
Fabian Kölle
Le livre d'Anna
Anna's Book
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Your first book in French. With English translation.

Anna's Book

Volume 1

Language: English

Learning language: French

EN FR

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This book was written for language learners. First try to read the French text before using the translation.

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Preface

Learning a new language isn't easy. It has a small life of its own: curiosity, lightness, secrets, but also concentration, practice, mistakes, and days when you feel stuck. Sometimes you think you have understood how it works. Sometimes you feel frustrated because important words have slipped away. As soon as you know the basics, something new appears, and suddenly it feels as if you're starting again. That's completely normal. Every step forward counts. One day you'll look back and realise how far you have come. You can be proud of that.

When I began learning a new language, I wanted to read real, connected stories as soon as I could. I didn't want only grammar exercises and word lists. I wanted to read: to step into a story and improve almost without noticing. More than anything, I wanted to feel that the language already belonged to me a little.

But I found very few books that matched my level. Perhaps you know that feeling too.

Many language learners eventually reach for children's books. Not because they are especially interested in children's books, but because there is so little literature written for people who are still learning. The problem is that children's books are written for children, not for language learners. Even when the pictures look inviting, the vocabulary can be surprisingly demanding, while the subjects don't always speak to teenagers or adults. They are often very short as well. You read slowly, and yet the book is over before it has really

given you much.

But you don't lack life experience. You have memories, interests, opinions, feelings, and a view of the world. Perhaps you study, work, have children, or enjoy travelling. Perhaps you're interested in politics, history, literature, or music. You don't need to discover the world all over again. You're learning a new language so that you can describe it in different words.

I wrote this book for you.

Anna's Book isn't a language course, and it isn't a textbook. It's meant to give you what I was missing then: a story you can read, even while ordinary novels are still too difficult.

It tells the story of Anna, who is ten years old at the beginning, in language that follows your learning path. At first, the sentences are short and simple. From volume to volume, the language grows very gradually. Anna grows older, and your language grows with her. You meet the same characters, places, and words again and again until they become familiar. Little by little, new words, new structures, and new ways of expressing yourself are added.

The story begins in the present tense, because that is the tense you meet most often at the beginning. Later, past and future forms gradually appear. If you haven't learnt them yet, you can simply keep reading. You don't have to understand everything at once. In time, these forms will become familiar too, just as the first pages will one day feel natural to you.

Above all, I want to give you confidence.

You shouldn't be afraid to turn the page. If you understand one page, you'll understand the next one too. And if something is unclear, you'll always find the translation directly below. That means you don't have to interrupt the flow of reading. You can stay with the story, so that reading feels like reading again.

One day Anna will be an adult. She will think, feel, and speak like an adult, and you'll accompany her on that path. One day you too will reach a level where you can read novels written for native speakers. When that happens, this book will have done its job. It won't have brought you to the goal. You'll have done that yourself. But I would be glad if it could walk beside you for part of the way.

And perhaps, one day, you'll begin another language. Then you'll open this book again. In French. In Japanese. In Italian. Whatever the language, Anna will be ten years old again. Ozzy will be a young dog again. And perhaps it will feel a little like meeting old friends.

I have great respect for everyone who has the courage to learn a new language. I hope this book makes that path a little easier for you.

I wish you every success with your learning, and a great deal of pleasure in reading.

Introduction



Je suis Anna. J'ai dix ans. J'habite avec ma famille dans une maison. La maison a un jardin. Dans le jardin, il y a un grand arbre. J'aime l'arbre.

> I'm Anna. I'm ten years old. I live with my family in a house. The house has a garden. In the garden there is a big tree. I like the tree.

Nous avons aussi un petit chien. Le chien s'appelle Ozzy. J'aime beaucoup Ozzy. Il est très rapide. Je joue souvent avec le chien. Je lance une balle, et Ozzy court vite derrière.

> We also have a small dog. The dog's name is Ozzy. I like Ozzy very much. He is very fast. I often play with the dog. I throw a ball, and Ozzy runs after it quickly.

Il me rapporte souvent la balle. Parfois, il ne la rapporte pas. Alors je cours dans le jardin et je cherche la balle. Ozzy cherche aussi la balle. Nous la trouvons, et Ozzy aboie.

> He often brings the ball back to me. Sometimes he doesn't bring it back. Then I run through the garden and look for the ball. Ozzy looks for the ball too. We find it, and Ozzy barks.

