

A person is sitting on a green wooden beach chair on a sandy beach, reading a book. The background shows the ocean and a small island with trees in the distance. The text "Summer Reading Guide 2018" is overlaid in a white, cursive font.

Summer Reading Guide 2018



A PMEA COMMUNICATIONS LLC PUBLICATION

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Summer Reading Guide 2018

Special eGuide

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FOUNDER & EDITOR

Maria A. Karamitsos

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Photo of Maria A. Karamitsos by [Elios Photography](#).

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SUMMER READING



From the desk of Founder & Editor

Maria A. Karamitsos

Summer's here! School's out, the weather has turned pleasant, and thoughts shift to relax and recharge. Whether you go on vacation or choose a staycation, definitely plan some down time. Be sure to spend some time near the water.

When we think about time on the beach, or some relaxing time, our thoughts venture to a good book. Summer Reading Guide is just for you!

Here, you'll find new reviews, reviews of some old favorites, plus recommendations from some of our staff. If you're looking for more books, we provide links to reviews on our site. There's something from everyone. We'll fill up your reading list for sure!

This year's Summer Reading Guide will transport you to Greece. All the reviews are of books set in our magical motherland. Kick back, pull up your lounge chair, apply some sunscreen, and let's get you off on your journey!

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Happy Summer Reading!

Καλό Καλοκαίρι! - Have a great summer!

SUMMER READING

New Novel Shines the Light on the Battle of Kalamata

Review by Maria A. Karamitsos

[*A Saint For The Summer: A compelling story of heroism, faith and love*](#)

By: Marjory McGinn

Publisher: Pelagos Press

Publication Date: March 19, 2018

ISBN-10: 1999995716

ISBN-13: 978-1999995713

ASIN: B07B4K34TV

Meet Author Marjory McGinn

PhilHellene Marjory McGinn was born in Scotland and raised in Australia. These early adventures ignited a passion for travel and writing. In Sydney, and then later back in her native UK, she worked as a journalist. Her work has appeared in *The Times*, *The Daily Mail*, Scotland's *The Herald*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, and others. She and her partner, Jim Bruce – and their late Jack Russell terrier Wallace – spent two extended stays in Greece, which led to three books about their adventures: [*Things Can Only Get Feta: Two Journalists and Their Crazy Dog Living Through the Greek Crisis*](#), [*Homer's Where the Heart Is*](#), and [*A Scorpion in the Lemon Tree*](#). We mention Wallace because he is responsible for many comedic moments in all three books, and you can't help but fall in love with him. Marjory blogs about Greek related topics at [Big Fat Greek Blog](#).

Inspiration for *A Saint for the Summer*

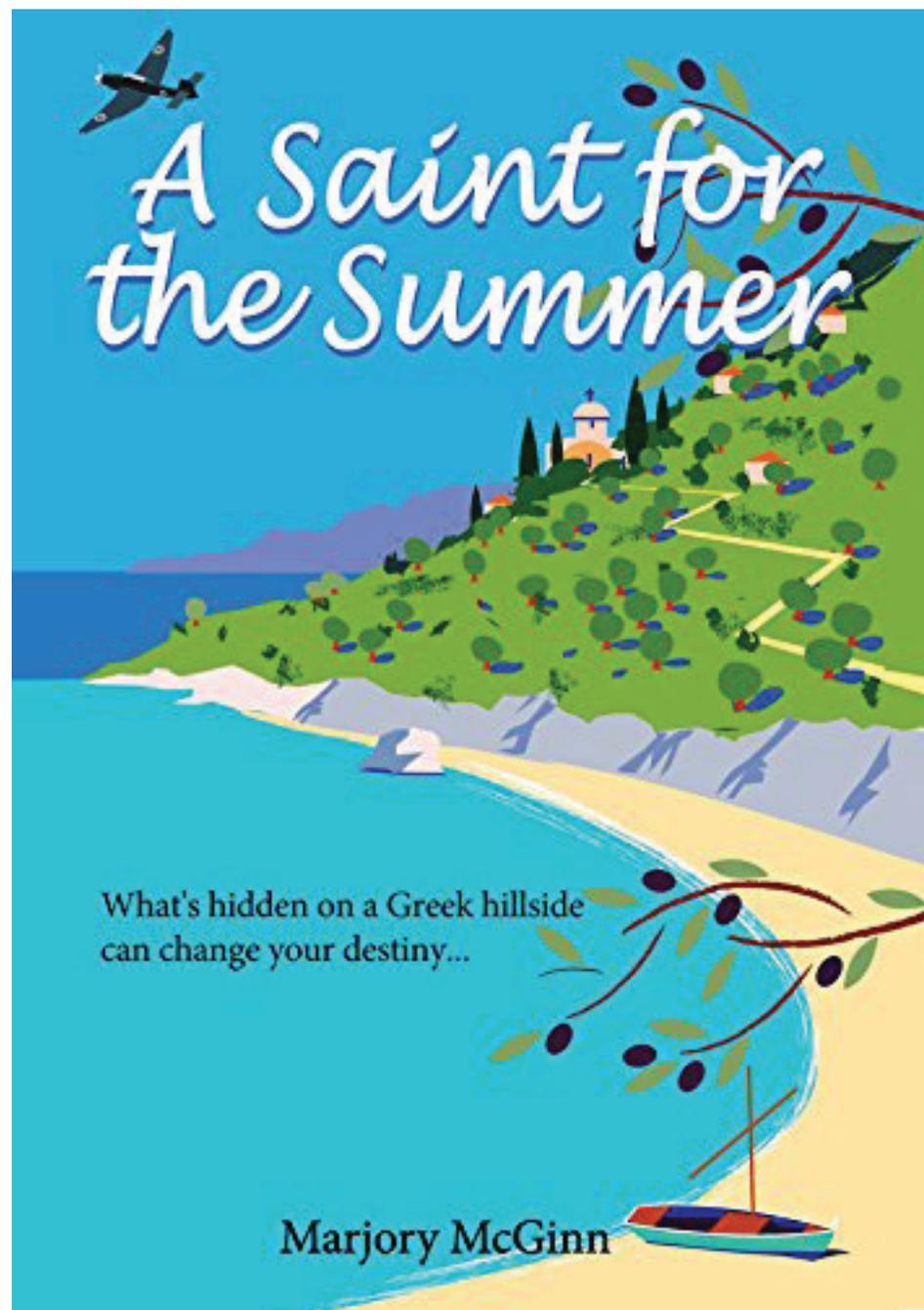
During the four years the couple lived in Greece, the idea for *A Saint for the Summer* began to brew.

