



# *Summer Reading Guide 2017*





PO Box 344 • Elmhurst, IL 60126 USA

[www.windycitygreek.com](http://www.windycitygreek.com)

## Summer Reading Guide 2017

*Special eGuide*

### PUBLISHER

PMEA Communications, LLC

### FOUNDER & EDITOR

Maria A. Karamitsos

### REVIEWERS

Diane Adam, Maria A. Karamitsos, Peter Karamitsos

### LAYOUT

Diane Adam Design

*WindyCity Greek* is an online publication.

All material in this publication ©2017 PMEA Communications LLC.

*Reprints by permission only. Photo of Maria A. Karamitsos by [Elios Photography](#).*

### FOLLOW US



Sign up for access to exclusive news, promotions, contests, and giveaways

I'm a VIP! Sign me up!



*from the desk of Founder & Editor  
Maria A. Karamitsos*

**It's summertime!** And just like that, it's summer! Time to slow things down, relax, recharge, and have some fun.

Greece is a magical land. Once she casts her spell, you can't escape it. Greece has charmed and inspired people from all over the world. Many authors have found there muse in beautiful Greece. Some of the books we review in this year's Summer Reading Guide are written by Grecophiles, and others by authors of Greek descent. We bring them to you, along with a compilation of our staff's top recommendations for great summer reads.

Have a look, and grab yourself a book. Nothing says relaxing on a summer's day like lounging with a good book! Pull up your lawn chair, apply your sunscreen, and let's get lost in one of these great reads.

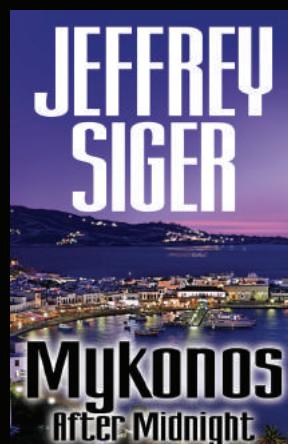
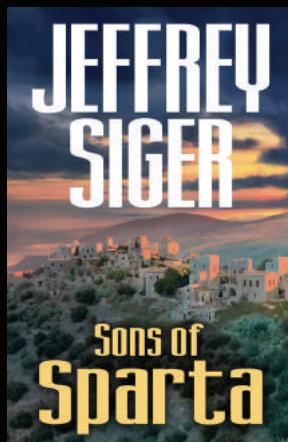
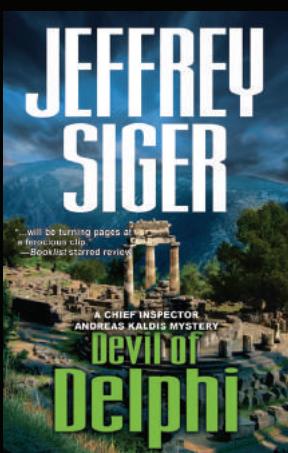
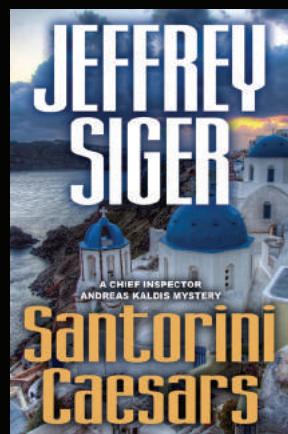
As always, we thank our advertising authors for their support. We couldn't do this without them. Best wishes to all of our author and aspiring author friends. We thank you as well, for reading, engaging, and for always encouraging and supporting this effort.

**WindyCity Greek** is an Amazon affiliate. There are special links throughout this eGuide. Click through to purchase. We'll get a small commission, at no extra cost to you. It helps us continue our mission.

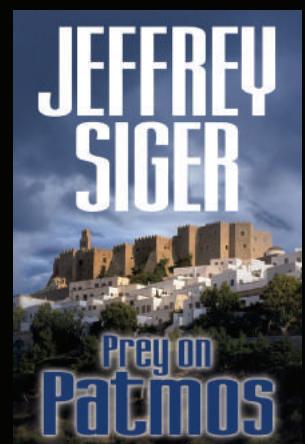
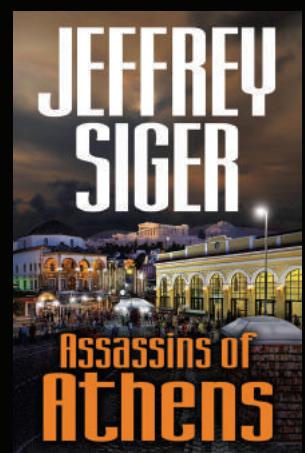
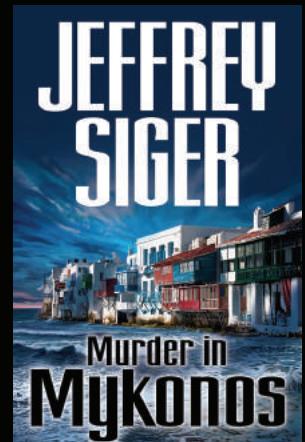
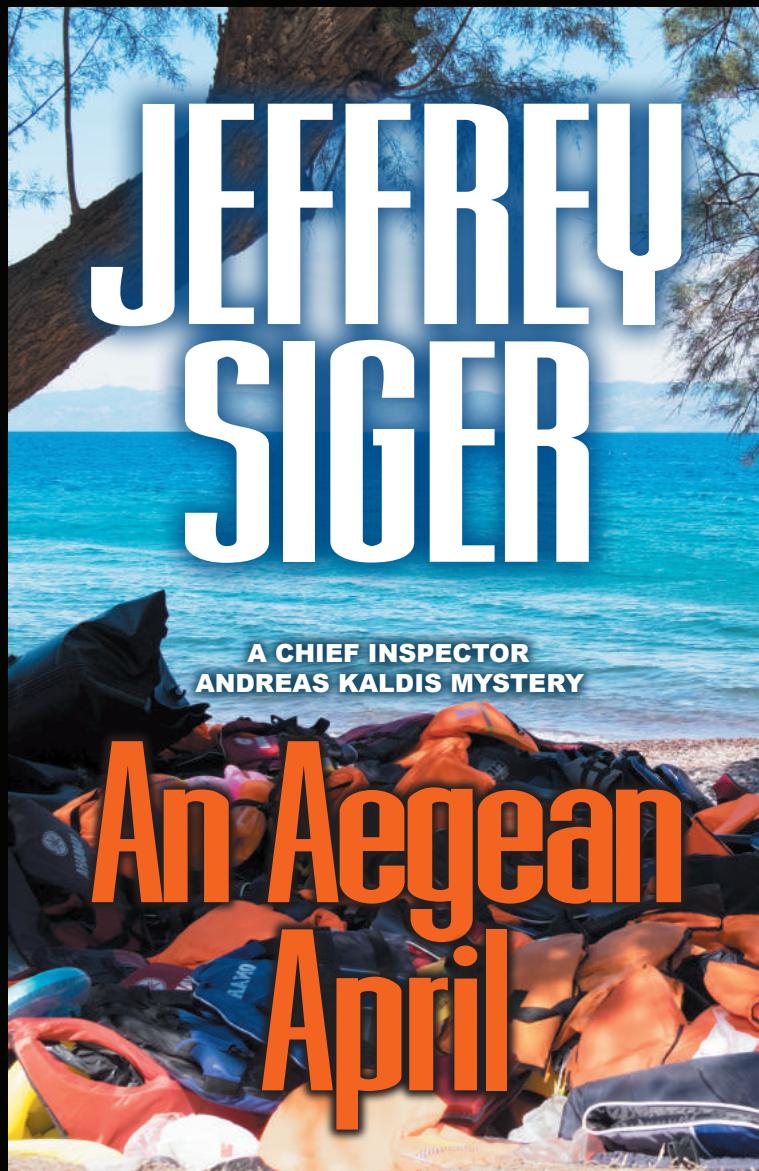
Have a relaxing, inspiring, fun, and safe summer!

**Καλό Καλοκαίρι! - Have a great summer!**

Greece's #1 best-selling English-language author, Jeffrey Siger, gets to the heart of issues confronting modern Greek society in the *New York Times* acclaimed Chief Inspector Andreas Kaldis Series



Coming January 2, 2018



"Siger is one of those rare writers whose finger is always on the pulse of modern day upheavals. He is never afraid to tackle and expose uncomfortable subjects—subjects most writers avoid."

*New York Journal of Books*

Published by Poisoned Pen Press

[jeffreysiger.com](http://jeffreysiger.com)

# BOOKS

## ADVENTURES ON THE ISLAND OF CORFU

### **Review by Maria A. Karamitsos**

#### Single for the Summer

By: Mandy Baggot

Release date: July 27, 2017

Publisher: Ebury Digital

ASIN: B01N9TQ8WV (Kindle version)

ISBN-10: 1785036726

ISBN-13: 978-1785036729

What happens when two women holiday on the island of Corfu and pledge to stay single during the trip? Find out in *Single for the Summer*, by Mandy Baggot.

### **Grecophile**

Author Mandy Maggot was born and raised in Wiltshire in the south of England. This avid traveler has lived there her entire life.

She first visited Greece in 2003, and she's had a "love affair with Greece ever since." Corfu left an indelible mark, and she can't stay away.. In fact, last year she visited Corfu five times, which finally led her and her husband to purchase a second home in Greece.

"It was time to buy a place of our own on the island," Mandy shared. "I get so inspired for sunshine reads when I am in Greece. It's the perfect mix of great weather, fantastic scenery, and amazing people!"

### **Passion for writing**

Mandy's been writing since she was a child. She started with short stories, but then wrote an "on-going drama style manuscript" featuring all her friends, and celebrities, like her then-favorites, New Kids on the Block. She loved writing, but like many, she never believed she could make a career of it. After the birth of her first child, while on maternity leave, Mandy gave birth to her first full-length novel. The second came two years later, after the birth of her sec-

ond child. Since then, Mandy has published more than a dozen novels,, and several are set in her favorite place on earth -- Corfu.

