

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

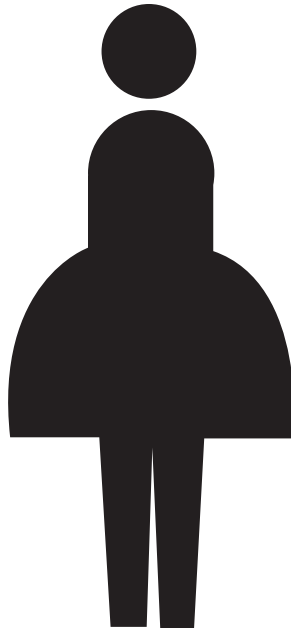


Alix-Nicole

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



Céline-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

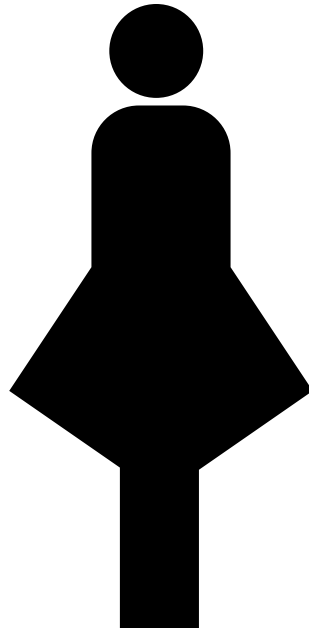


Aimée-Emmanuelle

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)

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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)

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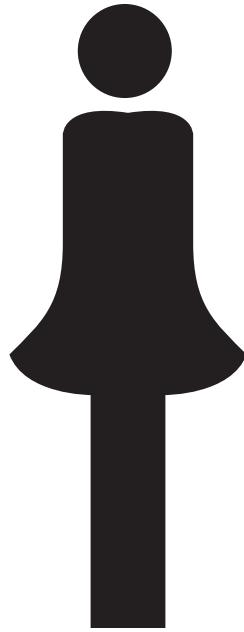


Amélie-Isabelle

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)

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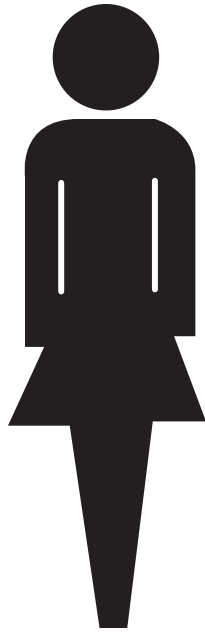


Dominique-Aurore

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

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