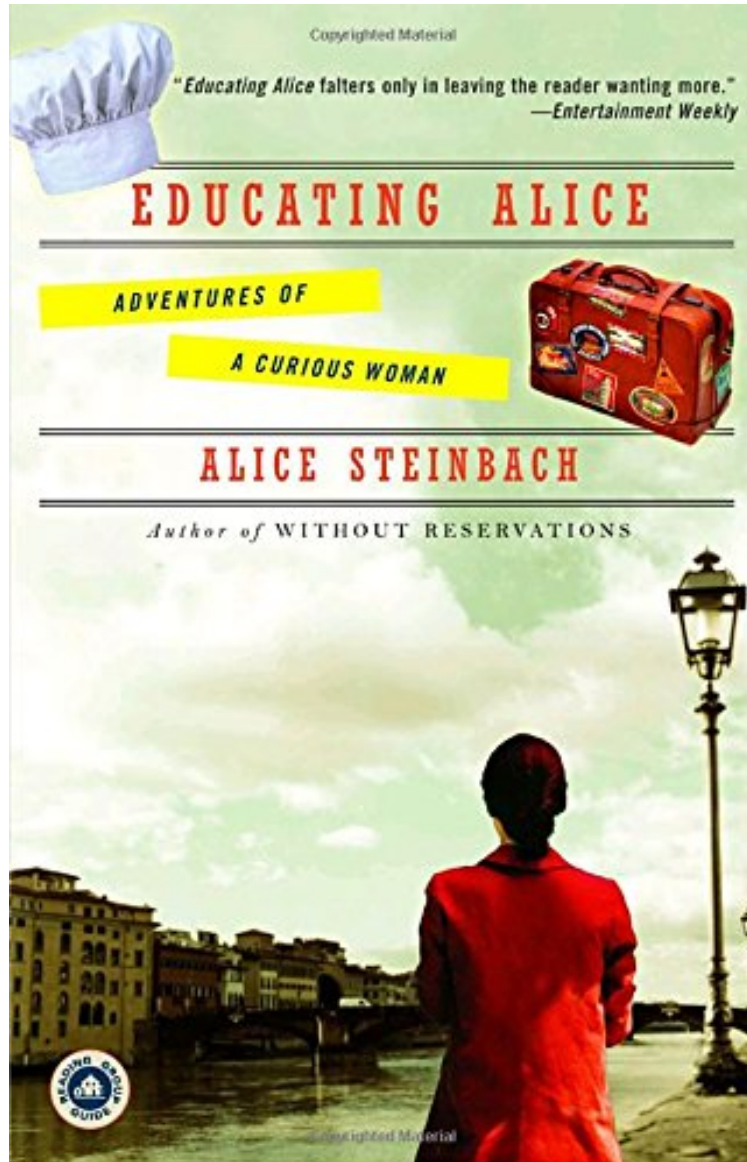


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Educating Alice: Adventures of a Curious Woman

Alice Steinbach

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Alice Steinbach : Educating Alice: Adventures of a Curious Woman before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Educating Alice: Adventures of a Curious Woman:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Boring beyond wordsBy Pup MomI loved Alice Steinbach's first work, "No Reservations." I could hardly put it down, underlined so many lines, paragraphs and bits of universal wisdom. So, with great eagerness I purchased her second work.To express the disappointment in reading this is

difficult. There are little to no observations or wisdom to ponder on the human condition. Her classes abroad are boring, inane and so difficult to plow through. I've tried finishing this book for 3 months and view it as I did when, as a child, I was forced to take "just one bite" of liver to be free and enjoy the rest of my dinner. Save your time. There are so many other wonderful writers to sample. Still, it's disheartening to think Steinbach is a one-book-writer. I loved "No Reservations". I loathe "Educating Alice...". 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. EDUCATING ALICE IS A BOOK I WISH I HAD WRITTEN By Cheryl Mueller Reading one of Alice Steinbach's books is like visiting with an old friend. Her writing is eloquent and warm. She shares her travels, her life experiences, and her deepest thoughts with her reader. A rare find! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. EDUCATING ALICE By music lover THIS IS ONE OF MY VERY FAVORITE WRITERS. I RE READ WITHOUT RESERVATIONS OVER AND OVER, I WAS SO PLEASED TO FIND THIS EDUCATING ALICE. I WAS SO SAD, TO READ , THIS LADY HAD PASSED AWAY. SHE HAD SO MUCH MORE TO SAY, THANK YOU, FOR FINDING THIS FOR ME, IT EXCEEDED MY HOPES. JOY WOOD

This funny and tender book combines three of Alice Steinbach's greatest passions: learning, traveling, and writing. After chronicling her European journey of self-discovery in *Without Reservations*, this Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for the *Baltimore Sun* quit her job and left home again. This time she roamed the world, taking lessons and courses in such things as French cooking in Paris, Border collie training in Scotland, traditional Japanese arts in Kyoto, and architecture and art in Havana. With warmth and wit, Steinbach guides us through the pleasures and perils of discovering how to be a student again. She also learns the true value of this second chance at educating herself: the opportunity to connect with and learn from the people she meets along the way.