“While it’s mainly a contemporary story set in the economic crisis, it has a narrative thread going back to WWII in Greece,” shared Marjory. “It was while I was in the Peloponnese that I first heard about the ill-fated Battle of Kalamata, fought in April 1941, described as the ‘Greek Dunkirk’.”

Marjory said this is not a typical historical novel. “I gave it a main contemporary thread. There is plenty of drama in the tale, but also humor and a strong sense of place, as with my travel memoirs.”

The author conducted extensive research through the years she lived in Greece. And since there was so little written about it, the story really grabbed her attention.

“Part of the reason little has been written about the battle is that, according to some veterans, it was hushed up by the top ranks of the British armed forces. The Greek evacuation operation was considered an organiza-



tional mess. It was ill-conceived and hampered by many factors. Many of the families of missing veterans are still searching for details of their loved ones lost in southern Greece. And many Greek civilians were also killed trying to defend Kalamata, which is a fact often overlooked.”

A Saint for the Summer took about a year to write. For now, Marjory will concentrate on promoting it, however, she’s milling around another story set in southern Greece. Stay tuned!

SUMMER READING

About the book

Brit journalist Bronte McKnight is summoned to Greece, where her estranged father, Angus has lived since deserting the family a decade ago. Angus has heart issues and needs his daughter's assistance. Reluctantly, Bronte goes to Greece, dreading seeing her father, and thinking she'll be back home quickly. After a few difficult days, Angus reveals the true reason he asked Bronte to come: to help him find out what happened to his father, Kieran, a member of the Royal Army Service Corps., who disappeared during the Battle of Kalamata. Angus has been doing some research and has some warm leads. He needs his journalist daughter to put her skills to work to help him find the truth. As Bronte and Angus work through their

No one wants to talk about the Battle of Kalamata. They say it's best to leave it in the past, but Angus is determined to find out what happened to his father.

strained relationship, they interact with a lively cast of characters, including Leonidas, a handsome doctor who is the landlord; a neighbor who lived briefly in Australia; and a woman who may or may not be involved with Angus.

As Bronte settles in and starts to enjoy Greece, they begin their mission, unbeknownst to the villagers. They begin asking questions, but the Maniots have a troubled history they'd rather forget. No one wants to talk about the Battle of Kalamata. They say it's best to leave it in the past, but Angus is determined to find out what happened to his father.

They follow a lead to the nearby mountain village, Platanos. Discouraged by Leonidas, they ask around and people don't want to talk. Ultimately, they discover that two British soldiers were in that village, trying to get to the southern point of the Peloponnese and onto a boat to safety. Could one of them be Kieran? A villager tells them there is someone who may be able to help, but he's older and lives in America. The quest then becomes more complicated as they try to track him down.

Bronte's holiday is quickly running out. Can they discover the truth about Kieran? How will the revelations affect father and daughter, as well as new and old friendships? And if you want to know why "saint" is in the title, you'll have to read to the end.