#### **About *Single for the Summer***

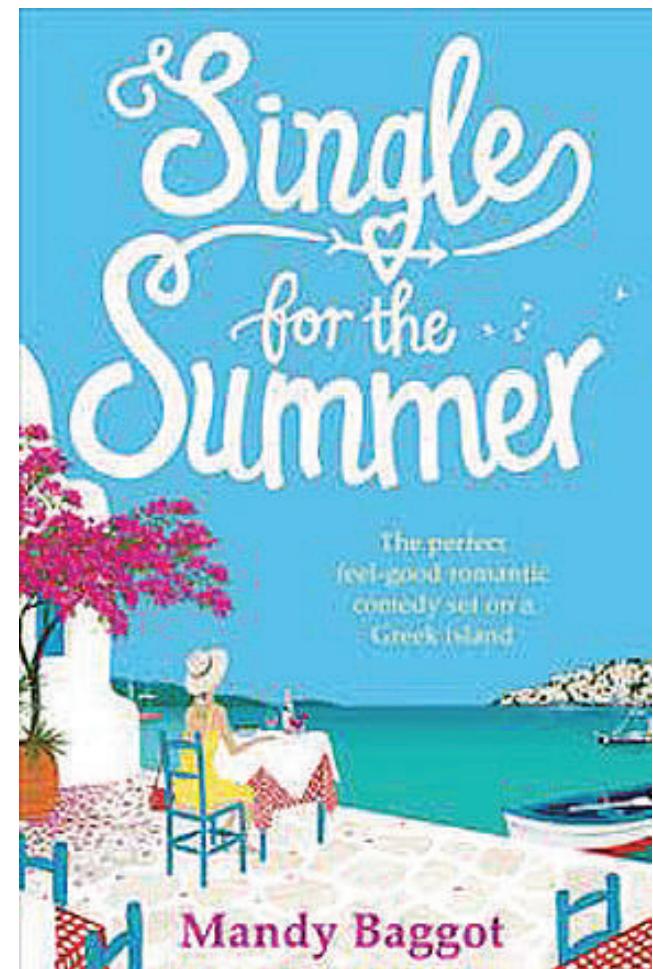
British 20-somethings Tess and Sonya take a trip to Greece. Tess was anti-relationship, and her latest six-week-only boyfriend had reached his expiration date. Sonya had planned this trip with her "almost fiance", Joey, but he decided that they needed a "break". The friends head to Corfu for a holiday, and pledge to remain single for the summer -- just relax and have fun; no men, no attachments to complicate things.

Corfiot Restaurateur Andras Georgiou is caught up in his brother's wedding planning. His mother rules with an iron fist and is hell-bent on getting her way --which includes an arranged marriage for Andras. Wanting no part of it, he invents a girlfriend, who is Brit, blond, and blue-eyed. But now they want to meet her. Where will he find someone to play the part? Mama Isadora is not happy and does whatever she can to ensure her wishes are carried out. Will she prevail? Will Andras rebel? And what about the two Brits on holiday?

#### **Review of *Single for the Summer***

*Single for the Summer* is a quick read, and perfect for lounging on a summer's day. You'll want to head to Corfu! Mandy Baggot's characters are so real. Tess and Sonya become our friends, and we tag along on their adventures. Mandy also gives us a glimpse at how technology and social media have changed dating and relationships in the 21st century. She also reminds us that in our fast-paced lives, with all the technology, sometimes we all have to unplug, and just enjoy life -- real life.

<http://www.mandybaggot.com/>



#### **Other books by Mandy Baggot set in Corfu:**

[Those Summer Nights](#)

[Truly, Madly, Greekly](#)

[Excess All Areas](#)



**Maria A. Karamitsos**

is the Founder & Editor of [WindyCity Greek](#). For 10 years, she served as the Associate Editor and Senior Writer for *The Greek Star* newspaper. Her work has been published in *GreekCircle* magazine, *The National Herald*, *GreekReporter*, *HarlotsSauce Radio*, *Women.Who.Write*, and more. Maria has contributed to three books: [Greektown Chicago: Its History, Its Recipes](#); [The Chicago Area Ethnic Handbook](#), and the inaugural *Voices of Hellenism Literary Journal*.

# — BOOKS —

## Humor and Wit with a Touch of the Macabre

**Review by: Peter Karamitsos**

I Am Providence

By: Nick Mamatas  
 Publisher: Night Shade Books; 1st edition  
 ISBN-10: 1597808350  
 ISBN-13: 978-1597808354

Author Nick Mamatas blends the genres of murder mystery with Lovecraftian fiction to create this thoroughly enjoyable thriller.

**Meet Nick Mamatas**

Born in Port Jefferson, Long Island, Nick Mamatas spent his formative years in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn. He traces his Greek roots to Ikaria.

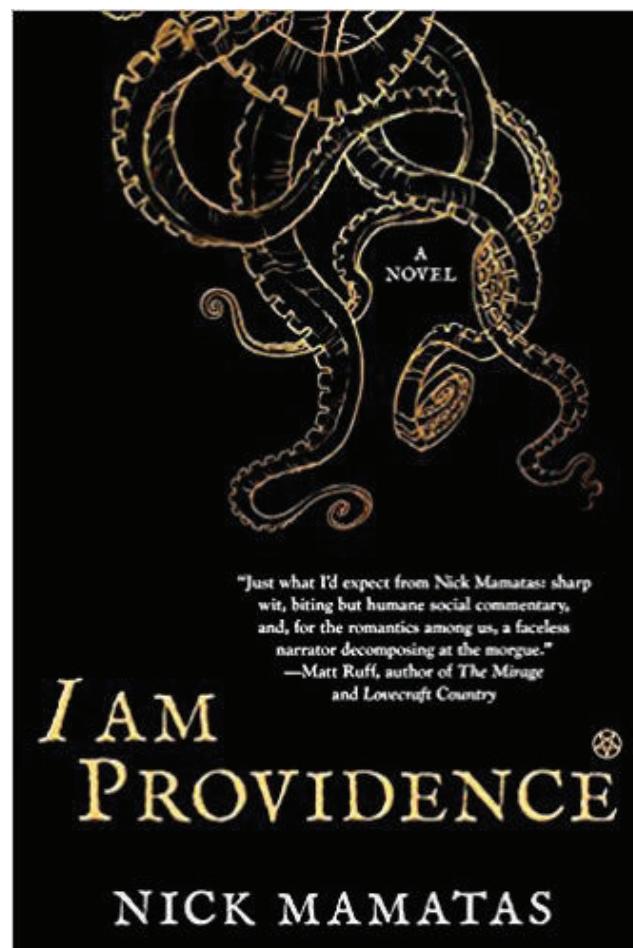
Nick works as an editor, and got his start in graduate school in New York City.

"An acquaintance from Korea asked me to help him translate a memoir about the Gwangju Uprising, a very famous rebellion against South Korea's military government in 1980," Nick recalled. "One thing led to another and I found myself working for Soft Skull Press, at the time a self-proclaimed "punk publisher" that operated out of a basement in a Lower East Side tenement."

He then began writing for The Village Voice and various early dot.com era websites, including Disinfo, Feed, and the like. His early work was primarily nonfiction.

"After the stock market crash and then 9/11, the sort of nonfiction I was writing became much harder to sell, so I turned to fiction," he explained.

To date, he's published several novels and more than 125 short stories. He's also edited several anthologies.



**Greek influence**

Being Greek influences Nick's work. His novel, *The Last Weekend* (Night Shade Books, 2016) features a Greek-American protagonist living through a zombie apocalypse. Some of his short stories include Greek characters as well, including stories currently in progress.

**On Lovecraftian fiction**

Howard Phillips Lovecraft was an author from Providence, RI, who died in 1937 at age 46. Although his writing has influenced authors like Joyce Carol Oates and Stephen King, he was never successful during his lifetime. Lovecraft's work is also referred to as horror fiction and contains several recurring

themes like hidden knowledge, fate, and non-human mythos. His character, Cthulhu, appears in 'Providence'.

**About I Am Providence**

The story is told from the point of view of recently murdered author Panos Panossian, who's lying in a morgue in Providence, RI. His mind is still functioning and he's trying to figure out who did him in. Panossian was in Providence attending an annual Lovecraft convention. Not liked by anyone at the convention, it seems several attendees hated him enough to kill him. Another horror writer attending the convention, Colleen Danzig, is keen to find out who killed Panossian. What follows is a story with numerous twists and follows many of Lovecraft's themes, while at the same time pokes fun at fandom and convention life. As Colleen digs deeper she finds her own life may be in danger. Will she catch Panossian's murderer before she gets killed? Is she even a target or is there something else afoot?

**REVIEW of I Am Providence**

I'm not an avid mystery reader and I wasn't familiar with Lovecraft going in, but this story grabbed me from the beginning. If you're familiar with Lovecraft, there's even greater appeal. Nick pokes fun at his fans right from the opening paragraph, and there are several references that fans of this genre will especially appreciate. His approach is very creative and cleverly fleshed out (pun fully intended).

I've always appreciated writers who give just the right details to paint a picture in the reader's mind, and Nick succeeds here. For

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

# Books

example, his description of the convention bringing together critics and fans of Lovecraft: "What's a critic but a reader who can neither stop re-reading the same thing over and over, nor shut up about it? And what's a fan but a reader who has stopped reading, and still can't shut up about it? Fans resent critics, and critics disparage fans. What a great idea to get everyone together and provide inexpensive booze."

*I am Providence* is told with humor and wit with a touch of the macabre. The writing is engaging and the story is very interesting to follow. Even if you aren't familiar with Nick or Lovecraft, but are looking for something different, this is a story for you.