C'est un chien intelligent. Parfois, Ozzy trouve la balle plus vite que moi. Alors il aboie. Alors je sais : la balle est là. Je cours vers Ozzy et je vois la balle. C'est comme ça que nous jouons souvent ensemble.

> He is a clever dog. Sometimes Ozzy finds the ball faster than I do. Then he barks. Then I know: the ball is there. I run to Ozzy and see the ball. That is how we often play together.

J'ai aussi un frère. Il s'appelle Mats. Mon frère a quatorze ans. Il a quatre ans de plus que moi. C'est mon grand frère. Mats joue aussi parfois avec Ozzy.

> I also have a brother. His name is Mats. My brother is fourteen years old. He is four years older than I am. He is my big brother. Mats sometimes plays with Ozzy too.

Parfois, Mats court dans le jardin, et Ozzy le suit. Alors ils courent tous les deux. Parfois, Mats lance aussi la balle, et Ozzy la rapporte.

> Sometimes Mats runs through the garden, and Ozzy follows him. Then they both run. Sometimes Mats also throws the ball, and Ozzy brings it back.

Ozzy aime beaucoup quand Mats joue avec lui. Mais Ozzy dort aussi beaucoup. C'est un jeune chien et il doit beaucoup dormir. Il a deux mois.

> Ozzy likes it very much when Mats plays with him. But Ozzy also sleeps a lot. He is a young dog and needs to sleep a lot. He is two months old.

Ozzy dort dans son panier ou dans le jardin. Son panier est dans la maison. Il est dans le salon. En été, Ozzy dort souvent dans le jardin. Mats dit qu'en hiver, Ozzy dort dans le salon.

> Ozzy sleeps in his basket or in the garden. His basket is in the house. It is in the living room. In summer Ozzy often sleeps in the garden. Mats says that in winter Ozzy sleeps in the living room.

Alors il fait trop froid dans le jardin. En hiver, les chiens peuvent jouer dans le jardin, mais ils ne peuvent pas dormir dans le jardin. Maintenant, c'est l'été. En été, Ozzy peut dormir dans son panier.

> Then it is too cold in the garden. In winter dogs can play in the garden, but they can't sleep in the garden. Now it is summer. In summer Ozzy can sleep in his basket.

Il peut aussi dormir dans le jardin. Dans le jardin, il fait assez chaud. Ozzy peut dormir où il veut. Il se couche et il

dort. Ozzy est très mignon quand il dort.

> He can also sleep in the garden. It is warm enough in the garden. Ozzy can sleep wherever he wants. He lies down and sleeps. Ozzy is very sweet when he sleeps.

Je joue souvent avec Mats dans la maison. Parfois, nous jouons à cache-cache. Je me cache, et Mats me cherche. Ou Mats se cache, et je le cherche.

> I often play with Mats in the house. Sometimes we play hide-and-seek. I hide, and Mats looks for me. Or Mats hides, and I look for him.

C'est facile pour moi de trouver Mats. Il est grand et facile à voir. Je connais toutes les cachettes dans la maison. Je suis plus petite que Mats. C'est difficile de me trouver. Parfois, Mats cherche très longtemps.

> It is easy for me to find Mats. He is tall and easy to see. I know all the hiding places in the house. I am smaller than Mats. It is hard to find me. Sometimes Mats looks for a very long time.

Il n'aime pas ça. Alors il appelle, et je dis : Je suis ici. Il appelle encore, et je dis encore : Je suis ici. Il s'approche. Alors il me trouve. Nous rions.

> He doesn't like that. Then he calls, and I say: Here I am. He calls again, and I say again: Here I am. He comes closer. Then he finds me. We laugh.

L'après-midi, nous mangeons ensemble. Maman, papa, Mats et moi. Nous sommes assis à table dans le salon, et

nous mangeons et parlons. Il y a souvent des pommes de terre, des carottes et des pâtes.

> In the afternoon we eat together. Mum, Dad, Mats, and I. We sit at the table in the living room and eat and talk. There are often potatoes, carrots, and noodles.

Ce que j'aime le plus, ce sont les pâtes. Maman cuisine souvent des pâtes, papa cuisine souvent des pommes de terre. Maman cuisine rarement des pommes de terre. Elle ne les aime pas beaucoup. Mais Mats aime bien les pommes de terre.

> I like noodles best. Mum often cooks noodles, Dad often cooks potatoes. Mum rarely cooks potatoes. She doesn't like them very much. But Mats likes potatoes.

