

## Eighty-Four Things About Twelve French Girls

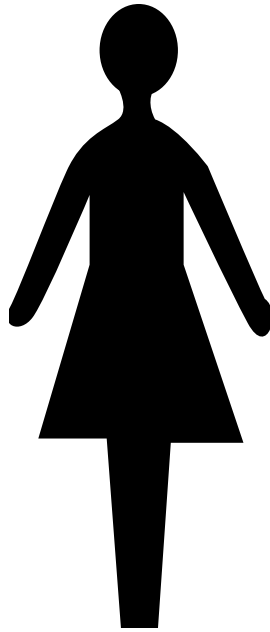


**Astrid-Simone**

always squints or closes her eyes when using a telephone  
claimed her poodle was hit by a car after she drowned him  
never made love to a man over thirty or a woman under twenty  
memorized the Latin names of all of her seventeen fishes  
shields her innocence behind a convincing façade of brutality  
surreptitiously adds melted lard to friends' vegetarian meals  
proud of never having ventured beyond the Paris city limits

*Twelve French Girls*  
(I. Mademoiselle Janvier)

*David Glenn Rinehart*



**Zoé-Aurélie**

tells time by periodically memorizing irregular shadows  
insists on using only ambergris-based perfumes  
bakes sweetbreads every Sunday that no one will ever eat  
needs at least one cognac enema to get thoroughly drunk  
provokes gendarmes in order to enjoy their abuse  
hides her deafness from everyone except her old butcher  
seduced her daughter's lover and her father sequentially

*Twelve French Girls  
(II. Mademoiselle Février)*

*David Glenn Rinehart*

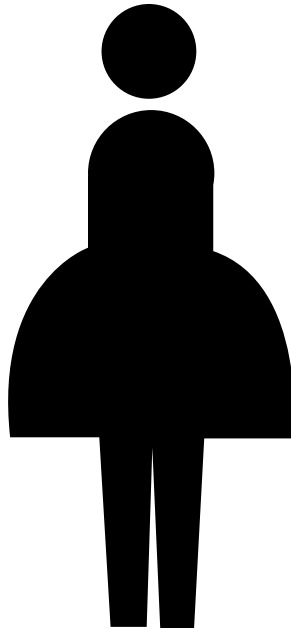


**Alix-Nicole**

counts to ninety-three before getting into or out of bed  
has a bone fragment or tooth from each of her fifteen lovers  
never touched a tuber, raw or cooked (except in England)  
lied when she claimed she shot her cousin by accident  
juggled seven frozen water balloons by the Seine in June  
sometimes practices witchcraft as a leisure pursuit  
married the first man who proposed; did it for the money

*Twelve French Girls*  
(III. Mademoiselle Mars)

*David Glenn Rinehart*

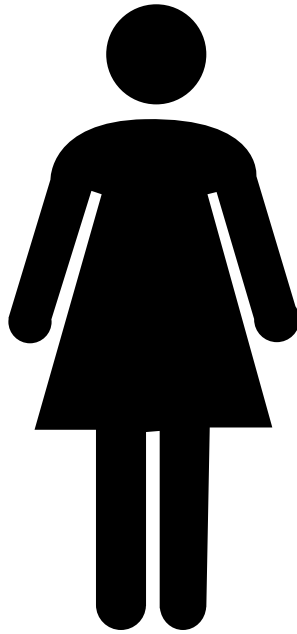


### **Marianne-Danielle**

spies on street mimes; maintains comprehensive dossiers  
can smile while pushing a toothpick through her lip  
never had an unforgettable experience since she was six  
always enjoys at least two glasses of wine before work  
keeps dozens of rats she taxidermied by her bed  
ambivalent about torturing Chadians in the Foreign Legion  
conceals Neufchâtel cheese in every room of her apartment

*Twelve French Girls*  
(IV. Mademoiselle Avril)

*David Glenn Rinehart*



**Céлина-Adèle**

wanders Montmartre all night looking for something unknown  
once smoked two expensive Cuban cigars simultaneously  
never bathes without wearing a bracelet or a necklace  
savors spicy Italian sausages as her favorite aphrodisiac  
threw her premature baby off the Eiffel Tower in a sack  
steals almost all of her toothpaste from disliked relatives  
writes letters to her second dead lover, but rarely sends one

*Twelve French Girls*  
(V. Mademoiselle Mai)

*David Glenn Rinehart*

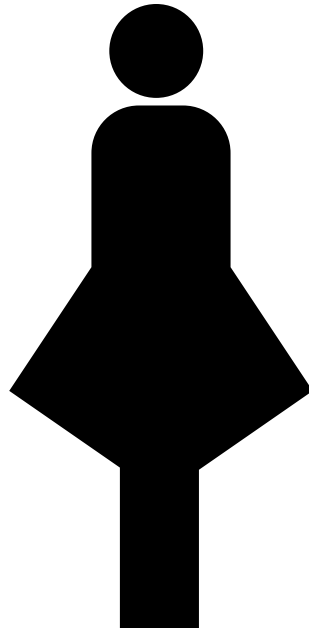


**Aimée-Emmanuelle**

lives with the irascible ghost of her maternal grandmother  
has only really enjoyed sex twice in a moving hotel elevator  
irons her clothes in the dark to avoid domestic boredom  
enjoyed a few drinks with Luis Buñuel; nothing came of it  
crucified a hamster as part of a school theology assignment  
uses green tea leaves and strawberries for birth control  
measures her success by the depth of her nemeses' grief