<http://nick-mamatas.com/>



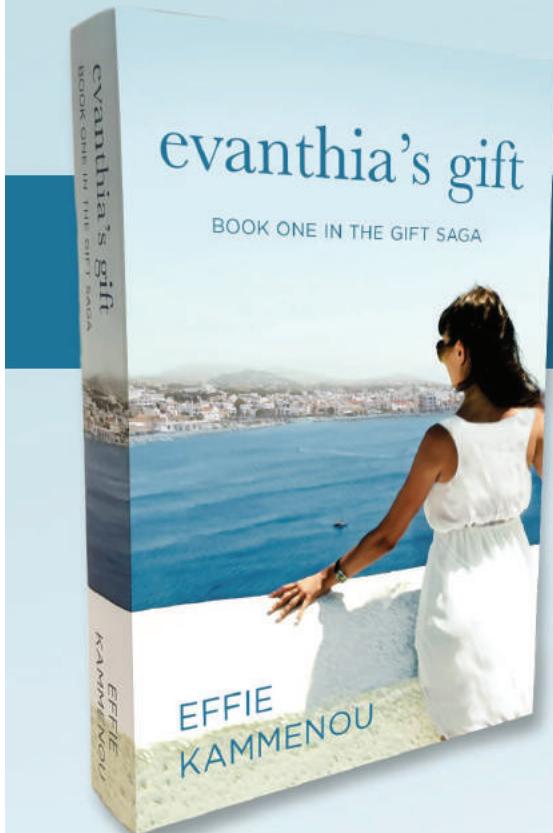
**Peter Karamitsos** reviews books for **WindyCity Greek**. He's been in the software business for more than 30 years. He was not raised in a traditional Greek home, and in his mid-thirties, was baptized into the Greek Orthodox Faith and learned to speak Greek. Peter loves to spend time with his wife and children and had the joy of taking them to Greece in the summer of 2015—one of his dozen trips to Greece. He loves to travel, and is a self-described foodie and oenophile. An avid reader and theater-goer, Peter also enjoys painting and drawing, playing piano and guitar and playing tennis.

The World is a book,  
and those who do  
not travel read only  
a page."

—St. Augustine



# EFFIE KAMMENOU



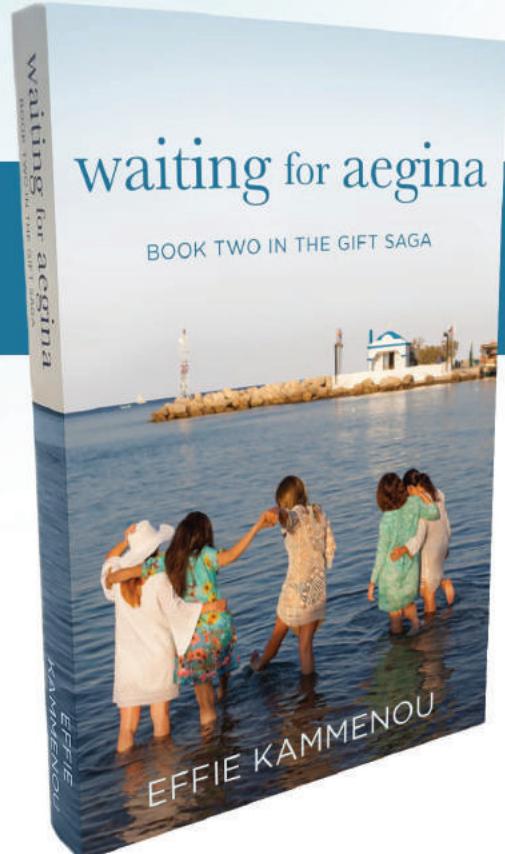
Reader's Favorite Award finalist  
for women's fiction in 2016

## Evanthia's Gift

*Book One in the Gift Saga*  
From Greece to New York.  
From the 1950's to the 1990's.  
Two generations of passionate women overcome life's struggles to chase their dreams.

## Waiting for Aegina

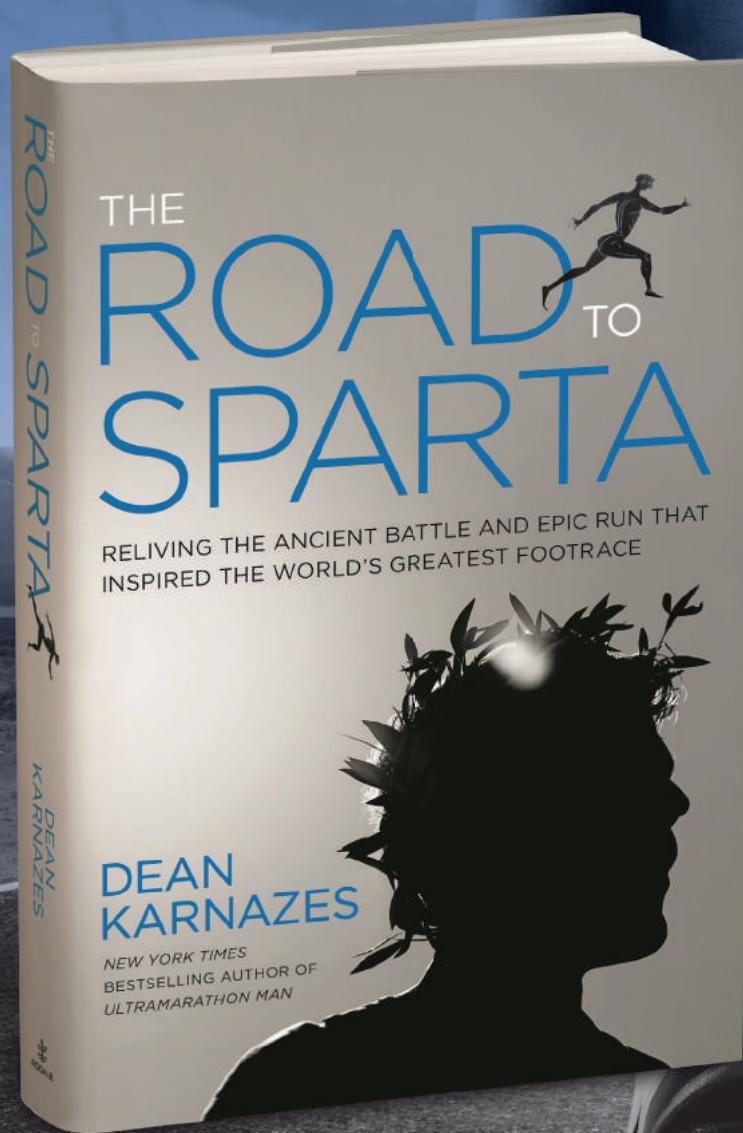
*Book Two in the Gift Saga*  
Through triumphs and sorrows the bond between five lifelong friends cannot be broken as they stand together to overcome life-altering obstacles



Facebook: Effie Kamenou  
Twitter: @EffieKammenou  
[www.cheffieskitchen.wordpress.com](http://www.cheffieskitchen.wordpress.com)

**BUY NOW**

# THE HEROIC 153-MILE RUN FROM ATHENS TO SPARTA THAT INSPIRED THE MARATHON AND SAVED DEMOCRACY



As told—and experienced—by ultramarathoner and  
*New York Times* bestselling author Dean Karnazes

[WWW.ULTRAMARATHONMAN.COM](http://WWW.ULTRAMARATHONMAN.COM)

Available wherever books & ebooks are sold

 RODALE

RodaleBooks.com • Follow us @rodalebooks on



# BOOKS

## The Embroiderer weaves a masterful story of love and loss

**Reviewed by Diane Adam**

The Embroiderer  
By: Kathryn Gauci  
Publisher: Silverwood Books  
ISBN-10: 1781322961  
ISBN-13: 978-1781322963

There is nothing finer than sitting down with a good book during the summer months. It allows you to be transported to places in the past or present that allow you to develop a deeper understanding of those situations. In the novel, *The Embroiderer*, Kathryn Gauci weaves a beautiful story set against the mosques and minarets of Asia Minor and the ruins of ancient Athens. The sweeping historical landscape that this novel is set upon will intrigue anyone wanting to learn more.

### Born to write

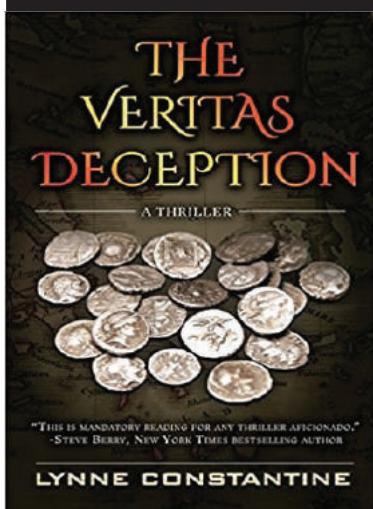
Kathryn Gauci was born in Leicestershire, England, and studied textile design at Loughborough College of Art and later at Kidderminster College of Art and Design where she specialized in carpet design and technology. After graduating, Kathryn spent a year in Vienna, Austria before moving to Greece where she worked as a carpet designer in Athens for six years. There followed another brief period in New Zealand before eventually settling in Melbourne, Australia. Before turning to writing full-time, Kathryn ran her own textile design studio in Melbourne for over 15 years, work which she enjoyed tremendously as it allowed her the luxury of traveling worldwide, often taking her off the beaten track and exploring other cultures. Kathryn is smitten with Greece—a place that she is proud to call “her spiritual home.”

### About *The Embroiderer*

*The Embroiderer* begins with the year 1822 when Greece was in the midst of the Greek War of Independence where a child is born in a Byzantine monastery of Nea Moni on the Greek island of Chios. A threat of a curse about a girl with flaming red hair is the dire prophecy that keeps the reader wanting to unravel more to this story that features, love and loss and their devastating consequences.

The ravages of war between the Greeks and the Turks are retold amidst a backdrop of the Ottoman elite. It is here that Dimitra Lamartine arrives in Smyrna as a master embroiderer. But it is her hardworking granddaughter Sophia who we follow in the story as she elevates the La Maison du l'Orient business into a grand shop of wealth. The

**Once you start reading, you'll be hooked"**  
~ Suspense Magazine



**Enter a world where the media, the entertainment world, and key players in Washington are conspiring to deceive you — a world where everyone and everything is suspect.**

**"This is mandatory reading for any thriller aficionado."**

~ Steve Berry, New York Times Bestselling Author

**AVAILABLE NOW AT**  
[www.lynneconstantine.com](http://www.lynneconstantine.com)

**Hinchliff did a spectacular job drawing me into the characters and the story, which personalized the plight of Greeks and migrants in Greece in a very interesting way.**

**Peter Karamitsos,  
Windy City Greek**

**Available now  
on Kindle,  
iBooks and  
Kobo**



# BOOKS

author weaves the historical tragedies and allows the reader to learn how this area was so deeply destroyed by the ravages of war.