Les pommes de terre et les carottes poussent dans le champ. C'est notre propre champ. Nous avons une ferme. Papa est agriculteur. Il travaille souvent dans le champ. Maman a une petite boutique.

> The potatoes and carrots grow in the field. It is our own field. We have a farm. Dad is a farmer. He often works in the field. Mum has a small shop.

Elle travaille comme vendeuse. Elle vend nos pommes de terre et nos carottes dans la boutique. Elle vend aussi des oeufs et du miel. Elle vend du lait et du fromage. Elle vend beaucoup de choses dans la boutique.

> She works as a shopkeeper. She sells our potatoes and carrots in the shop. She also sells eggs and honey. She sells milk and cheese. She sells many things in the shop.

Papa travaille dans le champ. Il cultive des légumes comme des pommes de terre et des carottes. Les légumes poussent dans la terre. Ils ont besoin de beaucoup d'eau et de soleil. Parfois, il ne pleut pas.

> Dad works in the field. He grows vegetables like potatoes and carrots. The vegetables grow in the ground. They need a lot of water and sun. Sometimes it doesn't rain.

Alors papa donne de l'eau aux plantes. Plus tard, les légumes sont assez grands. Alors papa conduit le tracteur dans le champ. Il sort les légumes de la terre. Nous pouvons ensuite les manger.

> Then Dad gives the plants water. Later the vegetables are big enough. Then Dad drives the tractor across the field. He takes the vegetables out of the ground. Then we can eat them.

Ou bien maman les vend dans la boutique. Papa prend aussi du lait aux vaches. Il en fait du beurre et du fromage. Il faut longtemps pour que le fromage soit prêt. Papa doit attendre longtemps.

> Or Mum sells them in the shop. Dad also gets milk from the cows. He makes butter and cheese from it. It takes a long time until the cheese is ready. Dad has to wait a long time.

Le beurre est prêt plus vite. Papa fait souvent du pain. J'aime beaucoup son pain. Je le mange souvent avec du beurre et du fromage. Alors je pense aux vaches qui nous donnent le lait.

> The butter is ready faster. Dad often bakes bread. I like his bread very much. I often eat it with butter and cheese. Then I think of the cows that give us the milk.

Au ruisseau - By the Stream



Aujourd'hui, c'est samedi. Je vais dans la forêt avec Mats. Ozzy est aussi avec nous. Il court devant nous. Mats et moi voulons aller au ruisseau. Nous voulons voir des poissons. J'ai un sac avec moi.

> Today is Saturday. I go into the forest with Mats. Ozzy is with us too. He runs ahead of us. Mats and I want to go to the stream. We want to see fish. I have a bag with me.

Dans le sac, il y a du pain et une bouteille d'eau. Si nous avons faim, nous pouvons manger du pain. Si nous avons soif, nous pouvons boire de l'eau. Maman dit : Ozzy ne doit pas manger de pain.

> In the bag there's bread and a bottle of water. If we're hungry, we can eat bread. If we're thirsty, we can drink water. Mum says Ozzy shouldn't eat bread.

Nous ne devons pas donner de pain à Ozzy. Ozzy peut boire de l'eau du ruisseau. Il n'a pas besoin de notre eau. Mais il y a aussi quelque chose pour Ozzy dans le sac.

> We shouldn't give Ozzy bread. Ozzy can drink water from the stream. He doesn't need our water. But there's also something for Ozzy in the bag.

Il y a deux biscuits pour chien dans le sac. Mats et moi n'avons pas le droit de manger les biscuits pour chien. Nous ne voulons pas les manger non plus. Ozzy doit les manger. Plus tard.

> There are two dog biscuits in the bag. Mats and I aren't allowed to eat the dog biscuits. We don't want to eat them either. Ozzy should eat them. Later.

La forêt n'est pas loin. Nous allons souvent dans la forêt. Il y a beaucoup de grands arbres là-bas. Nous pouvons entendre des oiseaux. Ozzy court entre les arbres. Parfois, il s'arrête.

> The forest isn't far away. We often go into the forest. There are many tall trees there. We can hear birds. Ozzy runs between the trees. Sometimes he stops.

Alors il nous regarde. Ensuite, il continue à courir. Il y a beaucoup de chemins dans la forêt. Maman veut que nous

restions sur les chemins.

> Then he looks at us. After that he runs on again. There are many paths in the forest. Mum wants us to stay on the paths.

