

Gap Year Girl: A Baby Boomer Adventure Across 21 Countries

By Marianne C. Bohr

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In the 1960s and '70s, thousands of baby boomers strapped packs to their backs and flocked to Europe, wandering the continent on missions of self-discovery. Many of these boomers still dream of “going back” of once again cutting themselves free and revisiting the places they encountered in their youth, recapturing what was, and creating fresh memories along the way. Marianne Bohr and her husband, Joe, did just that.

In *Gap Year Girl*, Bohr describes what it's like to kiss your job good-bye, sell your worldly possessions, pack your bags, and take off on a quest for adventure. Page by page, she engagingly recounts the experiences, epiphanies, highs, lows, struggles, surprises, and lessons learned as she and Joe journey as independent travelers on a budget through medieval villages and bustling European cities, unimaginable culinary pleasures, and the entertaining (and sometimes infuriating) characters encountered along the way. Touching on universal themes of escape, adventure, freedom, discovery, and life reimagined, *Gap Year Girl* is an exciting account of a couple's experiences on an unconventional, past-the-blush-of-youth journey.

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Editorial Review

Review

“Bohr shines . . . provid[ing] glimpses of herself as a whole person, not simply a traveler. *Gap Year Girl* is an excellent choice . . . a travelogue filled with historic places, but its personal stories provide its highlights.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“An absorbing rundown of a cultural odyssey bursting with insights and quiet truths, which the author absorbed, way out there, without a guide, and often intuitively?some might even say through her pores. Thanks to *Gap Year Girl*, Ms. Bohr’s travel universe and the way it’s recorded are an inspiration to thousands of baby boomers who are coming to realize that it’s possible not only to dream Don Quixote’s Impossible Dream, but to make it come true.”

—Darwin Porter and Danforth Prince, coauthors of many dozens of Frommer’s best-selling guides

“*Gap Year Girl* speaks to the curious youth in us all, reminding us on every page of the anticipation, excitement, and futility that go into finding a cure for wanderlust. Bohr’s delicious prose brings sights, smells, and tastes to life and inspires the reader as she and her husband climb off of the corporate ladder and jump into the great unknown. Don’t be surprised if you find yourself dusting off an old language textbook and checking the Internet for the best airfares!”

—Michael Hughes, Education First Language Travel

“Don’t we all dream of quitting our nine-to-fives to travel the world? Marianne Bohr and her husband do just that with the mindsets of college students backpacking through Europe. The author tells a great story and it’s easy to forget that theirs is a ‘senior year’ abroad.”

—Neil Levin, President, EverPub

“I lived vicariously through this adventure-infused chronicle of getting away from it all. Bohr’s recounting of running the Paris marathon rang true to my runner’s soul and captured the event’s raw emotion. I want to be *Gap Year Girl*!”

—Mary Anne Marciante, International Marathoner

“For those bitten by the travel bug, the author’s story of giving up the ‘real world’ for a year abroad is inspirational. She took a daydream and made it a reality with a combination of bravery and planning. Read about the highs (literally in the Alps) and lows (the inevitable fatigue of constant traveling) as she and her husband retrace the steps of their youth and forge new paths.”

—Davida G. Breier, blogger at *Next Exit Travel*

“Having worked with the author of *Gap Year Girl*, I wasn’t surprised that she would be so courageous as to sell all her worldly possessions and begin an amazing adventure traveling through Europe. Her memoir did surprise me, however, as it’s not just a travelogue, but also an inspirational guide to all with a repressed desire to quit their jobs to go on a similar journey. It’s easy and fun reading.”

—Judy Rothman, Former Publisher, Harper Collins

“...a terrific story. I'm now dreaming of my own gap year.”

—Lisa Shroder, *Bethesda Magazine*

“To all my friends in book clubs ... a perfect read to inspire all to live our dreams!”

—Lynn Arndt, Deputy Director, Community Ministries of Rockville

“The author's voice is warm and insightful, such that by the time you finish her travel memoir, you feel you've not only visited 21 countries with her and her husband, but also that you've made a new friend.”