Fast forward through the history of Greek struggles, the book finds itself in the year 1970s and the character Eleni discovers the dark past that the characters struggled with. Kathryn is quick to admit that *The Embroiderer* is a result of the time-honored tradition of storytelling.

"The seeds of *The Embroiderer* were sown during my years working as a carpet designer in Greece, 1972-78," she said. "The company was situated in a suburb of Athens populated by refugees from The Asia Minor Catastrophe, 1922-23. Working amongst these people, many of the older generation of whom still conversed in Turkish, I grew to understand the impact of the disaster and the intense yearning these people still held for Turkey, the land of their forefathers

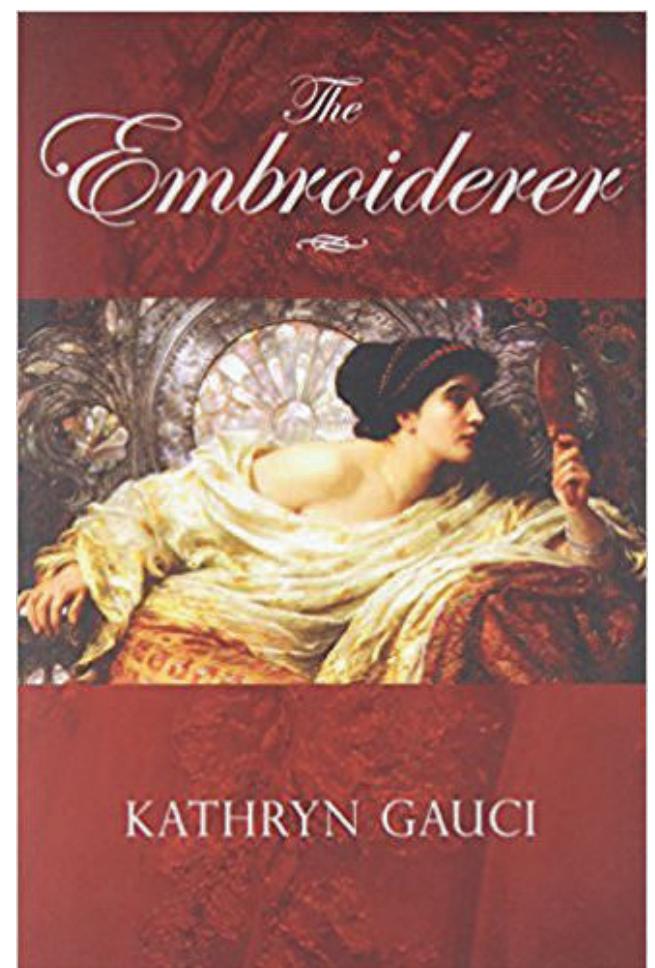
and a land in which they are still unable to reside. Significantly they shared a separate sense of identity, so much so that fifty years after the Catastrophe, many of them still referred to themselves as Mikrasiates (Asia Minor people) and still chose to intermarry."

In a twist of fate, the book ends with a cliff-hanger. I won't spoil it, but I think that there is room for a sequel.

#### **Review of *The Embroiderer***

*The Embroiderer* is Kathryn's first novel. It provides a rich tapestry of Asia Minor and its people—the Mikrasiates. The book is well researched. The historical events that unfold in the story are heartbreakingly woven in the story seamlessly. I'm not sure what tool is mightier for Kathryn, the pen or the needle? But after reading her first novel, I'll go with the pen.

<http://www.kathryngauci.com/>



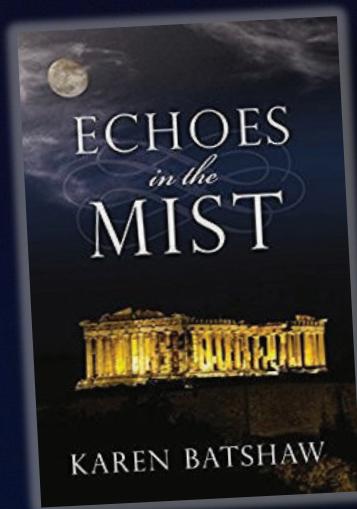
Editor's note: *The Embroiderer* has also been published in Greek.



**Diane Adam**

is a veteran of Chicago Greek media. Her writing career began in college. She has worked at various newspapers including *The Greek Star*, where she served as managing editor for 21 years. Diane has conducted countless interviews with Greeks from all parts of the world. Proud to be Greek, she is always looking for that next GreekAmerican story to tell. Currently, Diane is the communications leader for organic restaurant *Fooducopia* in Denver, CO. She contributes to their blog, writing articles about good, honest food. Her passion is to write and unfold life through the lens of the written word.

*On a fateful night, an infinite echo from another time whispers to two strangers.*



*"A spellbinding historical fiction and a beautiful love story."*

*Travel to Greece for a sensual historical romance*

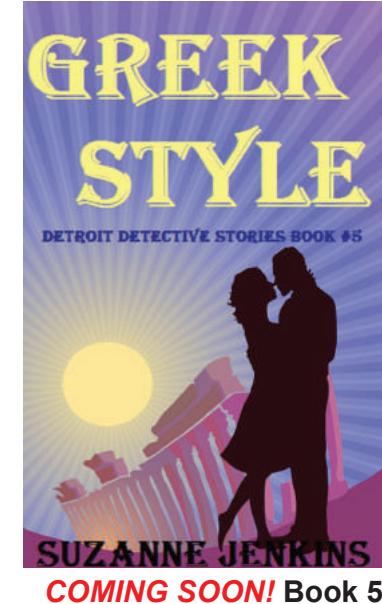
**AVAILABLE NOW ON AMAZON**

**Spend your summer with  
*The Detroit Detective Series: Greektown Stories*  
Novels by Award-Winning Author Suzanne Jenkins**

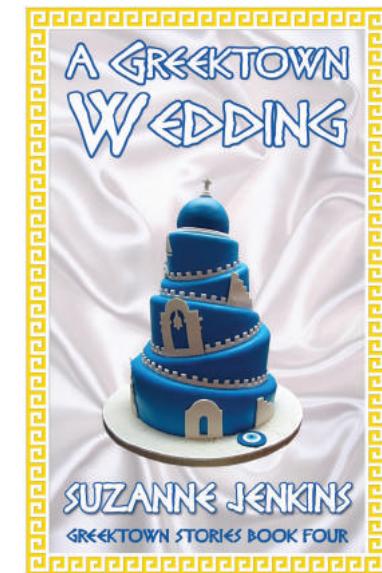
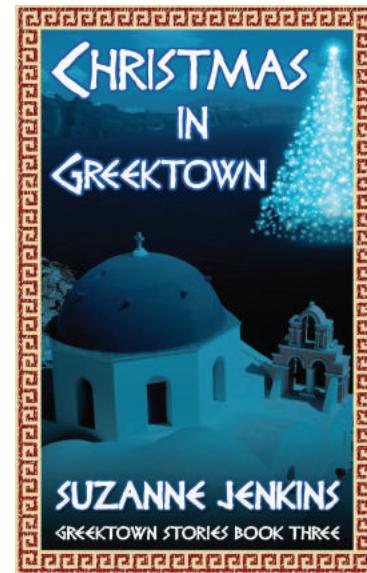


**"Excellent!"**

~ Dan Georgakas,  
editor Cineaste Magazine



**suzannejenkins.com**



**AVAILABLE AT AMAZON**

## Travel to Sifnos



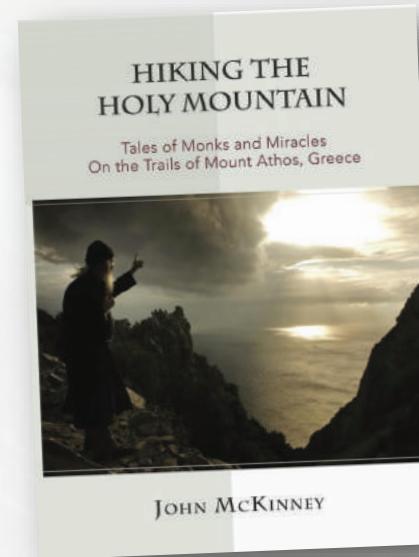
*The Sifnos Chronicles  
tales from a greek isle*

**You'll delight in  
this ode  
to a lovely  
Greek island"**

**Available now in  
Kindle & Paperback**

[www.sharonblomfield.com](http://www.sharonblomfield.com)

A powerful one-of-a-kind story of saints and icons, ancient traditions, and modern-day faith and family.



AVAILABLE AT  
**amazon**

Los Angeles Times hiking columnist John McKinney set out on a hike of Mt. Athos to write about it as a spiritual adventure for outdoor enthusiasts. What he encountered there was an epiphany that changed his life and a colorful collection of wise Greek monks, who taught him that on this amazing path we call life, we're often compelled to change direction.

## Filoxenia in Chicago

**CITIZEN CÁRDENAS**  
A NOVEL  
STEVE COLE

"Mami, Dadi, I'm dead! I'm dead!" yells Jesus "Gato" Cárdenas, running across the street to George and Alexia Demas to show them the letter from Social Security: "We are sorry to learn that JESUS CÁRDENAS died July 30, 2002."

Such begins **Steve Cole's** novel *Citizen Cárdenas* and the entanglement of the Demases, a Greek couple, and Gato, a sometimes-homeless, always living by his wits, Cuban immigrant. When George is able to get his check reinstated, Jesus "Gato" Cárdenas is given new life.

But if you save a life, aren't you responsible for it? The Demases let Gato stay in their home until he gets his back pay. George begins receiving his monthly check, paying his rent, helping Gato get ID. But what is Gato's back story? Is he a Vietnam veteran and US citizen or is he an outcast from Castro's Cuba?

**Reviewer Gary Joenz writes,** "The narrative is well described by George, Alexia, Gato and others – with each chapter in a different voice. With a lesser author this technique could easily fail, but in *Citizen Cárdenas* it succeeds entirely convincingly. Perspectives shift, facts can seem elusive, aspects of the human condition maddening – yet in this wonderfully crafted novel thoughtful truths emerge, poignant and meaningful.