Nous ne devons pas courir au milieu de la forêt. Tous les arbres se ressemblent. C'est difficile de retrouver le chemin. Pour Ozzy, c'est facile. Souvent, il reste près de nous.

> We shouldn't run into the middle of the forest. All the trees look similar. It's hard to find the way again. For Ozzy it's easy. Often he stays close to us.

Mais parfois, il court au milieu de la forêt. Nous l'appelons. Il revient vite. Il connaît le chemin. C'est un chien intelligent.

> But sometimes he runs into the middle of the forest. We call him. He comes back quickly. He knows the way. He's a clever dog.

Ozzy arrive le premier au ruisseau. Je suis la deuxième, Mats le troisième. Nous nous asseyons au bord. Ozzy boit dans le ruisseau. L'eau est très claire. Mais je ne vois pas de poissons.

> Ozzy is the first to arrive at the stream. I'm second, Mats is third. We sit down on the bank. Ozzy drinks from the stream. The water is very clear. But I don't see any fish.

Peut-être que les poissons ont peur d'Ozzy. Mats prend un petit bâton au bord de l'eau. Il le pose dans le ruisseau. Le bâton flotte sur l'eau. Nous nous levons et nous suivons le

bâton.

> Maybe the fish are afraid of Ozzy. Mats takes a small stick from the bank. He puts it into the stream. The stick floats on the water. We stand up and follow the stick.

Ozzy aime beaucoup cela. Il remue la queue. Nous voyons qu'il est content. Le bâton flotte plus vite. Ozzy aboie et court derrière. Mats et moi devons rire.

> Ozzy likes that very much. He wags his tail. We see that he's happy. The stick floats faster. Ozzy barks and runs after it. Mats and I have to laugh.

Puis le bâton reste coincé entre deux grosses pierres. Nous nous approchons. Le bâton ne bouge pas. Mais je vois un poisson. Non, ce sont trois poissons ! Ils nagent près des pierres.

> Then the stick gets stuck between two big stones. We come closer. The stick doesn't move. But I see a fish. No, there are three fish! They swim close to the stones.

Ozzy les voit aussi. Il veut jouer avec les poissons. Mais Mats dit : Non, Ozzy ! Ozzy comprend. Il ne va pas dans l'eau. Il reste au bord.

> Ozzy sees them too. He wants to play with the fish. But Mats says, "No, Ozzy!" Ozzy understands that. He doesn't go into the water. He stays on the bank.

Nous regardons longtemps les poissons. Ils sont sombres, mais ils brillent au soleil. Ils n'ont pas peur de nous. Parce

que nous sommes calmes et que nous ne bougeons pas. Mais j'ai faim.

> We watch the fish for a long time. They're dark, but they shine in the sun. They're not afraid of us. Because we're quiet and don't move. But I get hungry.

Je dis : Mats, j'ai faim. Mats dit : Oui, moi aussi. Nous nous asseyons sur une grosse pierre. La pierre est assez grande pour que nous puissions nous asseoir l'un à côté de l'autre.

> I say, "Mats, I'm hungry." Mats says, "Yes, me too." We sit down on a big stone. The stone is big enough for us to sit next to each other.

Je prends le pain dans le sac. Ozzy me regarde. Il veut aussi manger quelque chose. Mais le pain n'est pas pour Ozzy. Mats lui donne un biscuit pour chien.

> I take the bread out of the bag. Ozzy looks at me. He wants something to eat too. But the bread isn't for Ozzy. Mats gives him a dog biscuit.

Ozzy est content et remue la queue. Je partage le pain avec Mats. Je donne un grand morceau à Mats, et il dit : Merci, Anna. Le pain de papa est très bon.

> Ozzy is happy and wags his tail. I share the bread with Mats. I give Mats a big piece, and he says: Thank you, Anna. Dad's bread is very tasty.

Tout est bon quand on a faim. Mais le pain de papa est particulièrement bon. Nous mangeons lentement. Le soleil

est chaud sur ma peau. Ozzy a déjà mangé son biscuit pour chien.

> Everything tastes good when you're hungry. But Dad's bread is especially tasty. We eat slowly. The sun is warm on my skin. Ozzy has already eaten his dog biscuit.

Il est couché ici, à côté de mes pieds. Je crois qu'il dort. Deux poissons sont encore là. J'entends un oiseau. Il est assis dans un arbre, mais je ne peux pas le voir. Mats regarde le ruisseau.

