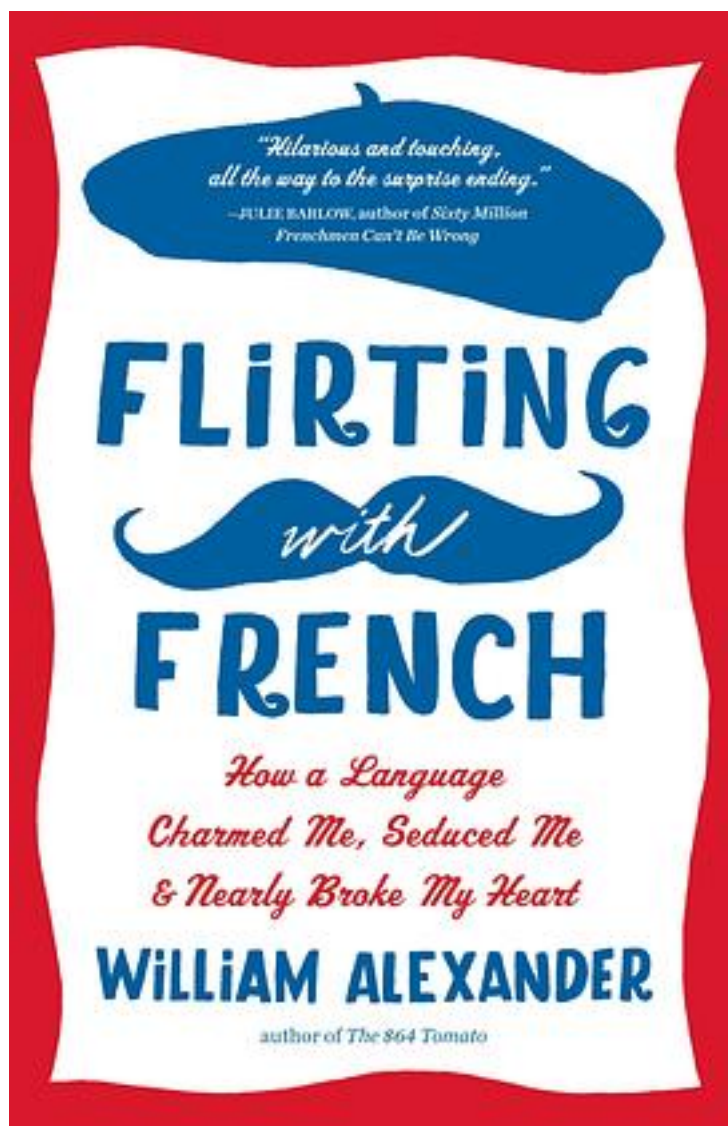


Flirting with French



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著者:William Alexander

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“A delightful and courageous tale and a romping good read. Voila!” —Mark Greenside, author of *I’ll Never Be French (No Matter What I Do)*

William Alexander is more than a Francophile. He wants to be French. There’s one small obstacle though: he doesn’t speak la langue française. In *Flirting with French*, Alexander sets out to conquer the language he loves. But will it love him back?

Alexander eats, breathes, and sleeps French (even conjugating in his dreams). He travels to France, where mistranslations send him bicycling off in all sorts of wrong directions, and he nearly drowns in an immersion class in Provence, where, faced with the riddle of masculine breasts, feminine beards, and a turkey cutlet of uncertain gender, he starts to wonder whether he should’ve taken up golf instead of French. While playing hooky from grammar lessons and memory techniques, Alexander reports on the riotous workings of the Académie française, the four-hundred-year-old institution charged with keeping the language pure; explores the science of human communication, learning why it’s harder for fifty-year-olds to learn a second language than it is for five-year-olds; and, frustrated with his progress, explores an IBM research lab, where he trades barbs with a futuristic hand-held translator.

Does he succeed in becoming fluent? Readers will be as surprised as Alexander is to discover that, in a fascinating twist, studying French may have had a far greater impact on his life than actually learning to speak it ever would.

“A blend of passion and neuroscience, this literary love affair offers surprise insights into the human brain and the benefits of learning a second language. Reading William Alexander’s book is akin to having an MRI of the soul.” —Laura Shaine Cunningham, author of *Sleeping Arrangements*

“Alexander proves that learning a new language is an adventure of its own--with all the unexpected obstacles, surprising breakthroughs and moments of sublime pleasure traveling brings.” —Julie Barlow, author of *Sixty Million Frenchmen Can’t Be Wrong*

作者介绍:

William Alexander is the author of the best-selling memoir, *The \$64 Tomato*, and *52 Loaves: A Half-Baked Adventure*, his hilarious and moving account of a year spent striving to bake the perfect loaf of bread.

His latest book is *Flirting With French*, about his often riotous attempt to fulfill a life-dream of learning French.

The New York Times Style Magazine says about Alexander, “His timing and his delivery are flawless.” He has appeared on NPR’s Morning Edition, at the National Book Festival in Washington, DC, and was a 2006 Quill Book Awards finalist. Alexander has been a frequent contributor the New York Times op-ed pages, where he has opined on such issues as the Christmas tree threatening his living room, Martha Stewart, and the difficulties of being organic.

When not gardening, baking, or writing, Bill keeps his day job as director of technology at a psychiatric research institution, where, after 28 years, he persists in the belief that he is a researcher, not a researchee.

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标签

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评论

從第一頁開始就沒停止過笑意：有時是會心淺笑，有時則是捧腹笑抽。做夢都想成為法國人、57歲才開始學法文的Alexander叔太幽默啦！無論是初學者或像我這樣已將法文視作第二母語的，都推薦必讀啊！在個人日常瑣碎中穿插語法吐槽、學習秘辛、歷史文化、旅行逸事，etc. 讀來輕鬆暢快，也讓我從les anglophones的角度重新審視這門摯愛的語言，熟悉卻新鮮，心有戚戚。還有很多角落沒去呢，而那幾年最美好的時光，彷彿闔上書閉上眼睛就可以穿越回去了。讀完便塞給正在拼命學英文的法國同事，他才看了一頁已經欲罷不能。要特別鳴謝家長會的聖誕禮物：禮品信用卡，促使我直接去亞馬遜拿下一坨想看的書，這是其中之一。

可怜的作者，还是没学会法语

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