*Citizen Cárdenas* is available on Amazon.com in softcover and eBook editions. Find out more at [www.StevedoreStories.com](http://www.StevedoreStories.com)

**The Greek world was never about mainland Greece, it was always much bigger...**

Billy Cotsis

**From Pyrrhus to Cyprus:**  
*Forgotten and Remembered Hellenic Kingdoms,  
Territories, Entities & a Few More*

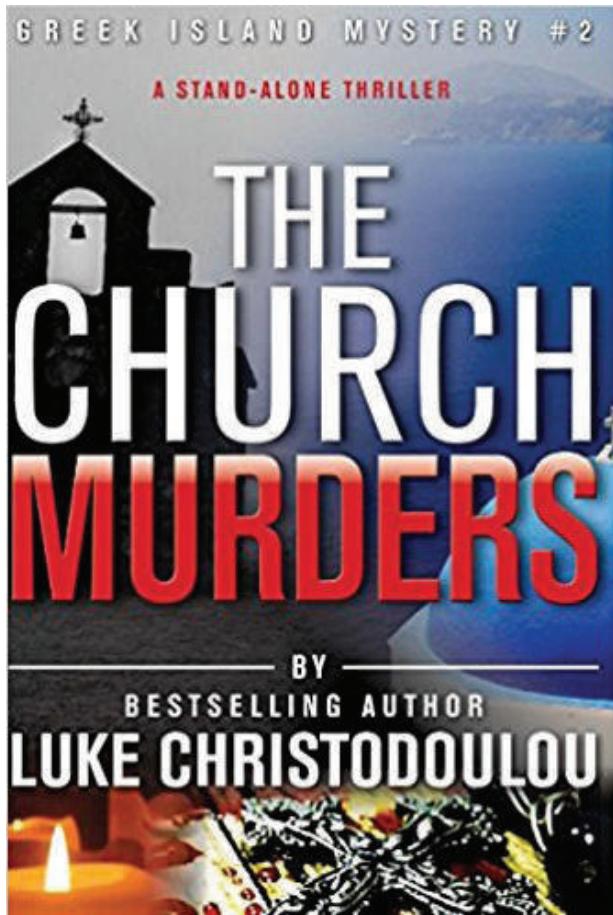
Learn about 36 identified Greek "territories," after the disintegration of the empire built up by Alexander the Great, plus an overview of the conquests of Alexander and the Hellenistic Age, Byzantine Empire, Trebizond, Ionian Republic, and many more.

**NEW FROM BILLY COTSIDIS**  
Greek-Australian film maker  
and author of *The Many Faces of Hellenic Culture*  
**AVAILABLE ON AMAZON**

contact: [ineuropewithbillycotsis@yahoo.com.au](mailto:ineuropewithbillycotsis@yahoo.com.au)

# — BOOKS —

## Mystery and Intrigue in Greece



### **Review by Peter Karamitsos**

#### [The Church Murders: Greek Island Mystery #2](#)

By: Luke Christodoulou  
Publisher: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform; 1 edition  
ISBN-10: 1508661669  
ISBN-13: 978-1508661665

Luke Christodoulou takes us to the Greek islands with a suspenseful tale.

### **Always writing**

Born in London and raised on "the sun-kissed island" of Cyprus, Luke Christodoulou calls himself an English-GreekCypriot.

Luke has been writing as long as he can remember.

"As a child, I would get lost in my mind and create characters and scenarios," he re-

called. "As I grew up, these stories made it to paper. During my teen years, I turned to poetry and as an adult the world of murder-mysteries won me over."

### **Inspiration for *The Church Murders***

Following his book, *The Olympus Killer*, which takes on Greek mythology, Luke looked to his roots for further inspiration. He pondered what other subjects were known to Greeks.

"Greeks have strong religious beliefs. *The Church Murders* are a series of smaller stories all strangely connected in one way or another to the church," he explained. But, as the finale approaches, the bigger picture becomes clearer. And the mystery unfolds.."

The story is set in Greece, because, "it's Heaven on Earth, is it not?" He also said that in his "twisted" mind, "there is something sinister in setting such gruesome murders upon such beauty."

### **About *The Church Murders***

Captain Costa Papacosta and Lieutenant Ioli Cara investigate several mysterious deaths in Athens and the Greek islands. In some cases, it's clearly homicide, while others look like suicides, however, they all seem to be connected. Are they connected or does it just seem that way? How and why did these people die?

The first case is a murder on Salamina Island. A man's body is found near Batsi beach. Captain Papacosta learns that the victim was a reporter investigating the possible existence of an Evaggelio written by Jesus Christ himself, hidden in a local monastery.

More bodies start showing up on other islands, which may be related to this case. There are clues but it's hard to be sure.

Note this book contains graphic depictions

**"Greeks have strong religious beliefs. The Church Murders are a series of smaller stories all strangely connected in one way or another to the church," he explained.**

of violence and some sex scenes and language.

The next Greek Island Mystery is due in early 2018.

### **Review of *The Church Murders***

Luke Christodoulou has woven a masterful tale of murder and intrigue set in the Greek Islands. There's plenty of "pulp" for fans of the genre – sexy characters, gruesome murder scenes, and plenty of evidence of the evil people are capable of. In addition, there is tenderness, valor, and good people doing their part to make the world a little less evil.

Luke artfully captured the spirit of his characters and he certainly knows Greece and Greeks. He drops in a few bits of interesting history. You'll learn why so many buildings on the islands are painted white, why most churches are white and blue, and why Greek Orthodox priests dress in all black.

If you are looking for a good book to bring to the beach in Greece or if you can't make it to Greece this summer but would love to read a story that evokes the sun and sand and the sounds and smells of the villages and tavernas, this is it. Escape to the interesting make-believe world of Luke Christodoulou's imagination this summer. Tell your friends too. Just don't tell them "who dun-it".

### **Other Books in the Greek Island Mystery Series by Luke Christodoulou:**

[The Olympus Killer](#)  
[Death of a Bride](#)  
[Murder on Display](#)

# — BOOKS —

## History and Family Secrets Come to Light on the Island of Crete

**Review by Maria A. Karamitsos**

### *Island of Secrets*

By: Patricia Wilson

Publisher: Zaffre

ASIN: B01LWUEQW9

When closely-held secrets come out, chaos typically ensues. Find out what happens when history and family secrets are revealed, in *Island of Secrets* by Patricia Wilson.

### **Brit in Crete**

Author Patricia Wilson hails from Wirral, Merseyside (Liverpool), England. Like many, she found herself under Greece's spell, and now calls Crete home. To help settle into her new life, she created a challenge for herself.

"I retired to Greece when I was 45, and rather than die of boredom, I challenged myself each year to learn a new skill and treat it like a job," Patricia explained. "I learned classical guitar, sailing diving, painting, photography, and more. About 12 years ago, I took up writing fiction."

Since then, she's published several short stories and photography articles. *Island of Secrets* is her first novel.

This Brit loves Greece. "For me, Greece is perfect because it's so imperfect. There are no standards to live up to apart from your own. It's a place where people are uncomplicated, the sun (almost) always shines, and it's beautiful, with a history that writers dream of. The food is delicious."

### **Inspiration for *Island of Secrets***

Whenever you dig in Greece, you uncover history. While digging her garden, Patricia came upon an incredible find.

"I dug up a rusted machine gun and the

story behind it was so amazing. I took the gun into the village kafenion, and the old men came in and started telling me their experiences in the war. Some of them cried, which broke my heart."

She said it took a while for the women to open up and share their moving stories.

"They told me things they'd never told anyone before. They gave the raw truth. I owed it to the village women to get that gritty emotion and courage onto the page, because there are many books about men at the time of war, but very few about how women struggle, especially in remote places."

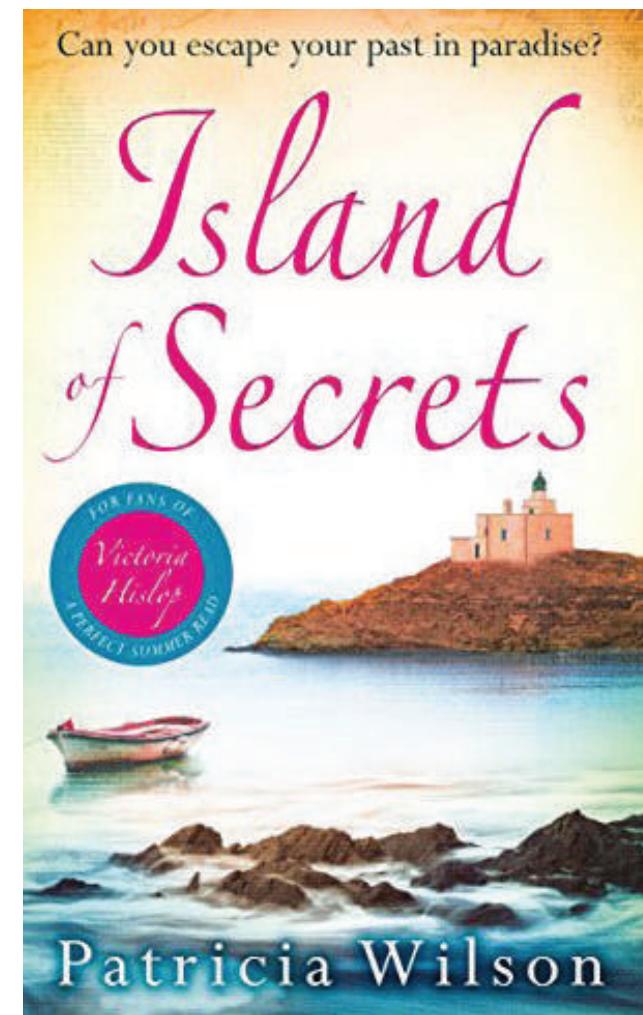
The book is a work of fiction, as she's filled in characters stories as was necessary, and out of respect to some of the older ladies still living in the village, she left out the most unspeakable atrocities.