Review of *A Saint for the Summer*

A Saint for the Summer delves into the history of the little known and little talked about Battle of Kalamata, shining the light on foreigners who came to help Greece and lost their lives in the process. Marjory McGinn is a skillful writer, adeptly creating very relatable characters that feel like your friends; you find yourself cheering them on. As the novel came to a close, I cried more than once. The story will renew your faith in mankind. You are reminded that all relationships can heal, that we're all connected somehow, and we need to keep ourselves open to the possibilities.

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Connect with Marjory McGinn: [blog](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)

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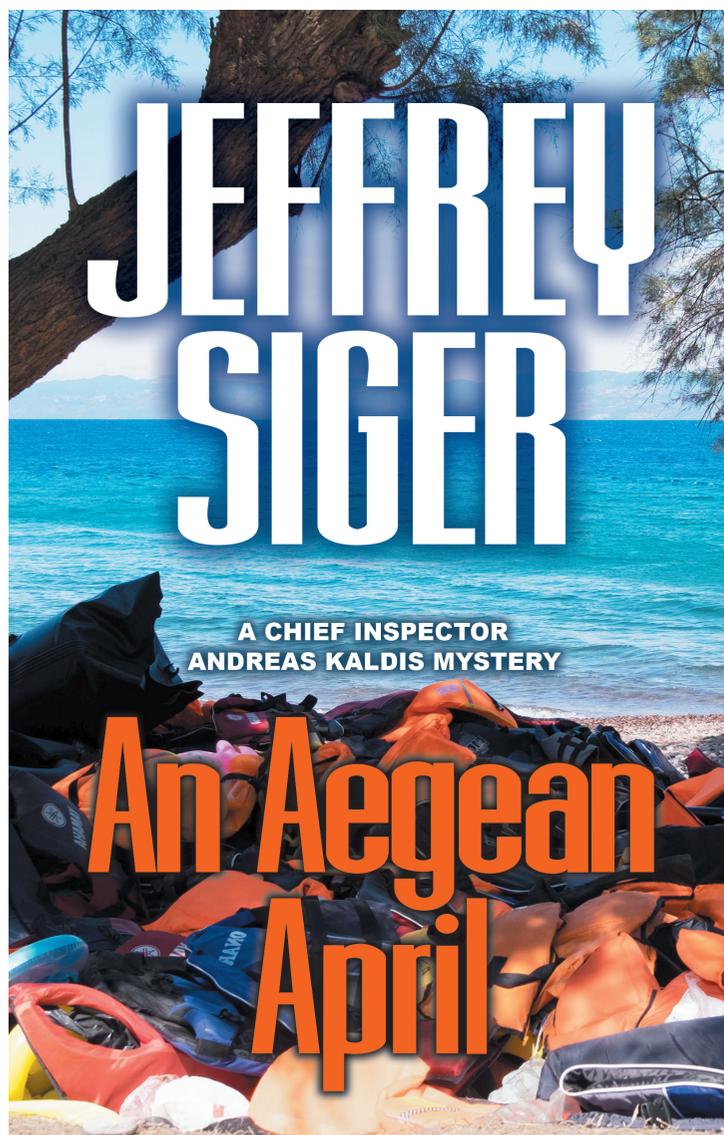
MARIA A. KARAMITSOS is the Founder & Editor of *WindyCity Greek*. She's been a positive voice in Greek media since 2002. For 10 years until it's shutter, she served as the Associate Editor and Senior Writer for *The Greek Star* newspaper. Her work has been published in *GreekCircle* magazine, *The National Herald*, *GreekReporter*, *Harlots Sauce Radio*, *Women.Who.Write*, *Neo Magazine*, *KPTH* magazine, 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*. She's currently working on her first novel.



IMAGE: PIXABAY

SUMMER READING

“Jeffrey Siger gives us another skillfully written thriller, and cements his status as a master of the modern murder mystery...An Aegean April zeroes in on today’s Greece, at the heart of the refugee crisis, and takes no prisoners...This book will make you rethink what you know about the refugee crisis and its accompanying players. Jeff knocks it out of park once again.”—Windy City Greek



“Outstanding crime novel,” Library Journal, starred review

“A winner”—Publishers Weekly

“Brimming with suspense”—Kirkus Reviews

“A fast-paced international series”—Booklist

“I believe this is the first novel to treat this highly important current event in mystery fiction... a most informative and exciting read.”—Deadly Pleasures Mystery Magazine

Published by Poisoned Pen Press

jeffreysiger.com

SUMMER READING

A Dark Thriller Set on an Aegean Island

Review by Maria A. Karamitsos

[Athora: A Mystery Set on the Greek Islands](#)

By: Kostas Krommydas

Publisher: Independently published

Publication Date: February 22, 2018

ISBN-10: 1980358370

ISBN-13: 978-1980358374

Meet Greek Author Kostas Krommydas

If you're watching "[The Durrels in Corfu](#)", you've likely seen Kostas Krommydas. The acclaimed actor of stage and screen plays the police superintendent in the popular miniseries. Born and raised in Trikala, Greece, he began writing seriously about 10 years ago. Kostas is the award-winning author of 7 best-selling novels -- "Six novels, and one for my daughter," he said. At this time, only *Athora* and [Cave of Silence](#) have been published in English. In his spare time, he teaches public speaking, and enjoys guest writing for several Greek newspapers, magazines, and blogs. Kostas lives in Athens.

