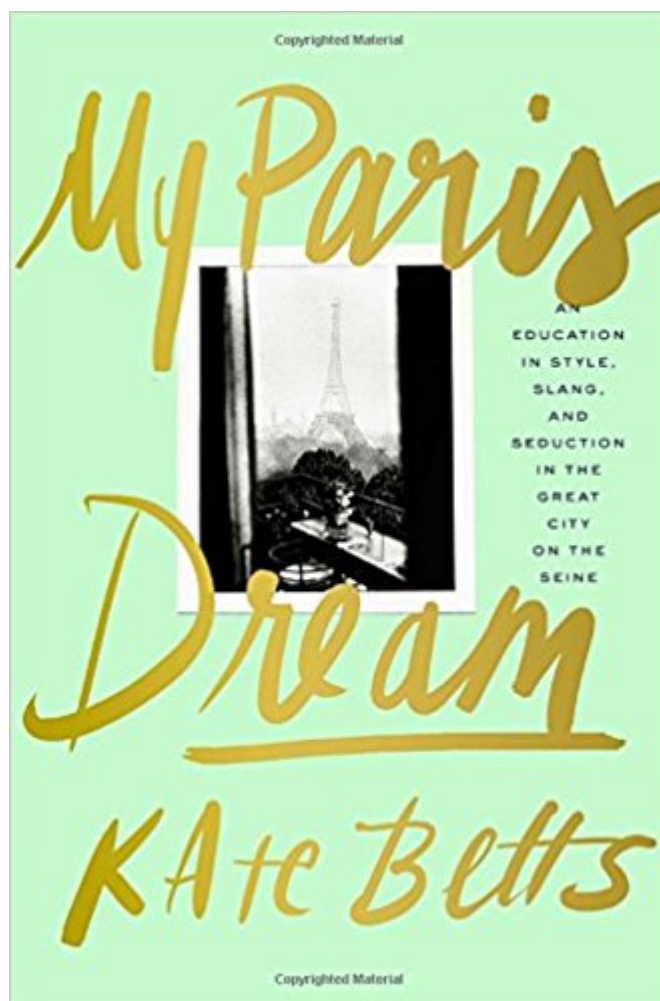


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# My Paris Dream: An Education In Style, Slang, And Seduction In The Great City On The Seine



## Synopsis

A charming and insightful memoir about coming of age as a fashion journalist in 1980s Paris, by former *Vogue* and *Harper's Bazaar* editor Kate Betts, the author of *Everyday Icon: Michelle Obama and the Power of Style* "You can always come back," my mother said. "Just go." As a young woman, Kate Betts nursed a dream of striking out on her own in a faraway place and becoming a glamorous foreign correspondent. After college "and not without trepidation" she took off for Paris, renting a room in the apartment of a young BCBG (bon chic, bon genre) family and throwing herself into the local culture. She was determined to master French slang, style, and *savoir faire*, and to find a job that would give her a reason to stay. After a series of dues-paying jobs that seemed only to reinforce her outsider status, Kate's hard work and willingness to take on any assignment paid off: Her writing and intrepid forays into *la France Profonde* "true France" caught the eye of John Fairchild, the mercurial fashion arbiter and publisher of *Women's Wear Daily*, the industry's bible. Kate's earliest assignments "investigating the mineral water preferred by high society, chasing after a costumed band of wild boar hunters through the forests of Brittany" were a rough apprenticeship, but she was rewarded for her efforts and was initiated into the elite ranks of Mr. Fairchild's trusted few who sat beside him in the front row and at private previews in the ateliers of the gods of French fashion. From a woozy yet mesmerizing Yves Saint Laurent and the mischievous and commanding Karl Lagerfeld to the riotous, brilliant young guns who were rewriting all the rules "Martin Margiela, Helmut Lang, John Galliano" Betts gives us a view of what it was like to be an American girl, learning about herself, falling in love, and finding her tribe. Kate Betts's captivating memoir brings to life the enchantment of France "from the nightclubs of 1980s Paris where she learned to dance Le Rock, to the lavender fields of Provence and the grand spectacle of the Cour Carrée" and magically re-creates that moment in life when a young woman discovers who she's meant to be. Praise for *My Paris Dream* "[A] glittering coming-of-age tale." "Entertainment Weekly (The Must List) "Fashion and self-examination" froth and wisdom" might seem like odd bookfellows, but Betts brings them together with winning confidence." "The New York Times Book Review "As light and refreshing as an ice cream cone from the legendary Berthillon, *My Paris Dream* evokes the sights, sounds, smells and styles of 1980s Paris." "USA Today "My Paris Dream is awesome." "Man Repeller "What was Bett's Paris dream? Her dream was her awakening, [which] is elegantly chronicled in these pages." "The Daily Beast "For those who are interested in the men and women involved in haute couture, Betts's reminiscences will be a delight." "Kirkus Reviews "Full of slangy French, delectable food and swoon-worthy

fashion.â •â "BookPageâ œAn amazing story of a young woman in Paris trying to break into the fashion business.â •â "Sophia Amoruso, author of #GIRLBOSS Â â œKate Bettsâ ™s story brought me back to my own young self and the journey I madeâ "in my case, from a small town in Illinois to New York City.â •â "Cindy Crawford

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

4.5 starsA few chapters into this memoir, and I realized where I had heard the name, Kate Betts, Vogue!An excellent writer who wrote about the edge in fashion with authority and knowledge. Katherine Betts was born and raised in New York City. Her father, Hobart, was an architect, her mother Glynne was a photographer. They had divorced, and Katherine and her brother were brought up shuttling between parents. She had a privileged childhood and went on to her grandfather and father's alma mater, Princeton. She majored in European history, and it was here she started writing at the university's paper. After graduation, Kate knew she wanted to be a journalist and travel the globe reporting on the latest and greatest news. She decided to start in Paris, and on her own, off she went. She had an offer, via a relative, as an intern at the Paris Trib. She lived with a Parisian family in a spare room, learning French at the ground level. She became very proficient in the French language, and this was an important attribute as she worked in the fashion industry. She moved from one job to the next, working on her journalistic skills until she finally landed as a features writer for Fairchild Publications' Paris bureau, overseeing fashion coverage for Women's Wear Daily. This is where she honed her fashion skills and developed her career as a fashion journalist. During this time she enjoyed her life in Paris and France. She had

many friends, her weekends were busy, she was enjoying life. A serious Boyfriend, and life was good. She started at the ground level and worked her way up to Bureau Chief of Women's Wear. She learned the business of fashion, the people to meet and greet, until she was recognized by the head designers.

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