### **About *Island of Secrets***

Angelika Lambrakis grew up with her mom in England. Her parents left their native Crete before she was born. Her mom, Poppy, never spoke of Greece. For that matter, she'd rarely spoken about Yeorgo, Angelika's father.

All grown up and planning her wedding, Angelika is longing for the extended family she never knew. Hoping to reunite her family, she travels to Crete to find her relatives and her roots. Her grandparents welcome her with open arms. One of her uncles is not so nice -- he thinks Angelika's presence will only stir up the past.

Angelika's yiayia begins to tell the family history, beginning at the start of WWII. Maria reveals harrowing tales of suffering, survival, and loss. Angelika learns more each day, but feels that something is being held back.



Angelika and her fiance, Niko, decide to have their wedding in Crete, and they convince Poppy to go. It's Poppy's first trip since she left. Reluctant, she goes to make her daughter happy. Not everyone is thrilled about Poppy's return, and a decades-old vendetta is rekindled. Seeking answers, Angelika tries to put the pieces together. When the truth is finally revealed, what happens next? Will the truth set them free or will the consequences be deadly?

### **Review of *Island of Secrets***

Mystery, intrigue, and history converge in *Island of Secrets*. Patricia Wilson reveals heartbreaking stories of families who lived and lost during WWII in Crete, finally revealing the chilling tales. It's hard to believe this is her first novel. Do set the timer on your phone to reapply your sunscreen, turn over, or seek shade, because you won't be able to put this one down.

<http://www.pmwilson.net/>

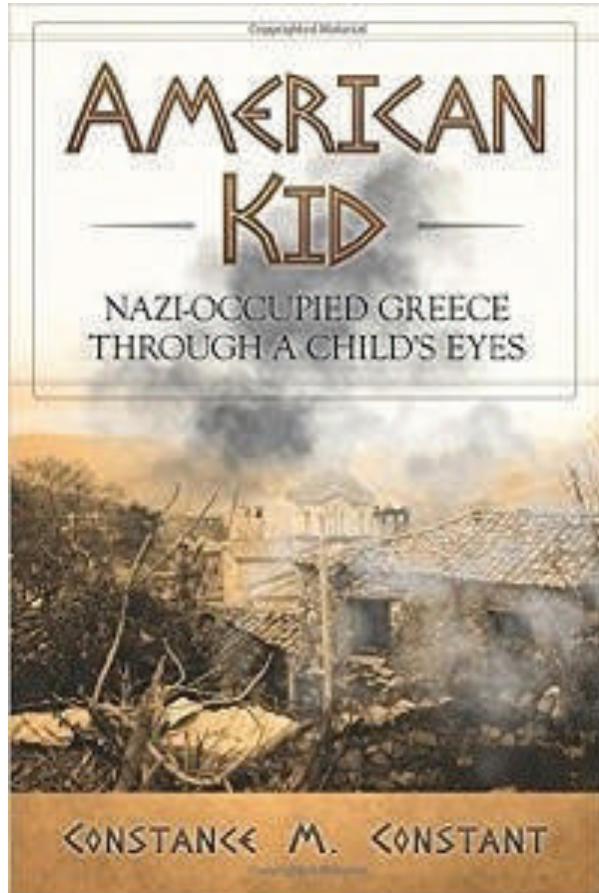
**BEST-SELLING BOOKS ON THE SEARCH FOR MEANING IN LIFE & WORK**

"At a time when the world seems to be plunging ahead into a future dominated by information technology...The OPA! Way offers something else: a life based on values that go back to ancient Greece.... Is there any doubt that The OPA! Way is by far the better path?"—MICHAEL S. DUKAKIS, former Massachusetts governor and U.S. presidential nominee

"In this newly revised edition, Alex Pattakos and Elaine Dundon not only honor the legacy of Viktor Frankl but further it by bringing his work to a new generation of readers in search of a more meaningful life. In very practical ways, they show that when we put meaning at the heart of our lives, we're better able to thrive and reach our full potential."—ARIANNA HUFFINGTON, founder, *The Huffington Post*, and founder/CEO, *Thrive Global*



[www.globalmeaninginstitute.com](http://www.globalmeaninginstitute.com)



## Praise for 'American Kid'

"This book is an eye-opener on the kind of brutality the German army imposed on the people of Greece. The events of WWII are still relevant today,"

~ Michael Dukakis, Former Governor of Massachusetts

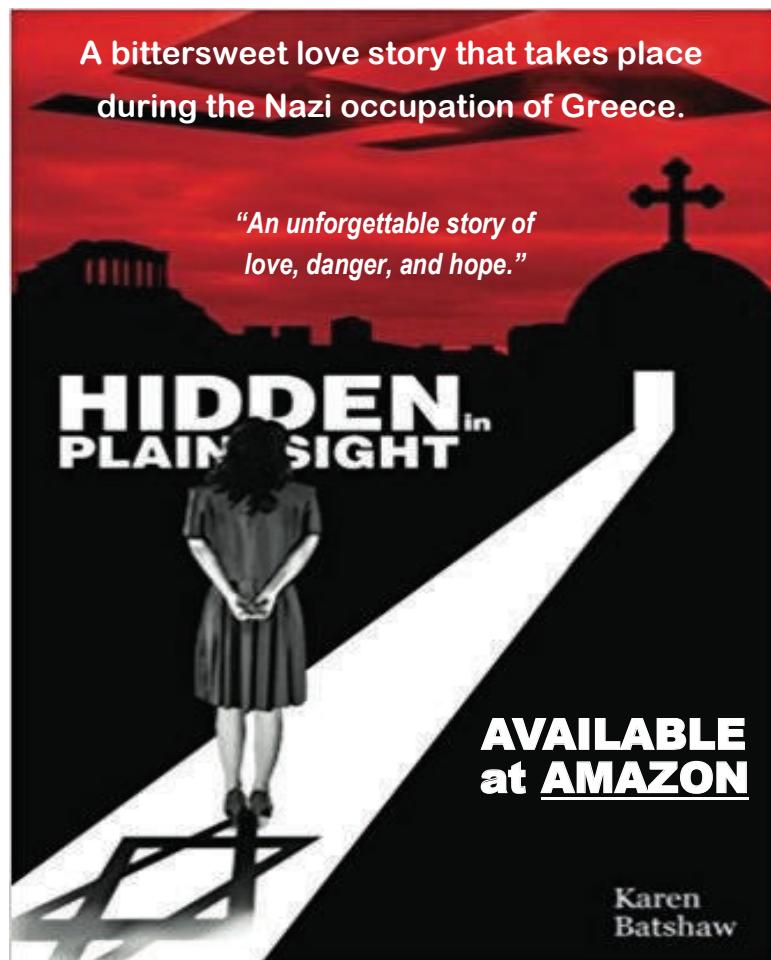
"This amazing account of the horrors and terrors of war as experienced by children should be read by people of all ages, ethnicities, races, and religions."

~ Effie Makris Walsh, PhD, Author

"This is a must-read. Put it on your list."

~ Maria A. Karamitsos, WindyCity Greek

**Available on Amazon  
BarnesandNoble.com**



Do you like **FREE** stuff?

Want access to **EXCLUSIVE** news?

How about special **DISCOUNTS** and **PROMOTIONS** from our partners?

## Become a V.I.P.!



Join our community and get special access to news not posted online or on social media, giveaways, & more. It's **FREE**! We'll even give you a gift for joining!

**I'm a V.I.P.! Sign me up!**

### Praise for **WINGS OF WAX**

by **Apollo Papafrangou**

"With poetic and passionate prose, Apollo Papafrangou takes us on a universal coming-of-age journey that stretches from America's Pacific Coast to a tiny beachside village in Greece. **WINGS OF WAX** is a deeply moving and entertaining story about a father and son and the sea that divides them."

-- Steve Karas, author of *KINDA SORTA AMERICAN DREAM*

"A beautifully written book with an endearing narrator who flies us into the vortex of Greekness, first in America and then in crisis--ridden Greece. A candid story that tackles identity, kinship, and love, full of good humor: sharp-witted relatives and smooth operators with worry beads. This could be the hot 'Greek' novel of the year!"

-- Marjory McGinn, author of *HOMER'S WHERE THE HEART IS*

**Available in Paperback & Kindle**

# — BOOKS —

## American Expat's Self-Discovery in Greece

### **Review by Maria A. Karamitsos**

#### [Chasing Athens](#)

By: Marissa Tejada

Publisher: Harmony Books; 2 edition

ISBN-10: 0692398546

ISBN-13: 978-0692398548

Life rarely goes as planned. When an American woman moves to Greece, life goes in directions she never imagined. Follow her on her path to self-discovery, in Chasing Athens by Marissa Tejada.

#### **Expat author**

Proud New Yorker Marissa Tejada was born in Brooklyn and raised on Long Island. She moved to Athens in 2009.

"I love Greece," she said. "I truly feel like I'm living in one of the most beautiful places on the planet. That's a great feeling to have as a writer because inspiration, I feel, is everything. While Athens has its ups and downs – it's my adopted second home. It's such a diverse country, not just about islands. I love the food, the lifestyle, and the travel opportunities."

She's always loved writing, and began writing as a child.

"I always liked writing stories and reading books, magazines, and newspapers. I started my career as a journalist and later worked in corporate PR," Marissa shared. "Today, I make a living as a travel writer, freelance journalist, and blogger. When I moved to Greece I started writing more creatively which led to my first novel."

An award-winning journalist, Marissa writes for CNN Travel, Lonely Planet, Fodor's, Forbes Travel, **WindyCity Greek**, and more. She's also a co-author of [Fodor's Greece](#) and [Fodor's Greek Islands](#).

Marissa loves to travel, and shares her adventures on her blog, [Travel Greece, Travel Europe](#). Feedspot, a hub for reading blogs, recently named her blog among the top 25 best travel blogs and websites on the web.

