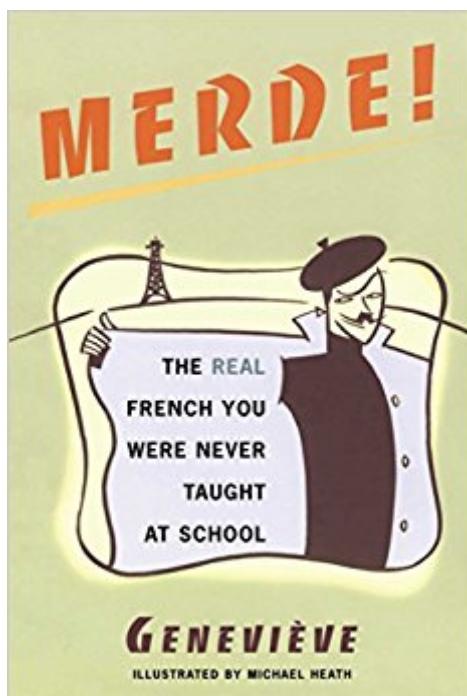


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# Merde!: The Real French You Were Never Taught At School (Sexy Slang Series)



## Synopsis

Learn all the French argot (slang), dirty words, and necessary tools of communication your teachers left out of their lesson plans with this essential survival guide to understanding everyday French. Deliciously saucy and full of wit *Merde!* is a practical guide for understanding French, as it really is spoken. This real-life resource is for anyone who remembers thumbing through English/French dictionaries for such words as "toilet paper" and "damn," as well as for the far more interesting, titillating terms that would never be used in polite conversation. But real French isn't spoken with the intent of being polite | With epithets for every occasion, a range of colorful idioms, and a wealth of come-ons and put-downs, this is the only language book you'll need to prepare for a trip to the city of lights.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Written by "Genevieve," who is identified only as living in Switzerland, this humorous look at French argot claims to be a "survival guide to understanding everyday French as it is really spoken." While there is certainly much for the casual reader to enjoy and much for lovers of France to commit to memory, the book falls flat. The fun of learning slang in a foreign language is understanding the sometimes mystifying, often amusing, literal meanings of those expressions. For example, according to Genevieve, an innocent, naive person is a *oie blanche*, a white goose, and to make love in a slow, conventional way is *faire l'amour a la papa*, make love like dad. Unfortunately this guide only erratically provides such literal meanings, making the book of full value only to those

whose French is in good shape already or who are willing to paw through a conventional dictionary while reading this. Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Text: English, French --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I've had the paperback versions of these (two) books for years. Now I've got them on my Kindle. Great! I live in France and have found *Merde!* to be essential when trying to converse with my french friends in a way that they (and me) don't find awkward or embarrassing. This is an invaluable tool for you if you're intending to visit or live in France. Everyday phrases, including swear words, are clearly explained with examples.

The book arrived as promised. I am from France and the context can be vulgar, but it is accurate. Just remember that it is not for formal and business settings. For those who plan to learn French, I recommend learning from a reputable source for good grammar and this book can alternatively smooth it out....or rough it out, depending on how you look at it. Good resource to make sure you are applying correctly to appropriate places, people, etc. In my opinion, it can be funny and quite direct, but it is French....I recommend!

A Wonderful book. I moved to France without being able to speak a word of French, except for the one sentence I'd retained from high school lessons: "une baguette, s'il vous plait" (the boulangerie was the only place I actually had to speak -- in supermarkets, you just pay what's written on the cash register). I soon realized that everything I was being taught at my language course at the Sorbonne was only going to get me so far -- a good 50% of peoples' conversations, the dialog in movies, song lyrics, etc., used words that weren't in my textbook. This book was a godsend -- easily the most useful French language textbook I've ever read. Ultimately, it meant that I could start taking the steps to being an "insider", rather than a tourist (another hint -- knowing 1970s French pop stars is a lot more important than knowing the date of the storming of the Bastille). Trying to learn another language is always painful, so any kind of positive feedback is important, and I found that it was much easier to impress people with a well-chosen slang phrase than with my mastery of sentences designed to get you through passport control (let alone the use of the subjunctive). Bottom line: If you're only going to learn 50 French words, they should be "please", "thank you" and another 48 from this book -- you'll (A) Be able to amuse your hosts, and (B) Know

when people are insulting you. And don't worry, the people in passport control speak English just fine...

When I first moved to Paris, I could barely speak a word of French (and had no job, and nowhere to stay, but that's another story), apart from a heavily-accented "une baguette de pain s'il vous plait Madame". And I can honestly say that this book was THE most useful thing I read -- indeed, it's the only book I pored over and learnt sections of by heart. Yes, speaking proper sentences and being polite and all that is all very useful, but if you really want to enjoy yourself, and get on with the locals, then this is the motherlode. Even if you only know two words of French, slipping a few well-chosen words like "bagnole", "boulot", and "flingue" (and the choicer swear words) into your conversation will break the ice, and impress your hosts, a LOT more than knowing the subjective pluperfect ever could. I eventually took "proper" French lessons at the Sorbonne, and had many arguments with my teacher about the relative merits of "correct" and "colloquial" French. For me, learning a language is about communicating, not about grammar, and this is the perfect place to start. To this day, I make sure that none of my friends or colleagues goes off to France for any period of time without a copy of this under their arm...

This is a must if you are going to have much contact with the French and their language. I only wished I had the book in H.S and college. I lived in France during college, and the book would have helped me learn the informal spoken language much more easily. You can never go wrong knowing the slang of the country you are in. It is still up-to-date, because I have shown it to a Frenchman and Belgian teenager, and they both laughed at the contents. Flipper

Great book. I bought this 20 years ago, lent it to someone and never got it back. Salope!!! Found it again and now it is being pored over for great additions to my French vocabulary (as needed). I'm not lending this one out!!

A must if you plan to understand how people really talk. I thought I was familiar with French argots but I was wrong.

The book is fun and there are lots of new words that I learned, but there are a few phrases that were not translated and because they are expressions, its very hard to understand what they really mean.

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