The author said he is inspired by many things, and *Athora* is "a book about a small island in the center of the Aegean Sea."

For now, he's concentrating on promoting the book, with presentations coming up in Greece, Cyprus, and Germany. Soon he'll begin work on his next novel.

About *Athora*

A gruesome murder takes place in Istanbul, then another in Italy, via the same methods. They appear to be ritual killings, though no one can figure

out the connection. Meanwhile, Fotini, a noted paleontologist, attends a conference on Ikaria, and then returns to her native island of Athora, to visit her parents before she heads to the States to begin a professorship and a new life. When she meets Gabriel, a handsome colleague, things begin to stir in her. She decides that it's finally time to end the unhappy and unful-

filling 10-year relationship with Petros, though he has other ideas. In a twist of fate, Gabriel ends up on the same ferry to Athora. As they get to know each other, their attraction grows, but he reveals that he's engaged and is taking a short side trip before meeting his fiancée on another island. They arrive to discover that the local priest has been murdered in a most gruesome way. They later learn that the methods were the same as the two unsolved murders in Istanbul and Lake Como. But why a priest, and why on peaceful Athora?

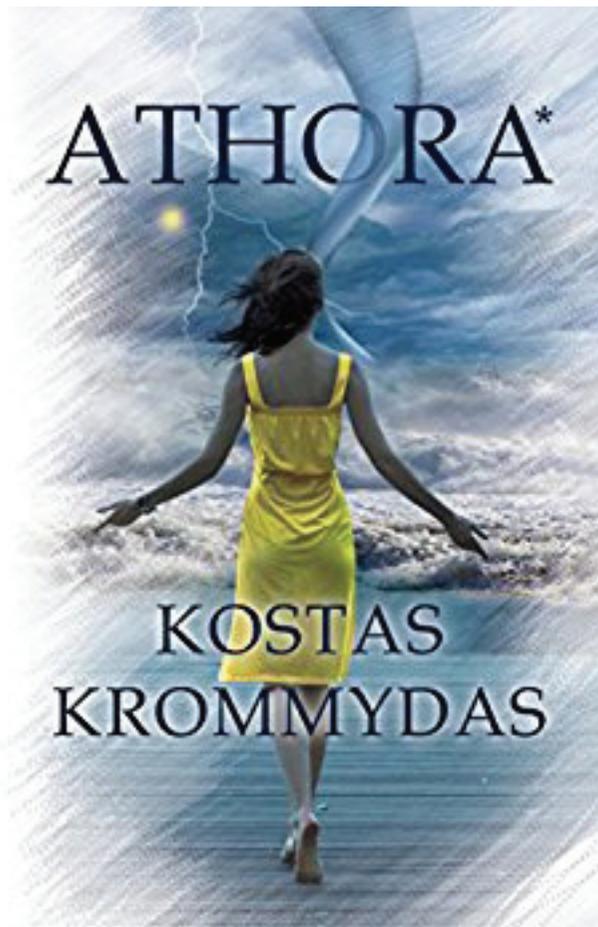
Soon violent storms overtake the island. Massive damage occurs throughout the Aegean. Fotini helps herd residents to an old wartime shelter. Along with Gabriel and several others, she assists the authorities. Then another similar murder occurs. The murderer can't get off the island due to the storm. Will he or she strike again?

In a shroud of mystery, desperate measures and harrowing acts of courage ultimately reveal the killer and the next victim. Who's next? What's the connection?

Review of *Athora*

Athora is a gripping thriller you won't be able to put down. Kostas Krommydas skillfully creates suspense in this international mystery, complete with romance, intrigue, a natural disaster, and a 'whodunit' that'll keep you on the edge of your seat.

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 Connect with Kostas Krommydas: [website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#)
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SUMMER READING

‘Sad’ Villa Brings a Family Together

Review by Maria A. Karamitsos

[Villa Cassiopeia](#)

By: Sally Wragg

Publisher: Blue Forest Publishing

Publication Date: August 8, 2017

ASIN: B073XL11MG

Meet Author Sally Wragg

A “Derbyshire girl born and bred”, Brit author Sally Wragg hails from Belper. She always loved writing but didn’t pursue it until her children got older. “Once they were independent,” she shared, “I completed an English degree at London University. Then I really had time to devote to it.”

