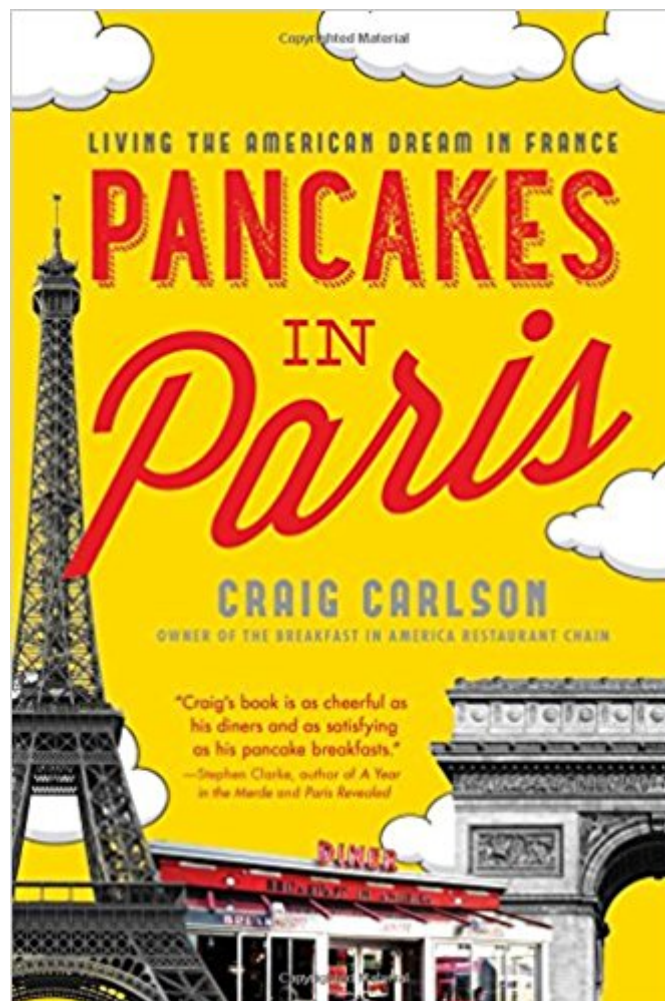




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# Pancakes In Paris: Living The American Dream In France



## Synopsis

Now a New York Times Bestseller Paris was practically perfect...Craig Carlson was the last person anyone would expect to open an American diner in Paris. He came from humble beginnings in a working-class town in Connecticut, had never worked in a restaurant, and didn't know anything about starting a brand-new business. But from his first visit to Paris, Craig knew he had found the city of his dreams, although one thing was still missing-the good ol' American breakfast he loved so much. Pancakes in Paris is the story of Craig tackling the impossible-from raising the money to fund his dream to tracking down international suppliers for "exotic" American ingredients... and even finding love along the way. His diner, Breakfast In America, is now a renowned tourist destination, and the story of how it came to be is just as delicious and satisfying as the classic breakfast that tops its menu.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Pancakes in Paris is a funny, inspiring, moving, and provocative story. Reading how Carlson navigates through a French legal, social and economic system (which, say the least, is very different from America's) on his journey to success is no less than fascinating." - The Huffington Post "If you are a foodie and Francophile, and if you like rags-to-riches stories, you should curl up on an armchair with a strong cup of coffee and a croissant and tuck into Craig Carlson's memoir: Pancakes in Paris...a quintessential American tale, big and brash and filled with charm." - Powell's Book Blog "Finding American-style bacon and breakfast sausage in France wasn't easy, nor was the diner's opening in the middle of a snowstorm or fights over Heinz ketchup: Carlson's book is full of