From *Publishers Weekly* Steinbach had so much fun running off to Europe to find herself, as recounted in her first book (*Without Reservations*), she decided to quit her job writing for the *Baltimore Sun* and devote herself to similar educational adventures. Following the advice of Japanese poet Basho ("To learn of the pine, go to the pine"), Steinbach takes off again and recounts eight endeavors, including studying French cooking in Paris, attending a Jane Austen convention in England and meeting geishas in Kyoto. She captures the uniqueness of each setting, aided by a sharply curious sensibility she claims stems as much from her childhood admiration for Nancy Drew as from her reportorial training. That spirit of openness also enables her to strike up many spontaneous conversations easily, frequently launching other discoveries. A search for a bonsai garden in Florence, for example, winds up becoming a tour of several palaces normally closed to the public, which leads to an old priest's tale of rescuing priceless paintings from a flood. Yet for all Steinbach's attention to others, her account remains resolutely personal, as her experiences unleash bittersweet childhood memories, and an ambiguously romantic relationship with a Japanese gentleman is never far from her thoughts. Her stories are powerfully seductive to anyone who's ever been tempted to get up and go, following interests wherever they may lead. Even during the occasional setbacks, from language barriers to confusing geographies, Steinbach makes such a life look highly desirable. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From *Booklist* After winning the Pulitzer Prize for journalism, Steinbach transformed herself into a travel writer and gained a readership with *Without Reservations* (2000). She now presents another blithe chronicle of sophisticated adventures as she returns to the humbling role of student in order to sample different creative pursuits. Steinbach goes to Paris to take cooking classes at the Hotel Ritz and to Kyoto, where she takes lessons in traditional arts and meets some truly remarkable women, including several geishas and an impressive entrepreneur. In England she makes pilgrimages to Jane Austen's residences, and in Havana she has some real fun, meeting artists and listening to great music. She tours private gardens in Provence, takes a writing workshop in Prague, and learns a bit about Border collies at a Scottish sheep farm. Attentive and receptive out in the world, on the page Steinbach is brisk, funny, confiding, and informative as she offers pithy observations, vivid profiles, and arcane facts. Experiencing her pleasurable sojourns vicariously, Steinbach's readers enjoy a virtual vacation from reality. Donna Seaman Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved Highly recommended . . . The beauty of [Steinbach's] narrative . . . lies in her luminous descriptions. . . . But it is her perceptive looks into the lives and minds and hearts of the people she meets through her studies that bring her settings to life and make this collection of essays truly engaging. *Library Journal* Steinbach makes such a life look highly desirable. . . . Her stories are powerfully seductive to anyone who's ever been tempted to get up and go, following interests wherever they may lead. *Publishers Weekly* A delicious experience . . . This book will entertain, educate and perhaps inspire readers to make their own journeys. -*San Francisco Chronicle* "I loved *Educating Alice*... Alice Steinbach may visit some of the world's most popular tourist cities but she does not follow the ordinary tourist route. Oh no! Down the back alleys Alice Steinbach goes, slipping through side doors and riding on employees-only elevators; dropping huge, slippery salmon on the floor of the Ritz Escoffier Ecole de Gastronomie Francaise and charming retired geishas into showing her their prized kimonos, wrapped in rice paper and stowed in boxes in the attic. Ms. Steinbach must be who Henry James imagined when he advised novelists to try to become 'one upon whom nothing is lost.'" Sarah Pritchard, author of *Crackpots: A Novel* In these uncertain times, the smart thing to do is stay home and read *Educating Alice: Adventures of a Curious*

Woman. Alice Steinbach has more fun than anybody, whether chasing sheep in Scotland, or taking cooking lessons at the Ritz in Paris, or swinging to a salsa beat in a down-at-the-heel cafe in Havana, or taking a writing course in Prague, or studying landscape architecture in Provence, etc. etc. etc.--- Alices etceteras are limitless, and what all of us, surely, have always wanted to do ourselves. What is more, no matter what she does or who she sees or how hilarious the encounter, she is a lady to her toes."Jane Geniesse, author of *Passionate Nomad: The Life of Freya Stark*A brisk and companionate tour of the Paris Ritz, ancient streets of Kyoto, the Scottish Highlands, inner Prague and Renaissance Florence, in search of the secrets of French cooking, Japanese dance, sheepherding, writing and painting. Alice Steinbach's travel memoir serves up, in savory detail, the tricks and ingredients of these trades, even as she reveals steps in the intimate dance of an epistolary romance of her own.

Jean McGarry, Chair of the Johns Hopkins University Writing Seminars