Sally began writing novels, all of which she said were “rejected by various publishers” and now “reside in a box in the attic!” She went on to publish several short stories and serials in national magazines. Her serials were later published as novels by independent publisher Robert Hale, and Ulvercroft, a publisher of large print books.

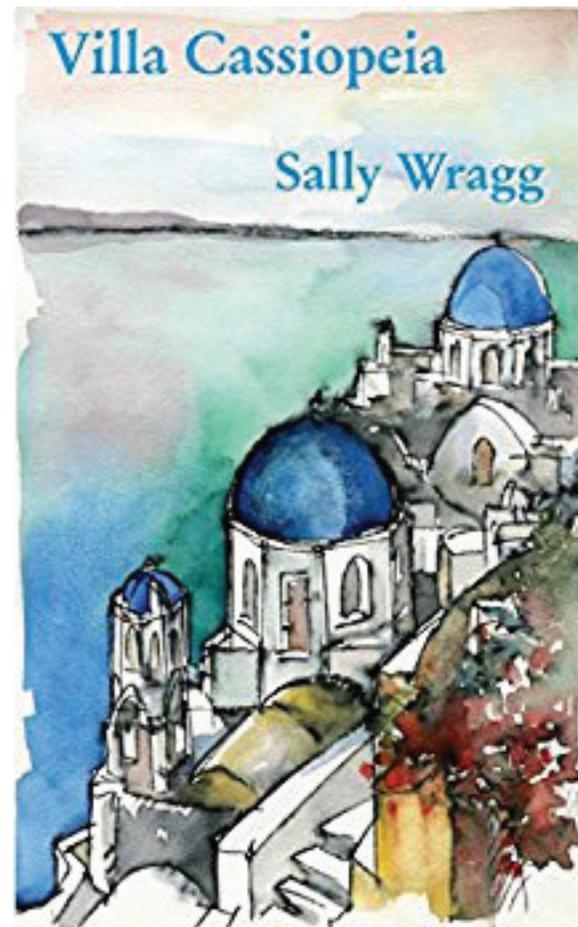
Inspiration for *Villa Cassiopeia*

Set on modern day Paxos, *Villa Cassiopeia* is not like any of Sally’s other writing. It was inspired by her family’s own trips to the island.

“We fell in love with the island and can’t help but return to it, year after year. I think the book came out of that, the beautiful scenery, the warmth of the people, the happiness we feel every time the ferry draws into the port and we step off onto the quay. The island has a timelessness about it which is difficult to define. Cares just seem to drift away, a point I mention in the book and which definitely influenced the creation of Bryony, the central character. The island has a big part to play, and I hope it shows through in the book.”

About the book

Bryony wants to get out dreary England and away from everyday problems. She applies to rent a villa for the summer on the island of Paxos. When she receives word that they’ve been accepted, she surprises her family. Her non-traditional brood – her father, who’s raised her solo, and is convalescing following some health issues; her two teenage children



who she feels like she has lost; their father (her ex-husband) and his lover; and her 8 year-old daughter from a previous relationship -- reluctantly go. A quirky village woman named Agatha arrives at the port with her taxi -- a carriage powered by her temperamental donkey. When Agatha learns where they’re staying, she mutters something about Cassiopeia being a “sad house” but refuses to elaborate. In fact, the locals have the same reaction whenever the family mentions their accommodations. What could have happened there?

Immediately, Bryony feels an instant connection to the villa. She feels like it’s just the right place for her family to reconnect. Her plans for peace and tranquility are shattered when everything begins to go wrong. Jake, her younger daughter’s father, a pro footballer, shows up and his appearance causes a ruckus on the island. The teenagers come out of their respective shells, but one runs away. To further complicate matters, Simon, who is her ex-husband Edward’s partner, plants a kiss on her,

and Jake witnesses it. While trying to settle the chaos, she’s further drawn into the mystery of the house, and she’s determined to learn its history. As things come to a head, her father experiences chest pains, and before they know it the entire family is whisked away to a Corfiot hospital. Will he survive? Will love prevail? And when the villa’s secret is revealed, will it plunge things into further chaos?

Review of *Villa Cassiopeia*

Villa Cassiopeia is a delightful story that pulls you in. If you have kids, you’ll relate to the trials and tribulations of parenting teenagers. Sally Wragg has astutely created a modern-day family, who though facing modern issues, need an old-fashioned respite on an idyllic island to find the answers even they didn’t know they were seeking. We all know Greece can change your life, and for this family, it’s just what the doctor ordered. The villa’s history will intrigue you as well. Take a trip to Paxos, with *Villa Cassiopeia*.