amusing tales." - NorthJersey.com "In *Pancakes in Paris: Living the American Dream in France*, Craig Carlson shares how he came to open a successful American diner in one of the world's culinary capitals. Having never started a business or even worked in a restaurant before, he admits his goal was a long-shot, but that just makes his story all the more inspiring. His adventures are full of interesting characters, delicious food, and charming sites." - Bustle "With Carlson recounting hurdles from amusing...to serious, this memoir makes for a delicious read." - Booklist "The author demonstrates that no idea is too crazy if one has the determination to pursue it to its fruition. A light, entertaining story of how a man turned his pipe dream into a profitable, highly respected business." - Kirkus "[A] sweet and entertaining memoir details how a former Hollywood screenwriter opens an American diner in Paris and lives happily after...Carlson's narrative is an inspirational, tasty trip through one man's delightful and hard-won success." - Publishers Weekly "Craig's book is cheerful as his diners, and as satisfying as his pancake breakfasts." - Stephen Clarke, author of *A Year in the Merde* and *Paris Revealed* "A hearty and delicious serving of adventures about starting the first American breakfast joint in Paris." - Jennifer Coburn, author of *We'll Always Have Paris* "I loved reading this book. Craig Carlson tells his story with an openness and an ironic sense of humor. *Pancakes in Paris* is a great success story and will inspire readers to never stop trying to achieve their goals." - Roger S. Christiansen, Director, *Friends and Hannah Montana* "Anyone who fantasizes about selling everything and moving to France should read this refreshingly honest memoir about what it really takes to operate a successful business in Paris. The real takeaway is how Craig's love for his adopted city and its people is stronger than ever despite -- or perhaps because of -- the Kafkaesque ordeal he went through to make his dreams come true here." - Heather Stimmler-Hall, editor of the *Secrets of Paris* newsletter ([www.secretsofparis.com](http://www.secretsofparis.com)) "What makes this memoir stand out though, is that he structures the story in such a way that the reader can't wait to find out what happens next. We learn about him, the man, in the same way that he does." - Underrated Reads "Pancakes in Paris is the tale of how Carlson turns his dream into a reality. And unlike many books of this type, it does a wonderful job of telling it like it really is." - eat.live.travel.write. "The author's depictions of France as a living organism with which the industrious foreigner must learn to make peace in order to survive-one that is nonetheless responsive and eventually, even welcoming to having its tastes influenced through the right stimuli-will appeal to Francophiles, gourmands, and restaurateurs alike. Carlson's France, warts and all, is one that I hope to taste someday." - Flavorful World "Carlson's background as a former scriptwriter is evident in his writing style: The book reads like a TV series where you can't wait for the next episode, or in this case, to read the next chapter. Â Â It's almost like a reality tv show is

playing in your head. " - The Paris Readers Circle

Craig Carlson is the owner and founder of Breakfast in America, the first American-style diner in Paris, which has been featured in The Lonely Planet and Frommer's Paris travel guides. He lives in Paris with his partner.

Now who would think an American, who is not even a cook, could dream of an American diner in Paris -- of all places? I really enjoyed this book, and deeply sympathized with Craig when he came up against all those idiosyncratic bureaucracy and confusing labour laws of France! If I have one criticism, it is that he let on right at the start that he actually did manage to establish his diner ... It would have been more suspenseful to keep the reader guessing for a while whether he would actually succeed with his impossible dream! And I am so sorry, Craig, that I did not know about DIA #1 in 2006, when last I was in Paris! One does get a bit fed up with a croissant and coffee for breakfast! I enjoyed your story very much, and thank heavens it was edited and published by an actual publisher. Too many of these basically great memoirs are spoiled by the inexperience of their authors.

I loved this book (listened to it on CD's). Having visited Paris and France over a dozen times, I can relate to the many struggles Craig encountered while trying to fulfill his dream of having a restaurant that served American breakfast. He is an inspiration to others who have dreams and work diligently to make them real. I am so happy that Craig found his life long partner along his travels. On our next trip to Paris, I am going to look for one of the BIAs and enjoy some real American food while visiting.

This book captured my attention from the very first page. I've known Craig from his Jr. High and High School years and saw his determination then for success. It obviously grew. Craig's love for Paris, his witty and brilliant personality, his never ending determination and perseverance enables him to press through so many unforeseen obstacles through some very tough years which inspired me so completely. I could not put this book down. Craig shows in this book that with a positive attitude anything is possible! Diana Lagana

I'm a Francophile and love to discuss cultural differences with my close French friend. The book is very engaging and informative...but what shines through the most? Craig just seems like a genuinely nice person (and as the daughter of a narcissist, thank you for the most succinct quote I

have ever read about that!!!!) LOVED this book so much!!!! Thank you for taking us on the journey with you!!!!

This was an incredibly interesting perspective on what it would be like to start the american dream in Paris! The experience was priceless and even though I have not been to Paris (bucket list), it was great to travel there in spirit. Craig had a dream plan that he made come true with so much learning and hard work. I look forward to the opening of more restaurants and will visit when I travel there!

Enjoyed the book. Definitely lets you know what it's like trying to get anything done in Paris...frustrating and insane, that's for sure. I'm planning on stopping at the diner next time I'm in Paris.

This was a fun read. I've been to Paris many times and have not been (or seen) this restaurant yet. You can bet it's on my list next time I'm in town. It was entertaining to read the story of this life long dream which finally came to fruition with success. Bravo!

Who would think it is so interesting to read of the trials and tribulations of the author to establish the first diner named Breakfast in America. The descriptions of Paris, of French bureaucracy and French people in general are fascinating reading.

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