> He's lying here next to my feet. I think he's sleeping. Two fish are still there. I hear a bird. It's sitting in a tree, but I can't see it. Mats looks at the stream.

Il dit : « J'aime la forêt. »
Je demande : « Pourquoi ? »
« Parce que c'est si calme ici. Au village, nous entendons et voyons beaucoup de gens. Ici, on entend seulement les oiseaux, l'eau et le vent. »

> He says, "I like the forest."
> I ask, "Why?"
> "Because it's so quiet here. In the village we hear and see many people. Here you hear only the birds, the water, and the wind."

« Oui », je dis. « Moi aussi, j'aime la forêt. »
Nous restons assis encore un moment, puis nous nous levons. « Viens », dit Mats. Il prend le sac. Ozzy se réveille. Nous retournons lentement au village.

> "Yes," I say. "I like the forest too."
> We sit for a while longer, then we stand up. "Come on," says Mats. He takes the bag. Ozzy wakes up. We slowly walk back to the village.

Sur le chemin, nous rencontrons madame Rossi. Elle vient d'Italie. Ozzy est content de la voir. Il court vers elle. Madame Rossi le caresse.
« Bonjour ! », dit madame Rossi. « Où allez-vous ? »

> On the way we meet Mrs Rossi. She's from Italy. Ozzy is happy to see her. He runs to her. Mrs Rossi pets him.
> "Hello!" says Mrs Rossi. "Where are you going?"

« Nous venons du ruisseau », dit Mats. « Maintenant, nous rentrons à la maison. »
« Très bien », dit madame Rossi. « Il fait un temps magnifique pour une promenade. »
Elle tient un panier à la main.

> "We're coming from the stream," says Mats. "Now we're going back home."
> "Nice," says Mrs Rossi. "It's wonderful weather for a walk."
> She's holding a basket in her hand.

« Qu'est-ce qu'il y a dans le panier ? », je demande.
« Du lait, des oeufs, du fromage et du miel », dit madame Rossi. Elle rit. « J'ai acheté tout cela chez votre mère. »

> "What's in the basket?" I ask.
> "Milk, eggs, cheese, and honey," says Mrs Rossi. She laughs. "I bought them from your mother."

Mats et moi sourions.
« À bientôt », dit madame Rossi.
« Au revoir », dit Mats.

> Mats and I smile.
> "See you soon," says Mrs Rossi.
> "Bye," says Mats.

Madame Rossi continue son chemin. Ozzy la regarde encore un moment. Puis il revient vers nous. Le village n'est plus loin. Je peux déjà voir notre maison.

> Mrs Rossi walks on. Ozzy watches her for a while. Then he runs back to us. The village isn't far away now. I can already see our house.

Papa travaille encore dans le champ. Je vois son tracteur. Maman est devant la boutique et parle avec un homme du village. Je le connais.

> Dad is still working in the field. I see his tractor. Mum is standing in front of the shop and talking to a man from the village. I know him.

Il s'appelle monsieur Hansen. Monsieur Hansen a une chatte, Mimi. Mimi est déjà vieille et ne veut plus jouer. Mais elle aime beaucoup quand je la caresse.

> His name is Mr Hansen. Mr Hansen has a cat, Mimi. Mimi is already old and doesn't want to play anymore. But she likes it very much when I pet her.

Alors elle ronronne. Mimi peut ronronner très fort. J'aime quand Mimi ronronne. Je sais alors qu'elle est contente. Elle est mignonne.

> Then she purrs. Mimi can purr very loudly. I like it when Mimi purrs. Then I know that she's happy. She's sweet.

Nous allons à la boutique. Maman nous voit et sourit.
Elle demande : « La promenade vous a plu ? »
« Oui », dit Mats.
« Nous avons vu des poissons », je dis.

> We go to the shop. Mum sees us and smiles.
> She asks, "Did you enjoy the walk?"
> "Yes," says Mats.
> "We saw fish," I say.

Maman est contente. « Alors c'était une bonne journée », dit-elle.
Je pense à la forêt et au soleil, à Mats et à Ozzy, au ruisseau et aux poissons et au pain. Elle a raison. C'était une bonne journée.

> Mum is pleased. "Then it was a good day," she says.
> I think of the forest and the sun, of Mats and Ozzy, of the stream and the fish and the bread. She's right. It was a good day.

This is where the sample ends.