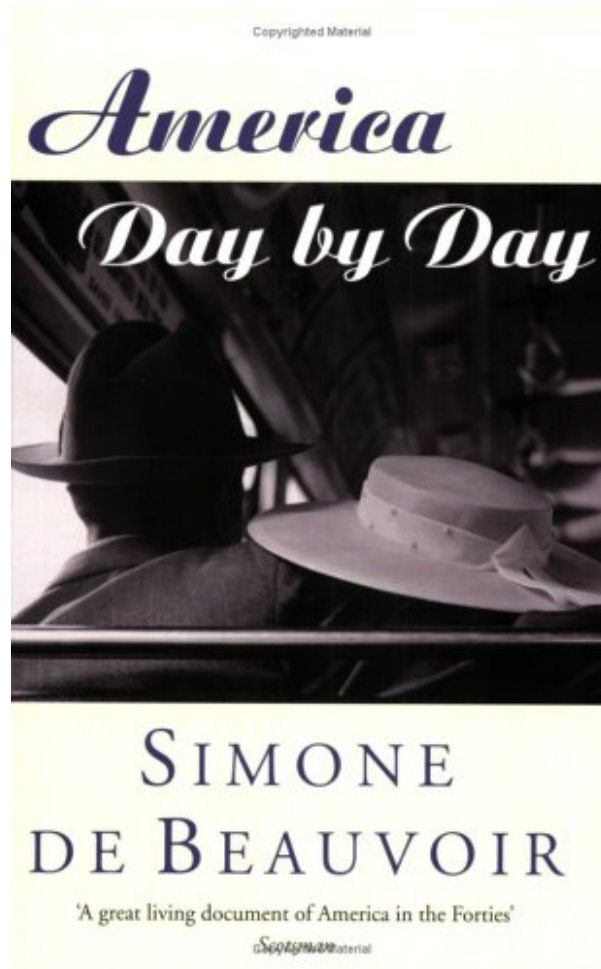


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# America

## Day by Day



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De Beauvoir travelled intrepidly from New York to Washington, San Francisco to Las Vegas, Chicago (where she met Nelson Algren) to New Orleans and the Deep South. Her account is packed with beautiful descriptions and penetrating observations about postwar American culture, food, and landscape - some of historical interest, some, which ring just as true today. De Beauvoir loved exploring the seamier side of cities - visiting drug dens in Chicago, smoking pot at bohemian parties in New York. She was shocked by the vast gulf between rich and poor everywhere in the country, and by segregation in the Deep South. "America Day by Day" is classic travel writing - vivid, personal, and inquisitive.

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America Through French Eyes

By L. Richardson

"America Day by Day" is a look at the experiences of Simone de Beauvoir, a French existentialist, as she traveled through the United States in the Spring of 1947. Beauvoir chronicles her experiences in journal form, and the reader is able to gauge her reactions to different regions and factions of American life first hand. We witness her awe at all the conveniences in a hotel lobby, and her disdain for the situation with blacks in the South prior to the Civil Rights movement, among other things. Beauvoir primarily mixes and mingles with intellectuals and journalists, but she also has meaningful interactions with college students and African Americans. Through this all, we see Beauvoir's positive and negative views of the United States--both the goodness in the nature of the American people and the ways in which American freedom and democracy is restricted by the aristocratic nature of society are featured.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

This book is very shallow

By Francois-Marie Patorni

As a historian of the French in New Mexico, I bought this book as the author has travelled in that State. Unfortunately, this book is very shallow, a disappointment for the work of such a famous author.

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Three Stars

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