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Josy's Little Library NEWSLETTER

FUN FRENCH FACT

LES VILLES ET LES VILLAGES FLEURIS

Emmy and the Iris, our upcoming release, is a modern version of Frances Hodgson Burnett's *The Secret Garden*, which took place in England. Why is France a great setting for this Fanciful French Twist on the original? Mysterious castles abound, of course (more on that in a future newsletter), but also flowers: the French put a lot of effort into preserving the beauty of their countryside. If you drive through France, you'll notice a sign like the one below at the entrance to some villages and cities.



It's a special label bestowed by the National Council of Cities and Towns in Bloom (rough translation). It rewards towns and cities that promote sustainable living, are dedicated to preserving natural spaces, and promote French heritage. It uses a rating system (1 to 4 flowers) that appears on the signs, and towns and cities are often proud to announce their rating every year. In fact, according to an Ipsos poll, 90% of French people are familiar with this label, thanks to the events and television specials that are organized for it. You can see the ratings for individual cities on the official website (www.villes-et-villages-fleuris.com) and also lots of pictures of beautiful, floral villages that inspired *Emmy and the Iris*!

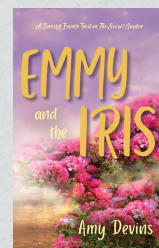
Sources

photo: brignoles.fr/

<https://www.villes-et-villages-fleuris.com/>

News

Emmy is almost ready to meet the world! The book has completed layout and is now in the final proofreading stages. A new extract of the book has been added to our website and is also available on page 2 of this newsletter.



Our Current Read



We're currently enjoying some French urban fantasy with "Shadow Hunter", the story of Nina, who has lost her memory and ends up in a strange town with strange inhabitants in the United States.

She has to stay in order to sort out who she really is in a world full of all sorts of interesting creatures. It was written by Laura Muller, a French author specializing in urban fantasy and romance. Her books are available in French and are helping us learn French vocabulary related to the fantasy world and animals. More information on her books at <https://orcarn.blog/>

Thank you for subscribing!

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