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Connect with Sally Wragg: [Facebook](#)

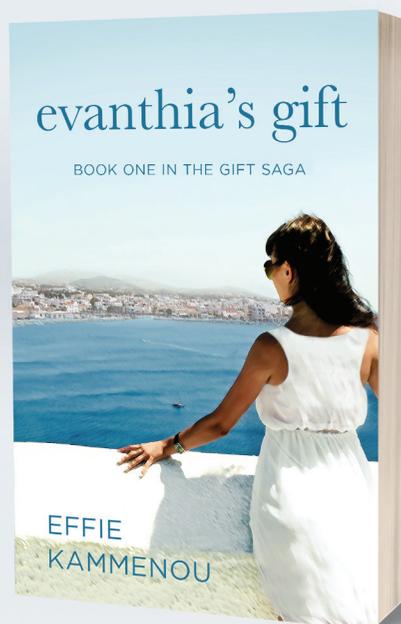
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SUMMER READING

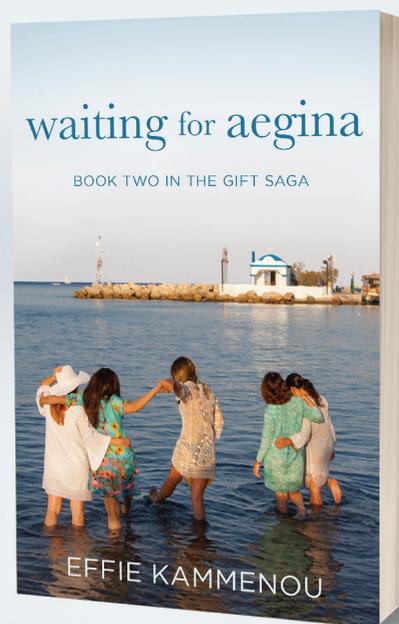
EFFIE KAMMENOU

The Gift Saga

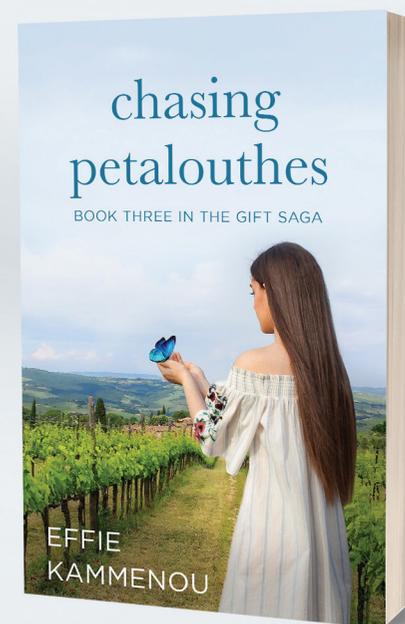
Available on Amazon in print, Kindle and Audible



Book One in the Gift Saga
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1990's. Two generations of
passionate women
overcome life's struggles
to chase their dreams.



Evanthia's Gift continues...
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sorrows the bond between
Sophia and her lifelong
friends cannot be broken
as they stand together to
overcome life-altering
obstacles while trying to
regain the lighthearted
optimism of their youth.



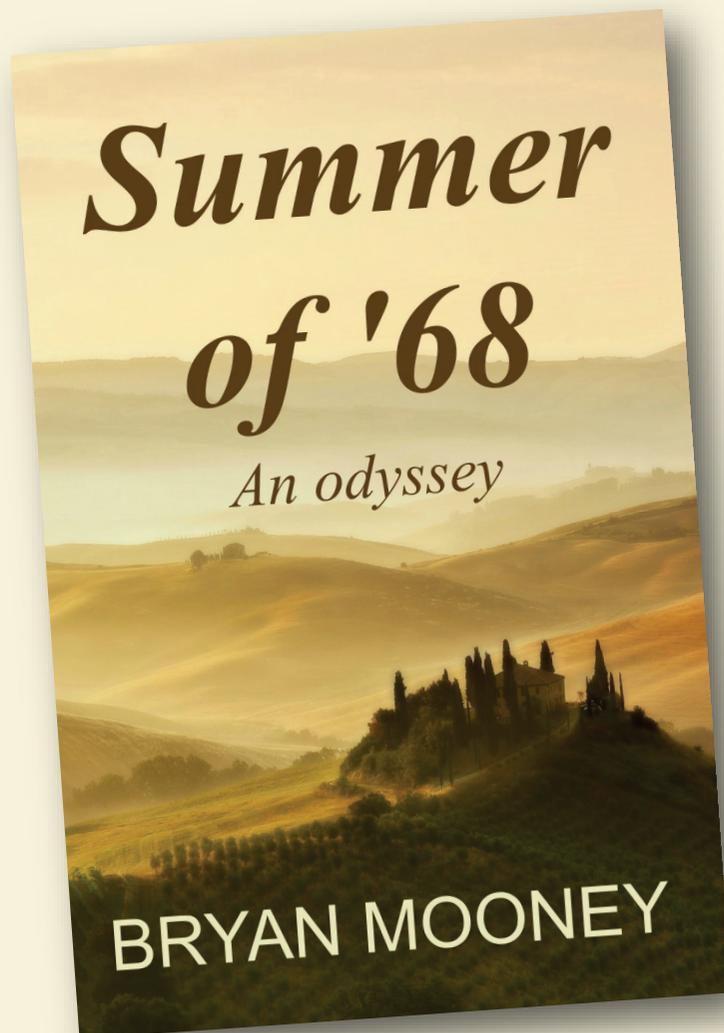
The Gift Saga concludes
with the next generation
coming into the forefront of
the story during their
tumultuous years between
adolescence and adulthood.

