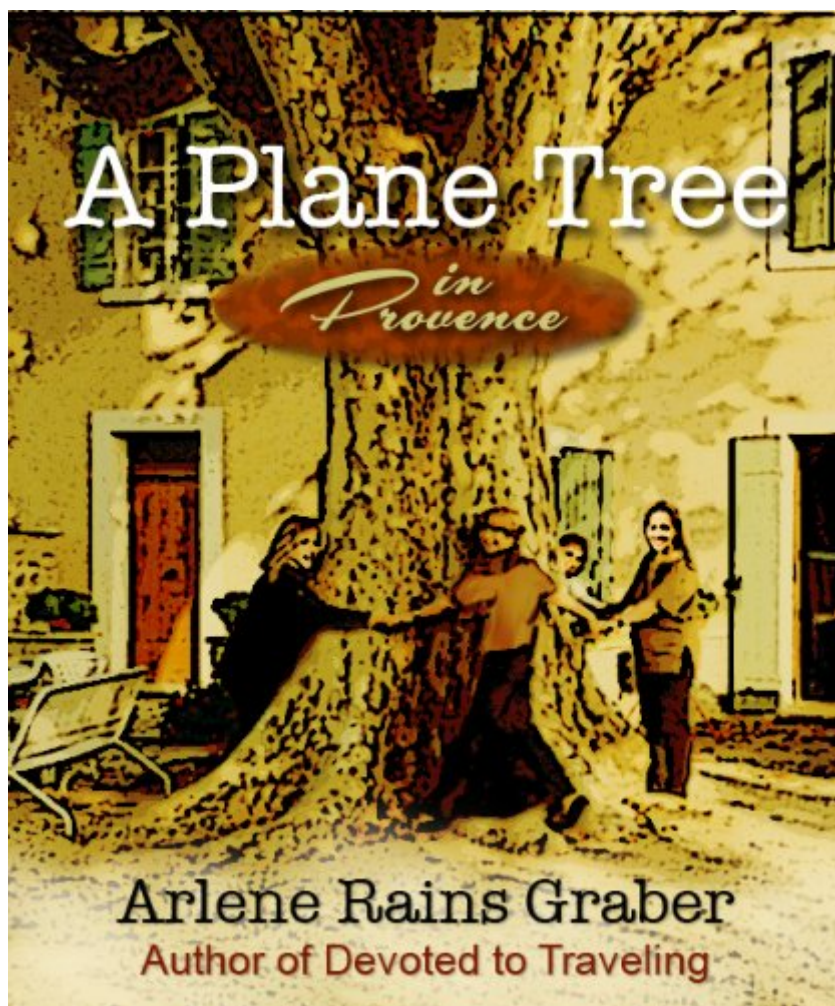




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A Plane Tree In Provence



Synopsis

Five women, four young forty-year-old plus one matron or sixty-one, take a life-changing three-week holiday to Provence, France. Each is anxious to escape from their robotic lives in Cape Elizabeth, Maine. Adventures and conflicts emerge as the five wind their way through Provence and conclude each day around the large plane tree at their rented farmhouse, with spirited conversation and a generous portion of food and wine. By the end of the trip each return home anxious to change their lives

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Customer Reviews

This is not "A Year in Provence" nor is it a romance novel, a bodice ripper or something Gothic, it's pleasant story of five women, little known to each other, who spend three weeks in France in Provence. There is no one story but yet a collection of small and large incidents by which we meet the ladies and discover something of them. At any given moment I was prepared to dislike one or more of them just as I might have felt had I spent three weeks anywhere with people I didn't really know. The stories do not intertwine save that they are all from the same small town in Maine and,

perforce, know some of the same people. That said, it's not a gossip festival about those who are not there rather it's a slowly unraveling picture of the ladies. Pleasantly written it's impossible not to find one, or more, of the ladies you like or identify with. At the end they all agree to keep in touch, see each other when they get home, make plans.....but it's easy to think of very close neighbors, one of whom moves. The same promises to "keep in touch" are made, tears are shed but, as time goes on, their relationship withers into a fond memory. The deficit here is simply execrable editing. pages and paragraphs are repeated and dropped in situations where they have no relevance. Small mistakes (The mentioned "She breathed a sign of relief".) slow the reader as one stumbles over these gaffes. Neither author Graber nor her story are well served.

This book was a brilliant story. A mixture of women who did not know each other well. Off they went to France. I have only been to Paris but am off to Provence & the riviera next month. If I can enjoy it half as much as these women, I will be happy. The food and wine sounds amazing. The sights are apparently picture perfect. The small villages sound friendly & interesting. By the end of the book these women had formed strong bonds and had learnt much about themselves as well as each other. I did not want. Them to board the return flight.

Well, any book about four women in Provence can't be all bad. It was mildly entertaining and fun to hear the women talking to each other. There wasn't much about Provence actually. It was as though someone wrote this very quickly and looked in guidebooks for brief descriptions of tourist sights. There were many words misspelled and once a sentence just dropped off with a blank space. For example once it said something like "she heaved a huge sign" instead of sigh. Kind of funny actually. P.S. the plane tree didn't really make an appearance. The cover photo was better than the plot.

I was intrigued as to how 5 women who hardly knew each other would cope in a different country for 3 weeks. Initially the profiles of the women I found very repetitious but when one of them broke the mould & experienced something more than sight seeing & the knives came out, their true personalities came through. When the chips are down some women shine, I enjoyed their descriptions of the experiences they shared which fuelled my love & desire to do the same in southern France & wanted to read the sequel if there is one, of their lives after Provence.

A Plane Tree in Provence – I've never traveled to France, but reading Arlene Graber's "A Plane

Tree in Provence," lets me enjoy the trip as if I had been there. Graber's subtle introduction of each of the four women traveling with Wendy, revealing both their good points and their painful problems, puts me in their walking shoes. If I spied them in a sidewalk cafe, I'd immediately recognize them. With vivid words, Graber also draws a lovely map of the area. I'll know my way around if I book Provence for a vacation. While allowing themselves to become vulnerable, these women share their problems, drop judgmental attitudes, and lend a shoulder for comfort. Were there affairs of the heart? With a handsome, attentive man working the nearby grape harvest, what do you think?

Unfortunately, this book is unreadable even for a breezy vacation read. The author's totally unforced errors are way too distracting. I've vacationed in the area and find her descriptions and locations completely fabricated. Distances and locations relative to reference points are so inaccurate. The first glaring factual misstatement was the lavender fields. The book is set in October. Lavender blooms in June. By October the fields are dried up. With this mishmash of a setting in time and place I can't take any of the plot seriously.

Well as you can guess in the title, I really enjoyed A Plane Tree in Provence. It was an amazing story one that captured your mind. I could taste, smell, and see all of the beautiful wondering France. It was written in such a way that I also felt all the emotion from the four friends from good to bad and also frightened. I couldn't put it down.

I expected so much more. The concept was good....5 women going to Provence together, but so lacking in quality. You would have thought the women were in their 80's, not 40's from the names of the women, to the way they acted. It felt like the book was written in another time and maybe a British author. Also, so many typos. If it was rewritten for modern times, it could be good.

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