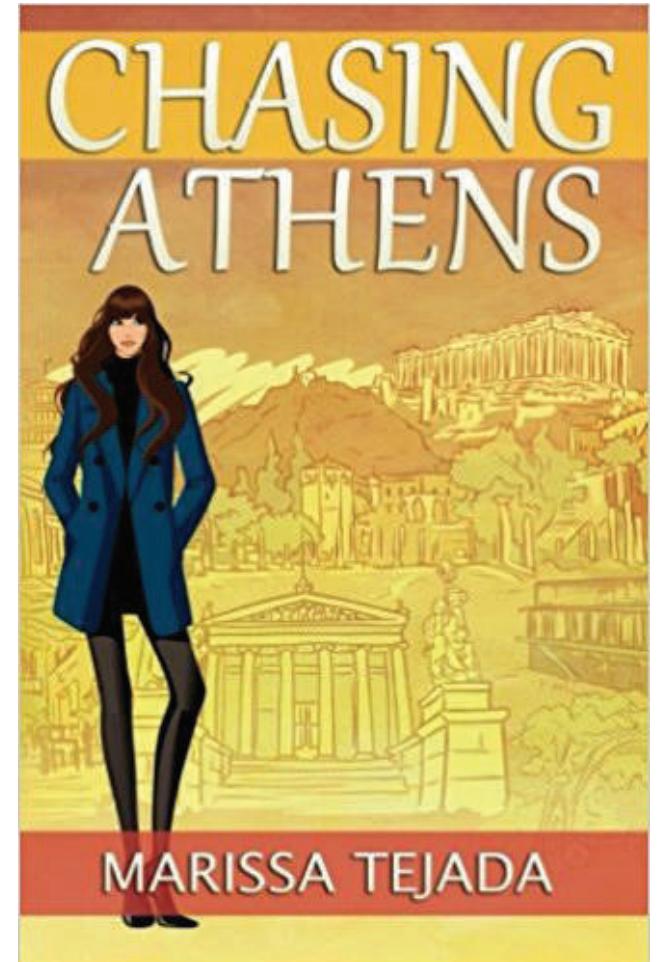
#### **Inspiration for Chasing Athens**

Chasing Athens was inspired by Marissa's experiences when she first moved to Greece.

"Living here as an expat and going through a bit of culture shock but at the same time loving the culture brought out so many emotions and feelings – and ideas – that I eventually put it all down on paper. It took form as a women's fiction/romantic comedy in the end," she revealed.

#### **About Chasing Athens**

Newly married Ava Martin moves to Greece with her husband, Greg. His job took them abroad, and requires frequent travel. Alone in Athens, far from her family in Ithaca, NY, Ava becomes friends with Eleni and Niko, who guide her on her transition to life in Athens, and introduce her to the sights and sounds of the city. When Greg returns from a trip and announces that he wants a divorce, Ava's world is turned upside down. Greg ensures her that all is taken care of -- she has to move out of their flat, and his company's HR rep will call her with flight details to return to Ithaca. Ava packs her things and prepares to leave. After a going away party with her friends, she realizes she just can't leave yet. Athens has felt more like home than Ithaca ever did, and what does she have to go back to? For the first time in her life, Ava gets to decide what happens next. Will she remain in Athens? What does the future hold? Readers follow her on her adventures in Athens, and on the road to self-discovery.



#### **Review of Chasing Athens**

Moving abroad is challenging in so many ways. And we know that Greece casts a spell. Marissa Tejada weaves all this together in an engaging tale of an expat's trials adjusting to life in a foreign country, and how the experience forces her to rethink who she is, what is home, and what the future holds. The characters are so believable, I kept forgetting this was a novel. Ava, Eleni, and Niko become your friends. You'll want to wander Athens with them. And all the while, you root for Ava to find happiness. This is a quick and fun read, perfect for summer break.

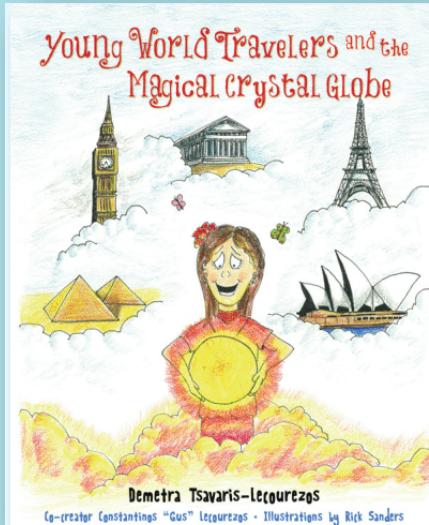
<http://chasingathens.com/>

***Perfect for the kids this summer!***

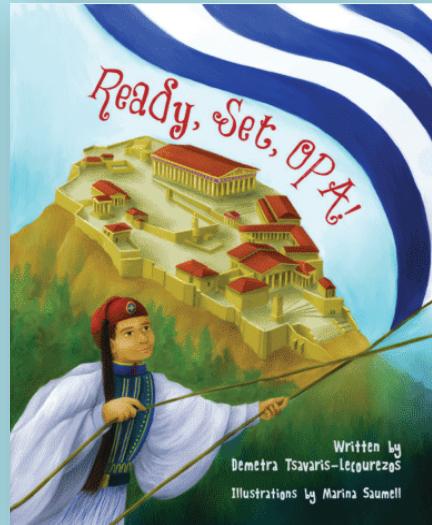
# Young World Travelers Series

**By Demetra Tsavaris-Lecourezos**

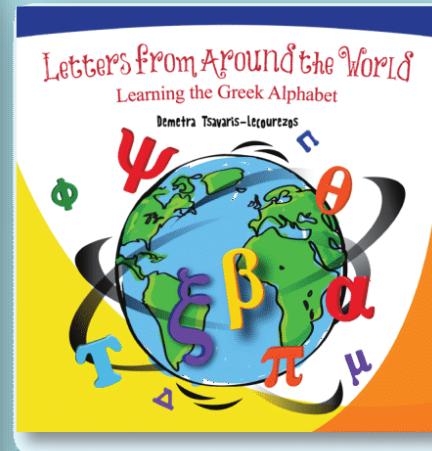
*As seen on ABC's The Chat, NBC's Daytime, and Tampa Bay's Bay News 9*



Travel from  
Tarpon Springs, FL to  
Queens, NY



Take a magical journey to  
Greece in both  
ancient & modern times



Learn about the sounds/sights  
of the various alphabets  
around the world

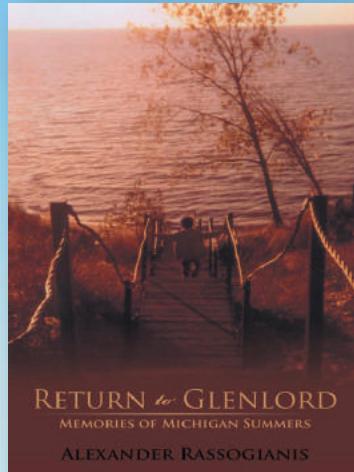
*"Demetra's exciting tales take a young reader on the ride of their lives. The magic jumps off the pages and into their hearts, while enriching their minds with a wealth of knowledge. These books are must-reads for the adventurer in all of us!"*

*~ Nick Katsoris, author of the award-winning Loukoumi book series*

***Come along on the adventures!***

**AVAILABLE at [WWW.THEWORDVERVE.COM](http://WWW.THEWORDVERVE.COM)**

# Pull up a lounge chair and enjoy a book by Alexander Rassogianis



## MEMOIR

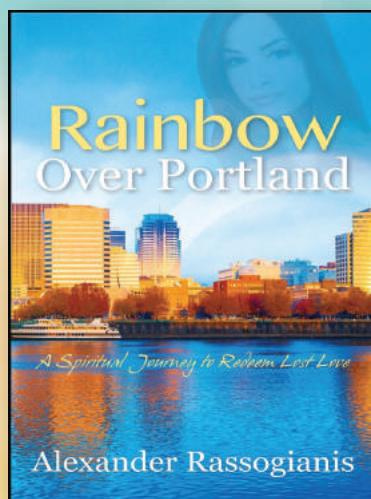
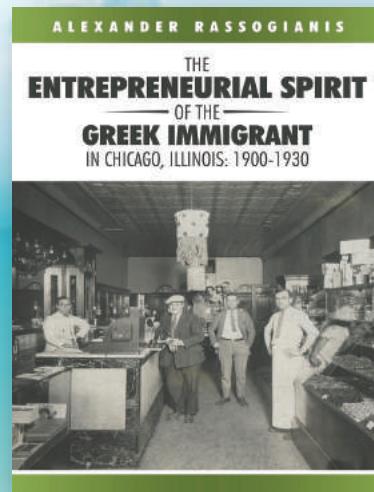
Take a look back at idyllic childhood summers during a much simpler time.

*"It felt like a personal tour of memorable places in Michigan as though we actually lived there ourselves."*

## HISTORY

Celebrate the history of a hardworking people and learn lessons about business and life.

*"As a Greek American I found this book to be the best representation of the life of the early immigrants and their businesses."*



## NEW FICTION!

On an Amtrak train bound for the Pacific Northwest, a Chicago man meets a woman from Ireland. They agree to meet again, but every time they try, something goes terribly wrong. Will they ever meet again?

*"An enjoyable read! A journey of love lost combined with a fantastic travelogue."*

Available at  
**amazon**

[AlexanderRassogianis.com](http://AlexanderRassogianis.com)

# More Book Reviews...

Interested in some more great reads? Check out all the reviews we've published on WindyCity Greek this year. If you're reading this online, click a link to go directly there. If you've printed this eGuide, go to [WindyCityGreek.com](http://WindyCityGreek.com) and under, The Buzz, click Books.

**'Dead Olives' by Jeremy Hinchliff**

**'The Road to Sparta' by Dean Karnazes**

**'Waiting for Aegina' by Effie Kamenou**

**'American Kid: Nazi-Occupied Greece through a Child's Eyes' by Constance M. Constant**

**Escaping Cyprus II: The Final Chapter by Gus Constantine**

## Author Spotlights . . .

We've occasionally put some authors in the "spotlight". Find out about their books.

**Lynne Constantine**

**Deno Seder**

**Alexander Rassogianis**

**Victoria Hislop**

More . . .

**2016 Year in Review: 'Greek Books'**

**Summer Reading Guide 2016**

# BOOKS

## Staff Recommendations for Great Summer Reads

**WindyCity Greek Staff Recommends... We admit it, we love our books!**

Here are recommendations from some of our staff for great summer reads.