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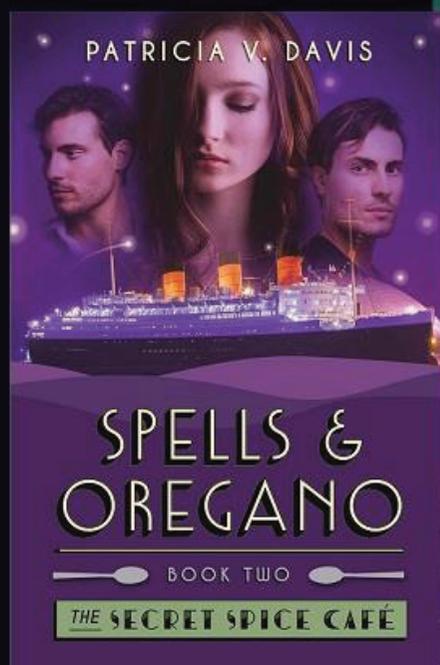
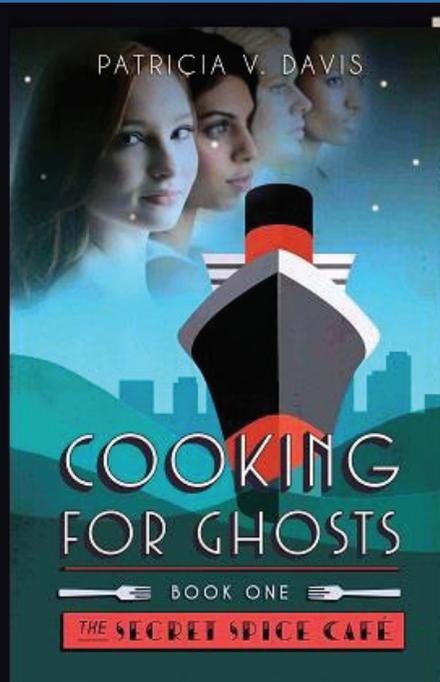
“I went to Greece,
I met a girl,
I fell in love...
I wrote a book.”

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Find more books by Bryan Mooney

SUMMER READING

All Aboard!