—John Ray Hoke Jr, FAIA, Former Publisher of AIA Press

“*Gap Year Girl* is a celebration of life in all its vivid intensity. Fueled by memories of another time and place, the author takes her maturity on the trip of a lifetime and rediscovers the exuberance of youth. That exuberance is contagious. I defy anyone to read this book without being uplifted by it. Marianne Bohr has that rare knack for bringing the kaleidoscope of experience alive with a few well-crafted words; she seduces her reader away from black and white text and into a reality where all the senses are teased. You can’t read *Gap Year Girl* as a bystander. You’re with her every step of the way, for this is travel writing at its very best. Dreamers beware. This is a book with consequences.”

—Kev Reynolds, author of *The Tour of Mont Blanc, Cicerone Guides*

“Many fantasize about doing what Marianne Bohr did, but few actually do it. It is truly the adventurous who embrace their dreams. There is so much we learn through travel, whether it be about ourselves or the world in general, and this learning is perpetual throughout life. To think that an adventurous spirit dies with youth is just nonsense. Bohr inspires the adventurer in all of us.”

—Matt Holmes, Boundless Journeys, Founder and President

“I love this book! The mid-life transition is all about becoming 100 percent ourselves and shedding what no longer serves us. Rejuvenating and inspiring, *Gap Year Girl* reminds us that travel can change who we are?if

we let it. And sometimes we need to leave home in order to come home to ourselves. I'm buying this book for all my friends who are forty-plus. Thank you, Marianne, for this heart-warming, eloquent gift!"

—Renee Peterson Trudeau, life balance coach and author of *Nurturing the Soul of Your Family: 10 Ways to Reconnect and Find Peace in Everyday Life*

"Marianne did what all of us dream of doing: she visited the exotic places of her youth with a lifetime's worth of experience to sharpen the view. With humor and candor and an enormous amount of appreciation, *Gap Year Girl* gives us back the excitement of travel and the charm of European life."

—Trish O'Hare, Publisher, GemmaMedia

"*Gap Year Girl* goes well beyond travel literature: it's a fascinating story of the author and her husband's journey, full of insights into what goes into intense travel. The author's sincere and open voice gives the reader an honest view of the realities of travel by presenting rich illustrations of the highs and lows, the exhilaration and tedium, that are necessary parts of extensive travel. This book was hard to put down and I was sorry to see it end."

—Chris Darby, Film Editor, Univision

"[In *Gap Year Girl*,] Bohr steps outside of her comfort zone and explores the world . . . and she vividly conveys her experiences, such as when she describes the chaotic streets of Morocco and the loneliness of the bucolic French village Saint-Cirq-Lapopie."

—*Publishers Weekly*

About the Author

Marianne C. Bohr, freelance writer and editor, married her high school sweetheart and travel partner. With their two grown children, she follows her own advice and travels at every opportunity. Marianne lives outside Washington, DC, where, after decades in publishing, she followed her Francophile muse to teach middle school French. *Gap Year Girl* is her first book.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

William Coker:

As people who live in often the modest era should be update about what going on or information even knowledge to make these individuals keep up with the era which can be always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe will update themselves by reading through books. It is a good choice for you personally but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know what type you should start with. This *Gap Year Girl: A Baby Boomer Adventure Across 21 Countries* is our recommendation to make you keep up with the world. Why, since this book serves what you want and wish in this era.

Judith Carter:

Gap Year Girl: A Baby Boomer Adventure Across 21 Countries can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary that can increase your knowledge in words, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nonetheless delivering the information. The article author giving his/her effort to set every word into enjoyment arrangement in writing Gap Year Girl: A Baby Boomer Adventure Across 21 Countries however doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource details that maybe you can be among it. This great information can drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial imagining.

Ross Adams:

Are you kind of busy person, only have 10 or perhaps 15 minute in your day time to upgrading your mind proficiency or thinking skill actually analytical thinking? Then you are having problem with the book compared to can satisfy your short period of time to read it because all this time you only find reserve that need more time to be study. Gap Year Girl: A Baby Boomer Adventure Across 21 Countries can be your answer since it can be read by an individual who have those short time problems.

Clarence Delapaz:

In this particular era which is the greater particular person or who has ability to do something more are more treasured than other. Do you want to become considered one of it? It is just simple method to have that. What you need to do is just spending your time little but quite enough to get a look at some books. Among the books in the top checklist in your reading list is usually Gap Year Girl: A Baby Boomer Adventure Across 21 Countries. This book which can be qualified as The Hungry Hills can get you closer in turning into precious person. By looking upwards and review this reserve you can get many advantages.

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