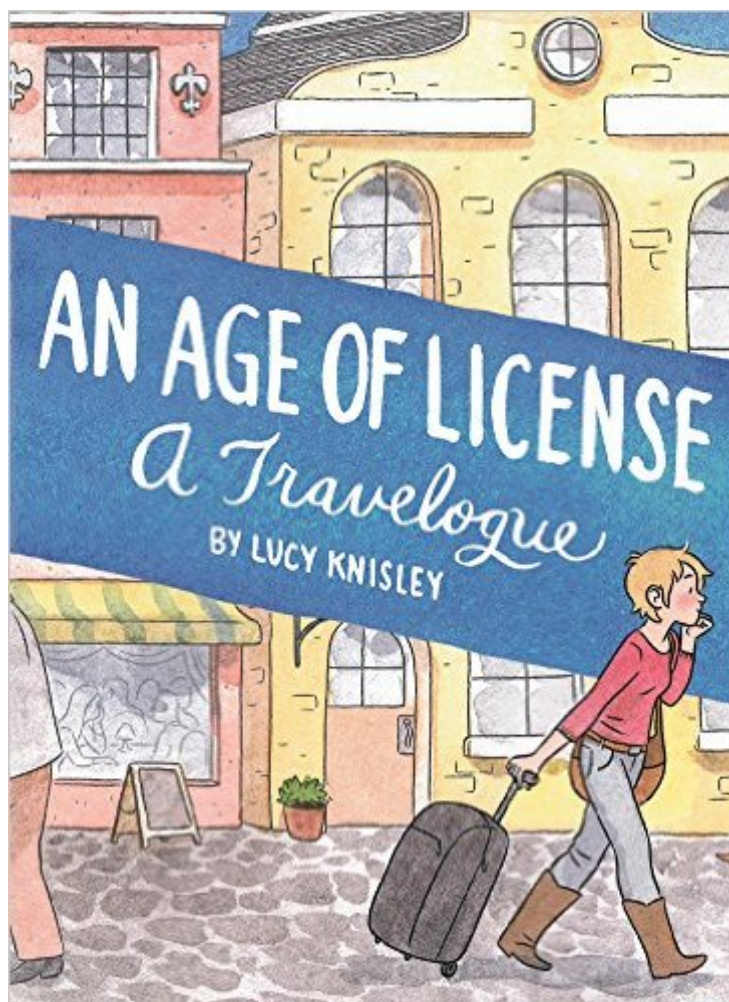


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An Age Of License



Synopsis

Lucy Knisley's latest food-themed graphic memoir recounts her adventures (some romantic) on a European book tour. Acclaimed cartoonist Lucy Knisley (*French Milk*, *Relish*) got an opportunity that most only dream of: a travel-expenses-paid trip to Europe/Scandinavia, thanks to a book tour. *An Age of License* is Knisley's comics travel memoir recounting her charming (and romantic!) adventures. It's punctuated by whimsical visual devices (such as a "new experiences" funnel); peppered with the cute cats she meets along the way; and, of course, features her hallmark drawings and descriptions of food that will make your mouth water. But it's not all kittens and raclette crepes: Knisley's experiences are colored by anxieties, introspective self-inquiries, and quotidian revelations about traveling alone in unfamiliar countries, and about her life and career that many young adults will relate to. *An Age of License* which takes its name from a French saying is an Eat, Pray, Love for the alternative comics fan. Partial color

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (23 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Lucy is one of my favorite cartoonists, and has been since I discovered *French Milk* a few years ago. She doesn't do superheroes or any of that. She does real people, mostly herself, living real life, with an autobiographical concentration on food (her parents are a chef and a gourmet) and travel (which, even in her late 20s, she still gets nervous about). This one, set in 2011, revolves around her invitation to be a featured guest at the Raptus comics fest in Bergen, Norway. She was having an opportunistic affair with a handsome Swedish vegetarian mathematician (who also used to

dance professionally) who was visiting in New York, and she figured she could work in a visit to him in Stockholm. And see some friends who were honeymooning in Berlin. And another friend working in wine in Beaune. And some time with her mother, who was vacationing in Royan, on the Bay of Biscay. And another few days with the Norwegian in Paris before returning home. Travel is important, she says, because "it unhomes you." You need new experiences, and those are best gotten in entirely new surroundings. Lucy, in fact, has been traveling periodically most of her life, but she's not sure it's working. Especially since she's still suffering from a two-year-old break-up and she's still in love with the guy. (Good news -- they finally got married in 2014.) So the book is largely an account of the stages in Lucy's European trip: The people she meets, the sights she sees, the things she pauses to reflect on and the insights she occasionally gains ("Love is complicated; I'm not sure I'm very good at it"), and, of course, her star turn at Raptus. Oh, and the title? "The French have a saying for the time when you're young and experimenting with your lives and careers. They call it 'L'Age License'.

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