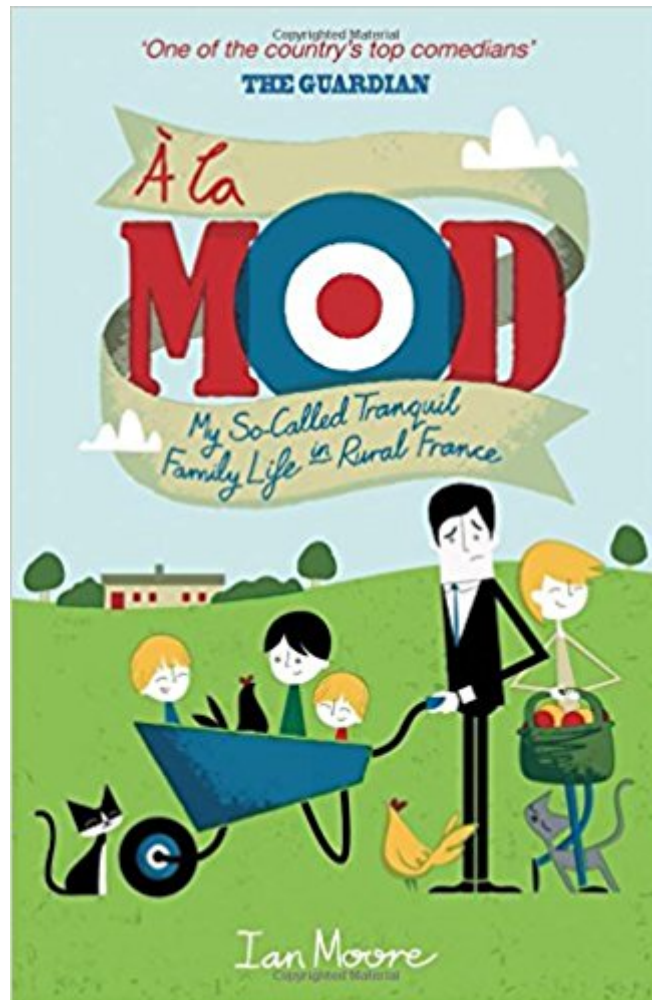




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# À la Mod: My So-Called Tranquil Family Life In Rural France



## Synopsis

A comedic romp through one man's life in the Loire Valley, France Comedian, mod, and professional grump Ian Moore has had enough. Tired of being unable to park anywhere near his cramped house in a noisy town he doesn't like, he hatches a plan to move his wife and young son to a remote corner of the Loire Valley in search of serenity and space. Several years later, Ian finds himself up to his neck in bilingual offspring, feral cats, promiscuous horses, dysfunctional spaniels, and needy hens; he's wrestling with electric fences, a foreign language, a mountain of animal waste, and a wife who collects livestock like there's a biblical flood on the horizon, all while trying not to dirty his loafers. But despite the ups, downs, and increasing demands of Ian's showbiz career, the Moore family persevere to create a unique, colorful, and ultimately rewarding life in their new home "À la campagne and À la mod!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

'a wonderfully funny tale' \* Connexion Newspaper \* 'there is plenty of humour here and he often had me sniggering, giggling and really laughing with his light hearted look at his life.' \* The French Village Diaries \* 'As you might expect from a comedian, it's highly entertaining' \* Destination France \* 'Sit back and enjoy the show' \* French Property News \* 'A la Mod is as much about the difficulties of rural life as it is being a Mod in France - and is all the better for it.' \* The Independent on Sunday \*

Ian Moore is a professional comedian.

Ian Moore can certainly tell a story. When he describes the small village he and his family moved to in France, I can picture it. When he describes their crazy pets and their antics, I can picture them. What I picture the most vividly though is Ian outside doing chores or going to town in his "mod" clothes. Ha! No mistaking him for one of the locals. This was such a fun book to read that I'm looking forward to reading the sequel which is already out! FIVE STARS!!!

And read bits out loud. The zoo, the kids, the chaos, hilarious. And all narrated with affection. Not a fan of the Mod style except in its own era :) and the writing is good!

This is the story of a comedian who moves to France in an attempt to resurrect his life, both professionally and with his family. Understandably the book is funny - surprise! It reads like a very light and fluffy soufflé with the main humour derived from the differences between life in France and that where the author comes from. It is thus fairly predictable and the problems enlarged for comic effect. He doesn't however, make fun of the locals, so much as at his own attempts to assimilate and fit into both rural and expatriate life. If you want a quick short entertaining read in a plane, on a beach or in bed at night, this one will make you feel happy about the world.

I love France and, as we are planning to move over there in a few years' time, this story of a family who have done just that really appealed. There have been lots and lots of books written about the British relocating to France but this book is different. Ian Moore is a comedian, and a mod. And a mod who is determined not to let the fact that he is living in rural France get in the way of his sense of style. He refuses to wear wellington boots, for example, even when the land is knee deep in mud. His reasons for moving are ones I can really identify with. Why, in Britain, do we pay huge amounts of money for tiny houses and a square of back garden? Why do we accept that that's how it must be? Bravely, or stupidly, Ian and his wife buy a house in the Loire on impulse, attracted by the space it will give to their growing family. But it's not all idyllic. Moore has to travel back and forth to the UK to work, leaving his wife Natalie alone with their children. Often exhausted when he returns home, he also makes the return journey full of trepidation as to how many new animals his wife and boys will have acquired while he's been away. These animals, including a horse with an intense dislike of Moore, a dog that continuously makes amorous advances to anything that stays still and a band of feral cats that accept no rules, become the bane of Moore's life. But his wife continues to add to the collection, even trying to save the mice

left half dead by the cats. I have an uneasy feeling that this is how it will be for us, and I will spend my life picking up the endless piles of various animals' poo which is how Natalie seems to spend most of her days. Funny, very readable and honest too, this book doesn't give a glamorous, how wonderful it is, fake picture of life in France. It isn't all drinking wine in the sunshine. There are relentless winters, gales that blow trampolines through the garden, struggles and misunderstandings due to Moore's inability to pick up the language, and times when it all seems too much. Yes, it's light-hearted and fun, but it's also realistic. Does it put me off going to France? No. Will I be reading the next book - *Best Modnique*? Definitely.

This is just my sort of book; a funny look at life in rural France. As you would expect from a book written by a comedian there is plenty of humour here and he often had me sniggering, giggling and really laughing with his light hearted look at his life. Ian is a mod, his appearance is important to him and his clothing is different. In London and possibly Paris too, he would blend in. In the rural area of the Loire where Ian, Natalie and their three boys have called home, he stands out. This is especially amusing when he describes dressing in his mod best to tackle the many outdoor chores involved in rural living and animal husbandry. The locals seem to view him with a mix of awe, amusement and mistrust, but this doesn't put Ian off. All he is looking for in life is somewhere quiet to while away his days when he isn't working on the comedy circuit. "this was the main reason they moved from the crowds in the south of UK to the calms of France. His ever-growing family of children and animals, who he seems to think have got it in for him, make this a tricky search, but an amusing read. I can thoroughly recommend this book to anyone who likes life in France books, and even to those who don't.

I've read multitudes of travel essays and "brits-moving-to-france" adventures and this is one of the most enjoyable reads I've had for a long time! Ian Moore's satirical look at his lifestyle in rural France coupled with his animated family life makes a jocular but heartfelt commentary of his initiation into rural living.

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