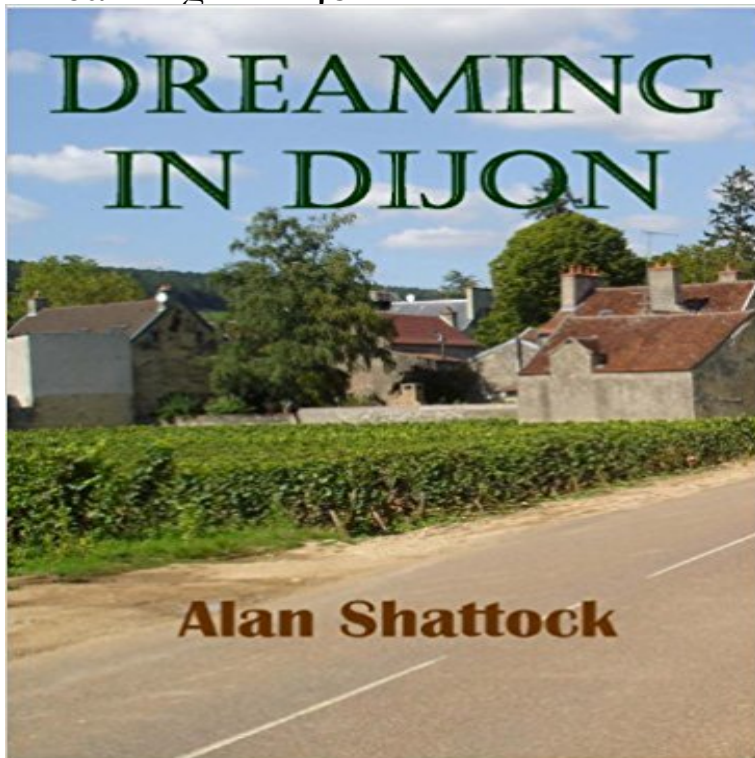


Dreaming in Dijon



Visitors to France spend relaxing evenings in street-side restaurants enjoying the ambiance, food and wine and dream of a getaway place in France, but it is usually just that, a dream, seldom acted upon.

While on such a visit to France, self-confessed Francophile, Alan Shattock and his wife, Sandra, took the plunge and bought an old belle maison francaise in the small Burgundy village of Charrey-sur-Saone, near Dijon. This is an amusing, true and quirky story of the amazing coincidences and events before and after the purchase, the practicalities and disasters, and of villagers who came to the rescue. It is an engaging memoir that shares with readers the authors experiences of buying a place in France and of becoming accepted into the community. It gives positive encouragement and justification to those who dare to ignore the cautions given on television about buying that Place in the France, and especially to those who dare to do so when armed with little French. Alan Shattock recounts the extraordinary series of seemingly fatalistic coincidences that led to the eventual purchase of la belle maison, and, along the way enthuses about the influences of his parents during childhood visits to Burgundy in search of wine dealers. It is a wonderful account of village and family life at the table and at play and, above all, it is an illustration of the importance of the French lifestyle, the Gallic sense of friendship, camaraderie and neighbourliness - splendidly described in Dreaming in Dijon. CHAPTERS Prologue - Let there be Light from the Hatchet Man in Esbarres1. A trip to France is arranged. - Shambolic arrival for a holiday at a friends house north of Dijon2. Dreaming in Dijon - Markets and an Immobiliers fateful brochure we keep seeing the idyllic house3. Place St. Pierre - We find the house by chance and get a preliminary viewing.4. With a View to Temptation -

The fatalistic full viewing⁵. An Interlude in Beune - Childhood influences of holidays in France with parents, Chateau Gaillard, the Atalanta Motor Company, the impossible building of a wine cellar⁶. The Deal is Done - Our bluff is called - decision time - the Promesse de vente⁷. L'Act de Vente - How not to buy a French property - Raclette and swimming pool lessons⁸. Journey by Jeep Return to Reality; A marathon by boat; The nightmare starts; The disappearing credit card; How not to equip a French house in three days - A very large petite degustation de vin - Farewell dinner party with Josette and Yves⁹. Journey by Jeep, Part Deux It cant get any worse! - But it does, much worse¹⁰. On the Owls Trail. More brocantes and Trocs Notre Dame and other sites along the trail of the Lucky owl of Dijon.¹¹. Geneva calls for Painting with two Marks - A Swiss non-entente cordial - The Mayors favourite colour and a five-course dessert. 12. Vive la piscine - Tribulations of running a pool - lessons in solar heating¹³. Hot Cars and a French Party - Perils of car-hire Friends arrive to celebrate - a pre-Quatorze knees-up¹⁴. Le Quatorze Juillet Tournoi de Petanque - The French at play - The Mayor gives presents Serious boules and a challenge - Four courses of duck at Le Moulin aux Canards Fireworks at the village dance.¹⁵. Ireland vs France 13 nil, but who cares? - The French ply us with drink, food and alcohol to beat us at boules¹⁶. Barbecue and Fireworks by the Saone - The Eve of Le Quatorze Juillet a year later¹⁷. Les Routes des Grands Crus - Wines direct from a producer¹⁸. Childhood Memories Revisited -- A trip across France in a bubble car to Lods and a 3-star lunch with chef Alexandre Dumaine at Saulieu¹⁹. A Short Tour of Beaujolais²⁰. A Four-Course Picnic Picnic in a Junk-yard - Turning a village into a scrap-yard and dining alfresco with finesse²¹. Disaster! Neighbours, Mayor and fire-brigade to the rescue.Epilogue - Neighbours, more important than French?

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