight unseen-into a crumbling mess that challenged their finances and their family.

But when the Wallaces arrived on the island **they found a building in ruin**, and it wasn't long before their lives resembled it. Plagued by emergency repairs, a stock market crash, and very exasperated French neighbors, Don and Mindy could have accepted their fate. Instead, they embraced it.

Redolent with the beauty and flavors of French country life, *The French House* is a lively, inspiring, and irresistibly charming memoir. Fans of *Under the Tuscan Sun* (Frances Mayes), *Paris in Love* (Eloisa James), and *A Year in Provence* (Peter Mayle) will be enchanted by this account of a family that rises from the rubble, wins the hearts of a historic village, and finally finds the home they've been seeking off the wild coast of France.

What readers are saying about The French House

"*The French House* is engaging and well-written and **will make even non-Francophiles yearn for a trip to France.**"

"With hauntingly beautiful descriptions of a tiny French island and its inhabitants, **this book will take you to a different place**, and might even inspire you to reconsider your life and finally follow your dreams where you and your family can become whole."

"...**charming and witty** -- full of hope and despair about this crumbling structure they chose to inhabit and make a home."

"I was **captivated** from the outset and felt like I was on their island living it all with them. A great read!"

What reviewers are saying about The French House

"Don Wallace has crafted a **delicious French bonbon of a book**...full of humor, hope, and lessons on how to live a life full of meaning."-Dani Shapiro, bestselling author of *Devotion* and *Still Writing*

"Village life vignettes, the sensual celebration of island pleasures, eccentric neighbors, cuisine, beach life, natural history-readers will find a smattering of all that in these pages, but it's the story below, like the unshakeable foundations of the house itself, that makes this such a **satisfying read.**"-Rain Taxi Review

"The French House is a darling book that mixes local history, memoir, quirky characters, architectural challenges (what will the village elders do if they add windows to the second floor?) and humor...It was a **lovely adventure** and perfect for a summer read."-Under a Gray Sky

"*The French House* is a detailed, **delightful** memoir of their journey to restore a dilapidated abode into a beckoning sanctuary in an idyllic coast French countryside.. I have thoroughly been devouring it, and I think you will too."-The Simply Luxurious Life

"Author Don Wallace shares the heartwarming story about his family's 30-year journey to restore a ruined cottage on the tiny French island of Belle Ile off the coast of Brittany... readers are privy to the **charming true story** of a family's journey to create the perfect home away from home."--E! News

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