

**A WOMAN'S PARIS: A  
HANDBOOK OF  
EVERY-DAY LIVING IN  
THE FRENCH CAPITAL**

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A Woman's Paris: A Handbook of Every-Day Living in the French Capital by Mary Abbot

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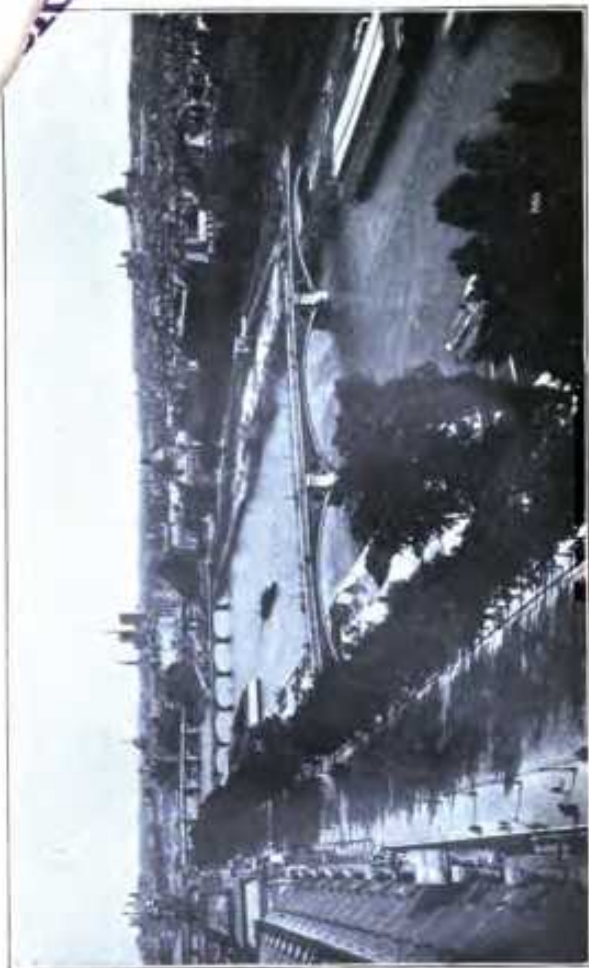
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**MARY ABBOT**

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A WOMAN'S PARIS



General View of Paris

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BINARY.

By Abbot, Mary

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# A WOMAN'S PARIS

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## *Preface*

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Books about Paris appear to have been prepared for three classes of readers only,—prowlers after the haunts of Molière and Alfred de Musset, men in search of Bohemian resorts, and mad sight-seers who have to be steered through the show-places like lightning. These have dozens of volumes addressed to them. There are, however, many travellers and visitors with other or less marked tastes and inclinations, who find themselves unprovided with information appropriate to their (mild) cases. This book is written for them.

Foremost among the unprovided is the American lady coming to Paris for a longer or a shorter period, for reasons not literary, nor Bohemian, nor demanding wild haste. This lady wishes to do the agreeable things there are to do, and to avoid the disagreeable things there are not to do. She wishes to investigate that wonderful charm that everybody admits, holding thousands who never do any of the tourist things, but take their delight in just living in Paris, and letting sights and pleasures come. Then social and domes-



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tic daily life has to be adjusted and simplified before she can even look about. The same lady wants to be told, perhaps, whether she can keep house in Paris and how and where; and if not, what she can do to live comfortably and without extravagance. She likes to learn some of the short routes by which she may arrive at results of happy and easy living without going through the eye-teeth-cutting processes that another's painful experiences may teach her to avoid. She lacks initiation into many petty artifices, in order that she may evade them shrewdly or even return dodge for dodge. She might be thankful for hints about the theatres,—which ones she may go to alone and which she may not go to at all. She needs to be directed to the right restaurants and to be informed as to the ways of managing servants. She wants to be instructed, above all, in the prices of daily things. And although there is universally supposed to be an instinct among women which guides them aright in shopping matters, it is believed that a few stray nods may not come amiss, even about that.

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The little book, then, is designed for the average American woman not too poor to enjoy herself in a varied and even in a moderately luxurious way in Paris, and yet not of that class—the American millionnaires—which has come near to destroying all chance of enjoyment and modest luxury for the middling of purse.

A manual dealing solely with normal conditions, however, is inappropriate at this epoch. Paris is about to be invaded by foreign hordes; and contrary to the tradition of invading hordes, this one will come to be preyed upon and not to prey. Already the hotel-keepers, first in price and first and last in the pockets of our countrymen, have combined to raise their tariffs 50 per cent. Landlords are asking ridiculous rates for rents. To be forewarned is to come forearmed. And to that end a chapter has been prepared on the Exposition of 1900, as a sort of removable appendix to the little volume; with another treating a subject which may be called with fine irony, "Fair prices."