### **Maria A. Karamitsos, Founder & Editor**

[Santorini Caesars \(Chief Inspector Andreas Kaldis Series\)](#) by Jeffrey Siger (read the entire series!)

[Escaping Cyprus I & II](#) by Gus Constantine

[The Gift Saga: Evarthia's Gift & Waiting for Aegina](#) by Effie Kammenou

[Homer's Where The Heart Is: Two journalists, one crazy dog and a love affair with Greece](#) by Marjory McGinn (it's a trilogy; get all 3!)

[Cooking for Ghosts: Book I The Secret Spice Cafe Trilogy \(Secret Spice Cafe Series\)](#) by Patricia V. Davis

There's not enough room here to list them all!

### **Diane Adam, Contributing writer, and Special Issues Designer**

[The Hidden Garden: A Story of the Heart](#) by Jane G. Meyer

[Live to Eat: Cooking Mediterranean Way](#) by Michael Psilakis

[Tales from a Greek Island](#) by Alexandros Papadiamantis

[Hold Fast the Mountain Pass](#) by Theodora Vasils

### **Maria Constantinides, Contributing Writer**

[The Scent of Holiness](#) by Constantina Palmer

[The Three Thebian Plays](#) translated by Robert Fagles

[A Guide to Greek Tradition and Customs in America](#) by Marilyn Rouvelas



### **Peter Karamitsos, Book Reviewer**

[Miracles: What They Are, Why They Happen and How They Can Change Your Life](#) by Eric Metaxas

[The Church Murders](#) by Luke Christodoulou

[Zorba The Greek](#) by Nikos Kazantzakis; translated by Peter Bien

[Dead Olives](#) by Jeremy Hinchcliff

# BOOKS

## Staff Recommendations for Great Summer Reads

### Terry Poulos, Sports & Media Correspondent

[A Portable Cosmos: Revealing the Antikythera Mechanism, Scientific Wonder of the Ancient World](#) by Alexander Jones

[Uncle Petros and Goldblatt's Conjecture](#) by Apostolos Doxiadis

### Katerina Sironi, Contributing Writer

[Dandelions for Dinner: Greece at War and a Family's Dreams of America](#) by Sam P. Stamatis, Peter S. Stamatis

[Decision at Delphi](#) by Helen Macinnes

[Uncle Petros and Goldbach's Conjecture](#) by Apostolos Doxiadis

[Seven Lives and One Great Love: Memoirs of a Cat](#) by Lena Divani and Konstantine Matsoukas

[The Amulet](#) by Effrosyni Moschoudi

### Marissa Tejada, Contributing Writer

[Colossus of Marousi](#) by Henri Miller

[The Slap](#) by Christos Tsiolkas

[Corelli's Mandolin](#) by Louis de Bernières

[Fantastic Greek Summer Reads: The Greece In Me](#) (Summer bundle includes *Greek Expectations: The Last Moussaka Standing* by Ekaterina Botziou; *Girl Gone Greek* by Rebecca A. Hall; and *Chasing Athens* by Marissa Tejada)



For more recommendations, check out the [Books](#) section on our website.



[WindyCity Greek is an Amazon affiliate](#)

Click through any of the links in this eGuide to order.

We get a small commission at no extra cost to you.

It helps us continue our mission.

Happy Reading!

*“If you like sexy and exciting fantasy  
with some Greek myth thrown in,  
you will love this.”*

*~ Reader*



**GOT KIDS?  
PLANNING FOR COLLEGE?**

**You need this...**

***It's the very first guide of its kind!***

Includes mini profiles of scholarships \$5000 and up, links to other opportunities, ideas for sourcing other scholarships, tips for applying and winning scholarships, and more.

***If you're planning for college, you need this!***

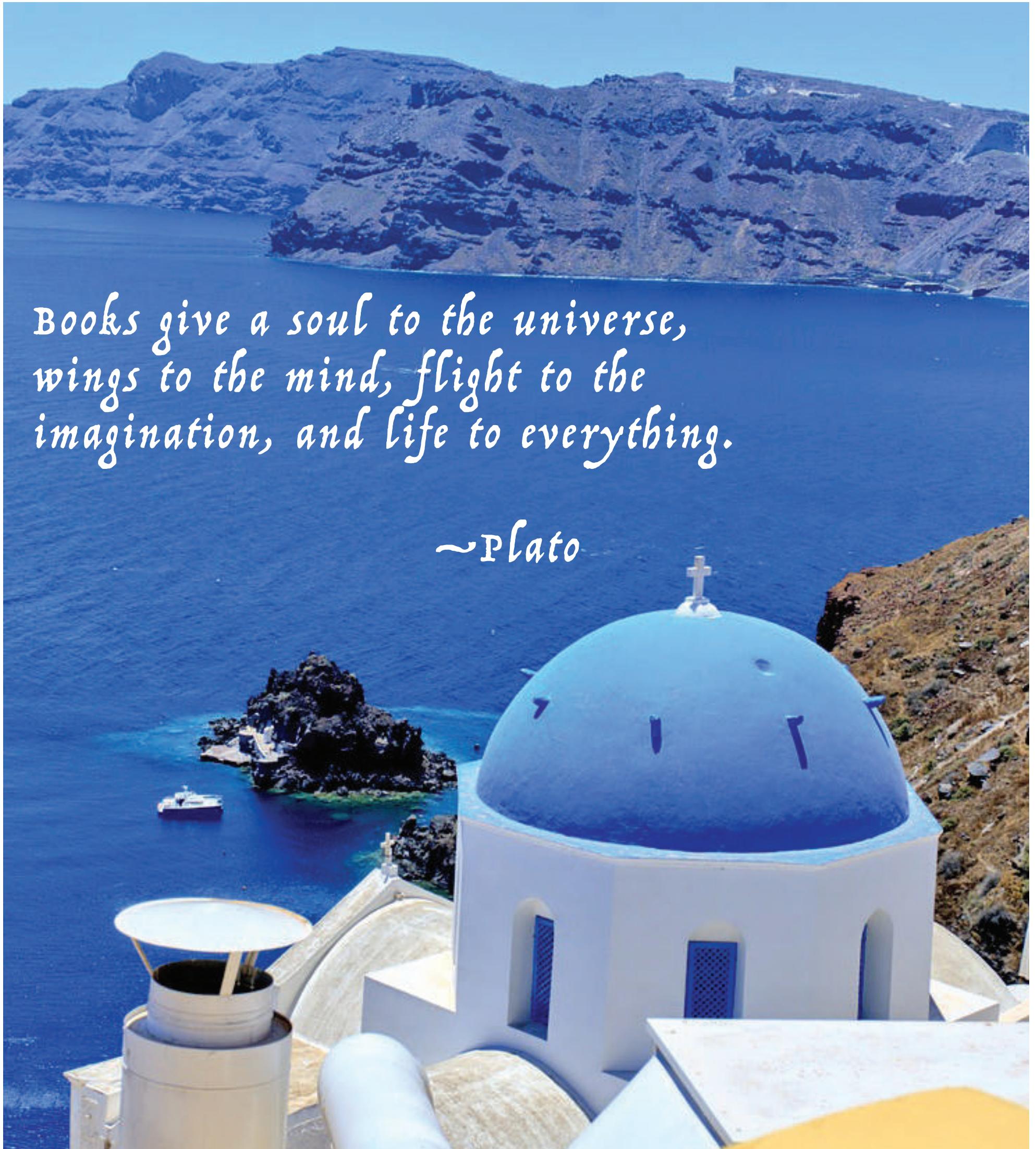
**Only at [www.windycitygreek.com](http://www.windycitygreek.com)**

Sponsored by:



PANHELLENIC  
SCHOLARSHIP  
FOUNDATION

JOHN C. KULIS CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



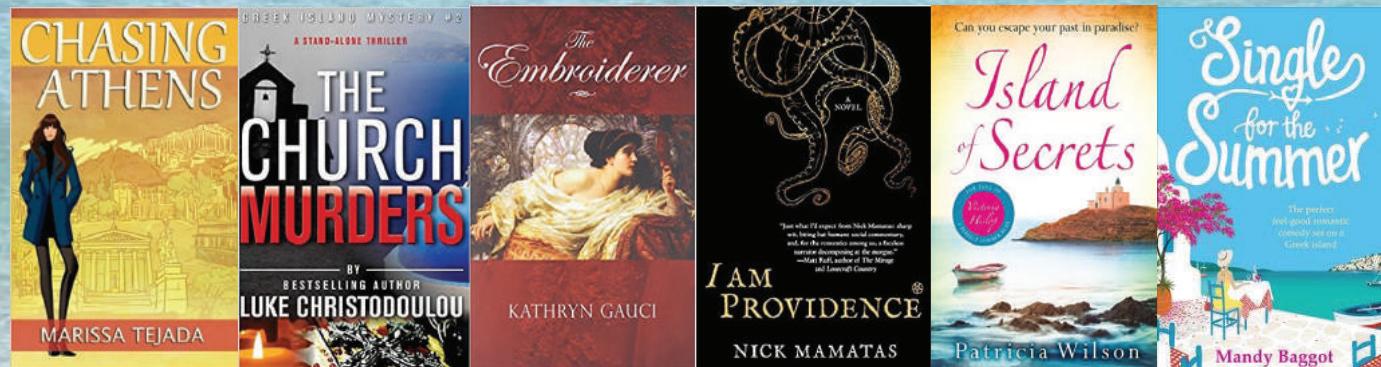
*Books give a soul to the universe,  
wings to the mind, flight to the  
imagination, and life to everything.*

~Plato

# SUMMER READING GIANT GIVEAWAY YOU COULD WIN BIG!

**Enter for your chance to win!**

**Kindle Books reviewed in SUMMER READING GUIDE 2017**



**PLUS**  
more great  
Kindle books!



**\$100 Amazon Gift Card**



**AND**  
**All-New Kindle Fire HD 8 Tablet with Alexa, 8" HD Display, 16 GB**

**You could win it all!**

**CLICK HERE TO ENTER**

Deadline to enter July 10  
Winner announced July 14



Your source for #PositiveGreekNews

[www.windycitygreek.com](http://www.windycitygreek.com)

