



French Twist: An American Mom's Experiment in Parisian Parenting

Catherine Crawford

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Adventures in Franco-inspired American parenting—a winning mix of witty cross-cultural observation, hilariously blunt French wisdom, and one American mom’s journey to create her own hybrid parenting approach

“If there is no blood, don’t get up.” This single nugget of parenting gold, offered by a French friend at the end of a long dinner party, changed everything for writer Catherine Crawford, her husband, and, especially, the couple’s two young daughters. Crawford immediately began to see that while the United States had become the land of too-involved parents forever wanting to talk through their kids’ feelings about, well, everything, France employed a far more *laissez-faire* attitude toward raising *les enfants*. Learning to sleep through the night? A few tears never hurt anyone. Food? Let them eat cake, sure, but only *after* they’ve sampled lamb chops, broccoli rabe, and the stinkiest of cheeses.

Short of shipping her daughters off to Paris for these—and many other—invaluable early-life lessons, Crawford did the next best thing: She brought Old World-style parenting to Brooklyn. In the process, she discovered that her kids could actually hold a thought silently for two minutes without interrupting adult conversation, and that she didn’t, in fact, need to buy out half the toy store to make their birthdays special. She even found out how much her kids like lamb chops! While combining the best attributes of the approach *français* with what she saw as American qualities worth preserving, Crawford found a way to save her household *and* her sanity. Hilarious and insightful, *French Twist* reveals how Crawford and her family survived *le grand experiment*—and why they aren’t ever going back to the way things were.

Advance praise for *French Twist*

“Presented with a touch of humor and spot-on descriptions of childhood (mis)behavior, the advice, which touches on such topics as breastfeeding and school participation, is practical and useful. A refreshing approach to raising children.”—*Kirkus Reviews*

“[A] charming and clever parenting chronicle . . . Though some may prefer their naughty kids just the way they are, this breezy, entertaining study of parenting à la Paris may prompt others to pour a café au lait and rethink their strategies.”—*Publishers Weekly*

“*French Twist* describes an open-minded experiment in French-style parenting (though apparently there’s not even a French word for parenting!) and reveals itself as an honest examination of the author’s own missteps and prejudices—which we all can relate to—and the whole overparenting trend in this country. Are Catherine Crawford’s conclusions ‘French’? Who cares? They’re immensely logical and rational, and delivered with an abundance of love.”—Muffy Mead-Ferro, author of *Confessions of a Slacker Mom*

“Ever seen a French child throw a tantrum in a restaurant or talk back to his parents? Neither has Catherine Crawford. In *French Twist* she uncovers the secrets of French child-rearing—and then tries them out on her own family, with remarkable results. Part memoir, part instruction manual, *French Twist* is hilarious, honest, and incredibly useful.”—Lori Leibovich, executive lifestyle editor of The Huffington Post

“Catherine Crawford has written a great parenting book. I can’t wait to have kids and apply all I have learned here. Wait—hold on. I’m being told I already have two kids. This is incredible news! I will begin applying immediately.”—Adam Scott, actor, *Parks and Recreation*

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From reader reviews:

Judith Roemer:

Information is provisions for individuals to get better life, information nowadays can get by anyone from everywhere. The information can be a expertise or any news even an issue. What people must be consider when those information which is inside former life are hard to be find than now is taking seriously which one works to believe or which one the resource are convinced. If you have the unstable resource then you obtain it as your main information there will be huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen inside you if you take French Twist: An American Mom's Experiment in Parisian Parenting as the daily resource information.

Jane Moore:

Spent a free time and energy to be fun activity to accomplish! A lot of people spent their leisure time with their family, or their friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, planning to beach, or picnic from the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? Could be reading a book could be option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing that you ask may be what kinds of e-book that you should read. If you want to test look for book, may be the reserve untitled French Twist: An American Mom's Experiment in Parisian Parenting can be very good book to read. May be it is usually best activity to you.

Herman Jenkins:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Did you know? Many a lot of people spent these people free time just watching TV, as well as playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity that's look different you can read any book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent 24 hours a day to reading a book. The book French Twist: An American Mom's Experiment in Parisian Parenting it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space to deliver this book you can buy the e-book. You can m0ore very easily to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book offers high quality.

Michael Velez:

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you will have done when you have spare time, after that why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. One particular activity that make you not experiencing tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition details. Even you love French Twist: An American Mom's Experiment in Parisian Parenting, it is possible to enjoy both. It is good combination right, you still want to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout fellas. What? Still don't get it, oh

come on its called reading friends.

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