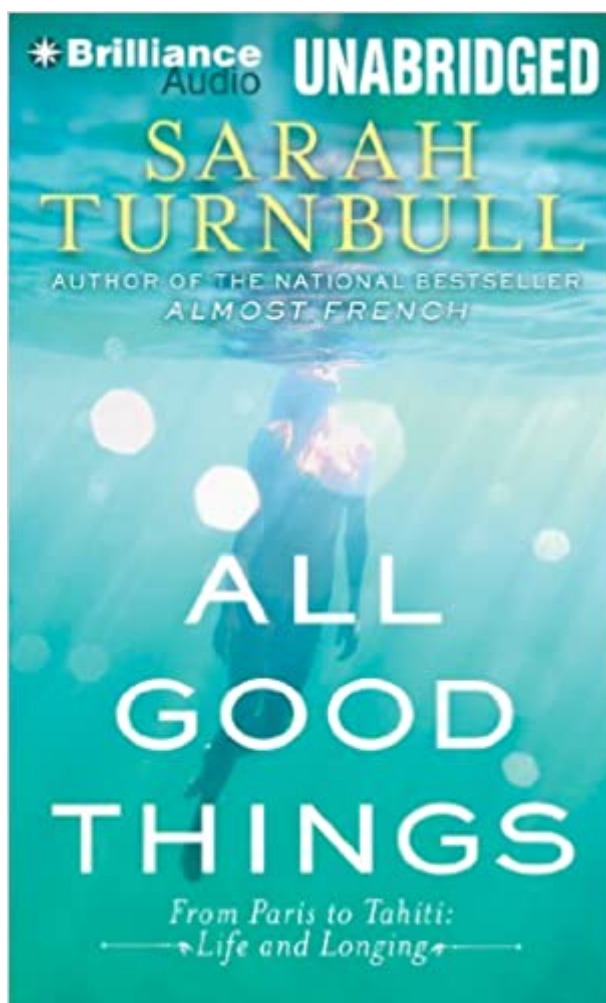


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# All Good Things: From Paris To Tahiti: Life And Longing



## Synopsis

The author of the international bestseller *Almost French* sets sail to explore a new paradise: Tahiti. Sarah Turnbull turns her characteristically lush prose to this spectacular landscape as she describes adjusting to another new culture. In *All Good Things*, Sarah and her husband takes the couple to an island near Tahiti—but there is more to the move than simply a job opportunity. In this seeming paradise, where each day begins with a swim in the magical waters of the lagoon, Sarah seeks creative rejuvenation. “Book and baby: I’ve never dared speak them so boldly, but my aims for the next two years were clear in my mind before we moved.” Turnbull transports the listener with her vivid, evocative descriptions of the natural environment while ruminating on the paradise myth and the special nature of islands—as well as the long-ago visit to the territory by Henri Matisse. Told with heartbreaking honesty and full of jewels of insight, *All Good Things* is a story about love and longings in one of the most beautiful and isolated places on earth.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As warm and welcoming as slipping into the lagoon for a morning swim, the latest journey of former Australian journalist Turnbull unfurls with the same charm as her popular *Almost French* (2003). Turnbull and her French husband relocate from Paris to Tahiti for his job, in the midst of arduous fertility treatments to try to have a child. The culture clashes continue, both inside and outside the marriage, as the couple adjusts. While describing their life in paradise—complete with a tropical lagoon in the backyard—and her frustrations over the inability to conceive, Turnbull

manages neither to gloat nor to wallow, instead employing humor and bracing honesty. As much travelogue as memoir, Turnbull's account captures the glorious palette and fragrance of the islands while remaining clear-eyed about the challenges of life there. As ever, Turnbull is a perceptive, evocative guide to other lands and cultures. Deeply touching, this is for fans of her first memoir who are curious about her next adventure, and also for a more general audience attracted to the tale of facing the unknown with humility and delight. --Bridget Thoreson --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Praise for *All Good Things*"Engaging...a South Seas version of *Under the Tuscan Sun*." •The New York Times Book Review"Turnbull makes splendid use of her journalistic skills in this entertaining and heartfelt memoir recounting the joys of adventure and family life." •Publishers Weekly "Readers will be moved" •Herald Sun Weekend (Australia)"..fluid with vibrant passages about the physical beauty of the island, its tangible lushness" |At its heart it is about creative longing and quiet despair." •The Western Australian Praise for *Almost French*"Jewels of insight" and the book shines with them." •The Boston Globe"A charming, insightful meditation." •USA Today Praise for Sarah Turnbull's *Almost French*"a love song to Paris and France, yes, but a love song in a minor key" |Readers looking for a cool dose of reality will be rewarded many times over" |Turnbull got a quick mind, a good heart and a sharp eye for life's oddities and contradictions. France isn't a place she has used as raw material for an arch, self-serving book, but a place where she has chosen to live and to become almost French" •but far from wholly French" |She tells the story of how this came to pass with honesty and a refreshing absence of self-importance. The emphasis in *Almost French* certainly should be on almost, but Sarah Turnbull seems to have gotten a lot closer to the real thing than most of us who will always be on the outside looking in, even those of us who imagine otherwise. •Jonathan Yardley, *The Washington Post Book World*"jewels of insight" and the book shines with them" •make *Almost French* a worthy read. Turnbull's story will entertain, and edify, both armchair travelers and those of us nutty enough to try living here. •Joe Ray, *The Boston Globe* Turnbull moves her story between the frustration of confrontations with shopkeepers to the wonders of learning that the taste of cheese depends on whether the cows are grazing on spring grass or eating a winter diet of straw. She explores and offers explanations for the French perspectives on issues such as feminism, cooking, homelessness, and family. For those who have visited France, the explanations have a