*Twelve French Girls*  
(VI. Mademoiselle Juin)

*David Glenn Rinehart*



### Émilie-Geneviève

has a tattoo no one except the tattooist has ever seen  
only wears underwear and a brassiere on Tuesdays  
never told anyone that her rabbi fathered her child  
accurately predicted blizzards in May and September  
was technically dead for a few moments, decades ago  
licks cold bacon grease from her skillet when she's alone  
occasionally steals from the elderly as part of her job

*Twelve French Girls  
(VII. Mademoiselle Juillet)*

*David Glenn Rinehart*



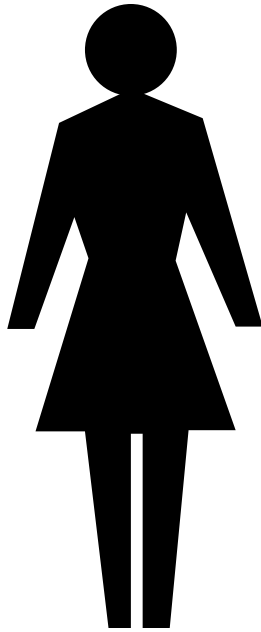


**Monique-Renée**

secretly prays to and worships Vishnu during Eucharist  
leaves all her doors ajar to befuddle burglars and thieves  
never been spanked hard despite never saying no  
only spits on the meals she serves to customers she likes  
sexually aroused staring at the Notre-Dame gargoyles  
smiled shamelessly at each of her parents' funerals  
torments would-be lovers by falsely encouraging them

*Twelve French Girls*  
(VIII. Mademoiselle Août)

*David Glenn Rinehart*

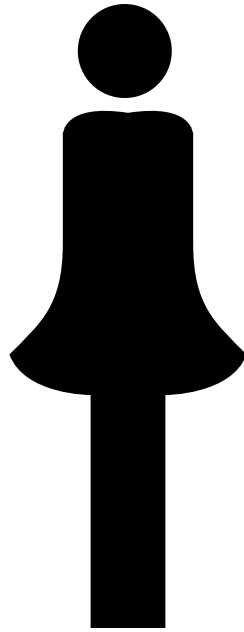


**Amélie-Isabelle**

sleeps under an old duvet filled with popcorn and croutons  
danced an existential can-can before Sartre's blind eye  
never wears a hat or uses makeup or perfume in public  
only masturbates with Cherry Belle radishes on jet airplanes  
hasn't been truly happy since butchering hogs as a child  
eats only unhealthy foods that she believes will poison her  
happily childless, keeps her aborted foetus in a jar

*Twelve French Girls*  
(IX. Mademoiselle Septembre)

*David Glenn Rinehart*

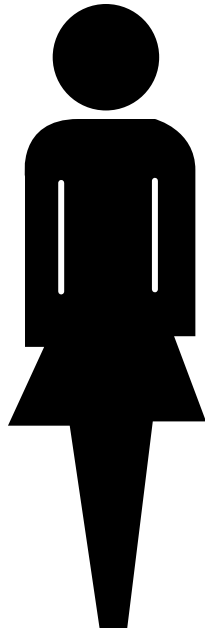


### Dominique-Aurore

burns everything she writes before anyone else can see it  
slept in a bathtub full of champagne during a dinner party  
licks her lovers' wrists and watches only under a full moon  
embarrassed to be seen holding a warm or small baguette  
uses seven types of olive oil for nine different purposes  
saw her first and third husbands' heads implode  
buried almost a thousand milk bottles in her garden

*Twelve French Girls*  
(X. Mademoiselle Octobre)

*David Glenn Rinehart*

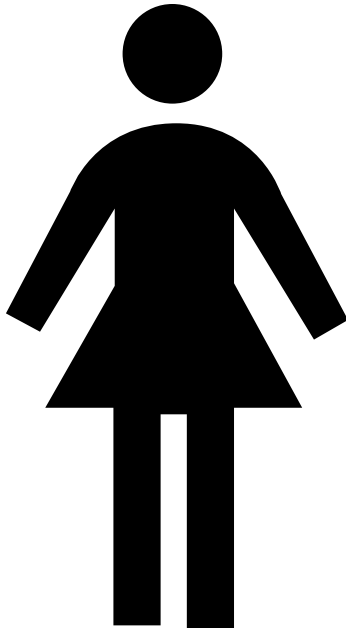


**Véronique-Josette**

burps quietly whenever she hears *La Marseillaise*  
eats taramasalata and fried grapes almost every morning  
kissed a diseased frog that was actually an anemic toad  
requires a rutabaga or yam to fully appreciate an orgasm  
keeps every fingernail and toenail she's ever clipped  
never removed her socks in the presence of a man  
prefers violent condemnation to shallow praise and flattery

*Twelve French Girls*  
(XI. Mademoiselle Novembre)

*David Glenn Rinehart*



**Stéphanie-Nathalie**

shaves herself and her two cats every sixty-seven days  
bottles and sells her urine to her mentally confused uncle  
never loves anyone for more than five or seven months  
slit one wrist (but not the other) with no consequence  
loathes Orléans, but spends most of her time there anyway  
brushes her teeth with blueberries and warm cream  
hid a wireless microphone in her son's casket

*Twelve French Girls*  
(XII. *Mademoiselle Décembre*)

*David Glenn Rinehart*

Stare.<sup>®</sup>