Arthur Young, an English agriculturist, set out to write a travelogue on the state of agriculture in France and found himself in the midst of the French Revolution. His report on life in the capital and in the countryside in the years 1787, 1788, and 1789, replete with droll traveler’s mishaps, becomes an eyewitness account of a society on the brink of catastrophe.

From the court scene at Versailles to backroads villages comes this astonishing record of unfolding events, conspiracy theories about the queen, jubilation, and mass hysteria.

—Summary by Pamela Nagami, M.D.

Read in English by Pamela Nagami.