ring of truth. [Maureen Goggin, The Boston Globe](#) Turnbull's memoir is a charming, insightful meditation. [USA Today](#) Anyone who finds herself in a situation like Turnbull's will be luckier; she'll have Turnbull's warm, clear prose to soothe frayed nerves. [Newsday](#) Turnbull's account of navigating another culture, learning a new language, and reinventing her professional self is a delight to read, filled with observational humor. [Booklist](#) full of honest ups and downs its explorations of the "cultural quicksand" Turnbull gradually adapts to are fascinating. I hope to visit Paris one day, and am grateful to learn so many ways to avoid being an ugly American. [Seattle Times/Post-Intelligencer](#) You'll love this true story of a woman who left her life behind for a sexy foreigner. [Cosmopolitan](#) A bestseller in Turnbull's native Australia, this cute firsthand look at the hardships of settling into a city infamously chilly to outsiders gives a glimpse of the true nature of Parisians and daily life in their gorgeous city. This is an engaging, endearing view of the people and places of France. If books like *A Year in Provence* and *Under the Tuscan Sun* are any measure, there's a ready market for Turnbull's contribution to the European expat memoir genre. [Publisher's Weekly](#) Love and adjustment in a foreign climate she delivers so much, and so intelligently, on her life there. An engaging story of a sometimes rocky but ultimately affectionate relationship with another culture. [Kirkus Reviews](#) Sara Turnbull's *Almost French* is a must read for those of us who are being forced to integrate into another culture. Sara's tales are representative of what one might experience in any unfamiliar world. Like Peter Mayle's *A Year in Provence* and Frances Mayes' *Under the Tuscan Sun*, *Almost French* treats the reader to an insider's view of the challenges of integrating oneself into a totally different culture. [Travel Lady Magazine](#) *Almost French* details a fantasy many women have: falling in love with a Frenchman and being taken to his country where she soon is transformed into the kind of chic, sophisticated, scarf-tying woman France is known for. She has some sage advice for those perpetually confused by the French. She explains it all, her love for Paris shining clearly through the story of her own metamorphosis. [Judy Babcock Wylie, The Daily Harold, Arlington Heights, IL](#) Turnbull has a wry sense of humor, one that lets us see how difficult it is for a foreigner to fit in, and feel at home, with the French. [Taonic Newspaper Group](#) Turnbull has a wry sense of humor, one that lets us see how difficult it is for a foreigner to fit in, and feel at home, with the French. [The Ripsaw News](#) Though not a cultural study, it is as educational as it is entertaining. This memoir is a breezy and enjoyable read that offers an insightful look into French culture. [Booknews from The Poisoned Pen](#) --This

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I bought this book after doing a search for books about French Polynesia since I'll be going there for a first time in a few months. I also just love travel books and books about relocating. I thoroughly enjoyed this whole book, even the parts about her struggles with conceiving a child. I'm not a mother nor do I even want children, but she made me feel as if I was there with her, which had me hoping for a positive outcome for them. I read a few other reviews saying they were disappointed or the book wasn't what they expected. Personally, I like the unexpected twists and turns of books and just enjoy wherever the book takes me. It'd be one thing if the side stories were boring, but these were certainly not boring. We were given a very honest slice of life of someone with an interesting and unique life. What's not to like about that? I have not read her previous book, but I will now put it on my list as I find her writing enjoyable and relatable.

Great book! Sarah is a wonderful storyteller. I could see, smell, and feel her experiences as I read. She shared very personal details, but in a way that didn't make me uncomfortable. I really enjoyed her first book, and this one was different, but equally wonderful.

Difficult to put this book down once started. The move from Paris to Tahiti made this book culturally interesting. The personal journey with IVF was an insight to the difficulties one has to go through to achieve a miracle. The inclusion of the histories of Gauguin and Matisse added colour to story. The humour and drama of life on an island was fascinating. I enjoyed the characters and the experiences very much. It was an easy read and thoroughly enjoyable.

Sarah Turnbull does it again in transporting the reader into a time and space that would otherwise feel foreign. Her thoughtful and descriptive prose of her time in Tahiti/Moorea highlights an appreciation and historical reference of the Local Tahitians that tourists may not get to experience during their time in paradise. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this follow-up memoir to "Almost French" and I hope you will too.

This was nowhere near as interesting as her first book. The editing was poor and I found her writing clunky in places. Her thoughts about Tahiti were at times interesting and the descriptions of some of the other atolls she visited were evocative. This is a pleasant enough holiday read but lacked the substance of the earlier book.

Enjoyed it almost as much as I like "Almost French." I was a little bored with the repetition about artists Gauguin and Matisse but loved her descriptions of the islands. It hurt me to read about Oliver's accident and I can't imagine how they got through that but they did. This is a true story, not about a famous person but about an author who shared her experiences with her readers in a very interesting book.

After reading Turnbull's great book about her life in Paris, I regularly checked for any new books from her and it seemed like forever until this came out! But, finally, there it was, all wrapped up in tropical warmth. While it lacks the romance of early love and of Paris - really, what can top that? - it still reflects Turnbull's wit and insight, and gives us another window into her life that is full of adventures, big and small. Life on a small island can indeed be complicated for an outsider, but Turnbull seemingly found the best of her island in the people and the natural beauty. And wrote it down for our pleasure.

I bought this book solely based on Sarah's previous book, which I loved, and the brief blurb provided by . I wanted to read about travel, fitting into a new environment with foreign customs, new horizons etc etc, but I got a huge amount of unwanted detail about fertility treatment and babies instead, which I really didn't want to read about .Sorry, I'm really happy for Sarah and Frederic, but this was not the book I thought I was buying.

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