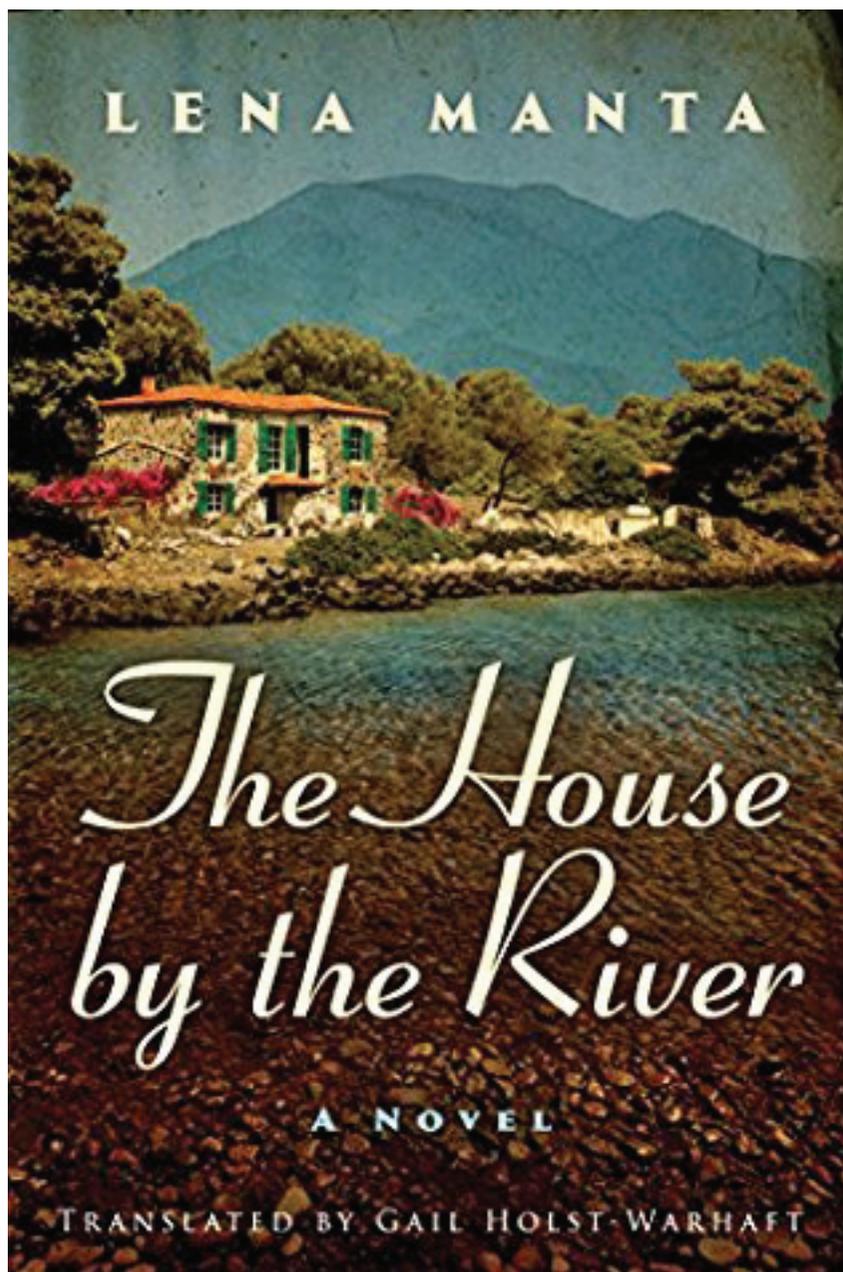


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SUMMER READING

You Can Go Home



Review by Maria A. Karamitsos

[The House by the River](#)

By: Lena Manta, translated by Gail Holst-Warhaft

Publisher: AmazonCrossing

Publication Date: November 1, 2017

ISBN-10: 1542045894

ISBN-13: 978-1542045896

ASIN: B01N7VKP78

Meet Greek Author Lena Manta

Lena Manta was born in Istanbul, Turkey, to Greek parents, but moved to Greece at a very young age. She began writing as a child but didn't publish her first book until 2001. Although she studied to be a nursery school teacher, Lena went on to direct her own puppet theater before working in the media. She wrote articles for local newspapers and worked as a director for a local radio station. Proclaimed Author of the Year in both 2009 and 2011 by *Greek Life & Style* magazine, she's written 13 books, all published by Psychogios Publications. *The House by the River* is the first of her books to be translated into English. It has sold more than 250,000 copies to date. Lena is known as the "most established and best-selling author of commercial fiction in Greece". She lives with her husband and two children on the outskirts of Athens.

Meet Translator Gail Holst-Warhaft

Gail Holst-Warhaft was born in Australia and fell in love with Greece on her first trip there in the 1960s. The award-winning poet and translator has worked as a journalist, broadcaster, prose writer, academic, and musician. While researching her first book, [Road to Rembetika](#), in the 1970's, Gail played in the orchestra of legendary composers Mikis Theodorakis and Dionysis Savvopoulos. The book was later made into a documentary film, 'Rebetika: The Blues of Greece', narrated by Anthony Quinn. Among her other publications are [Dangerous Voices: Women's Laments and Greek Literature](#); [Theodorakis: Myth and Politics in Modern Greek Music](#); [I Had Three Lives: Selected Poems of Mikis Theodorakis](#); and [The Fall of Athens](#), a collection of poetry, essays, and stories about Greece. Gail's poems and translations have appeared in journals in the U.S., the United Kingdom, and Australia. Her [The Collected Poems of Nikos Kavadias](#) translations won the Van der Bovenkamp award from Columbia University's Translation Center. Gail also won the Poetry Greece Award in 2001, for her poem, "Three Landscapes". Gail and her husband have two children.

About *The House by the River*

In a small village at the foot of Mount Olympus decades before WWII, Gerasimos falls in love with the much younger Theodora, and they elope, much to everyone's dismay. The couple, very much in love, build a family. They welcome 5 daughters, though Theodora feels bad she hasn't given her husband a son. Finally, she gives birth to a boy with a heart defect. He dies two days later. Theodora saves her tears for when she's alone and focuses her energy on raising her daughters. Soon, she decides that the girls should go to school and be educated, so they won't be "stunted" like her. This opens the world to them, and the girls become determined to leave their house by the river, as soon as they are old enough.

SUMMER READING



IMAGE: PIXABAY

After surviving WWII and the Nazi occupation, the girls come of age. They find their own excuses to leave and set out on their own adventures. Theodora doesn't hear from her daughters and does her best to carry on without them. She always told them that no matter what happened in their lives, the house by the river would always be home, always be a grounding place.

Now independent and strong-willed women, they have loved and lost, traveled the world, and go from what seem like the perfect lives to tragedy. They realize that they need to reconnect with their family, and that the house by the river is calling them home. It's been 20 years since they left the village. Can they go home?

Review of *The House by the River*

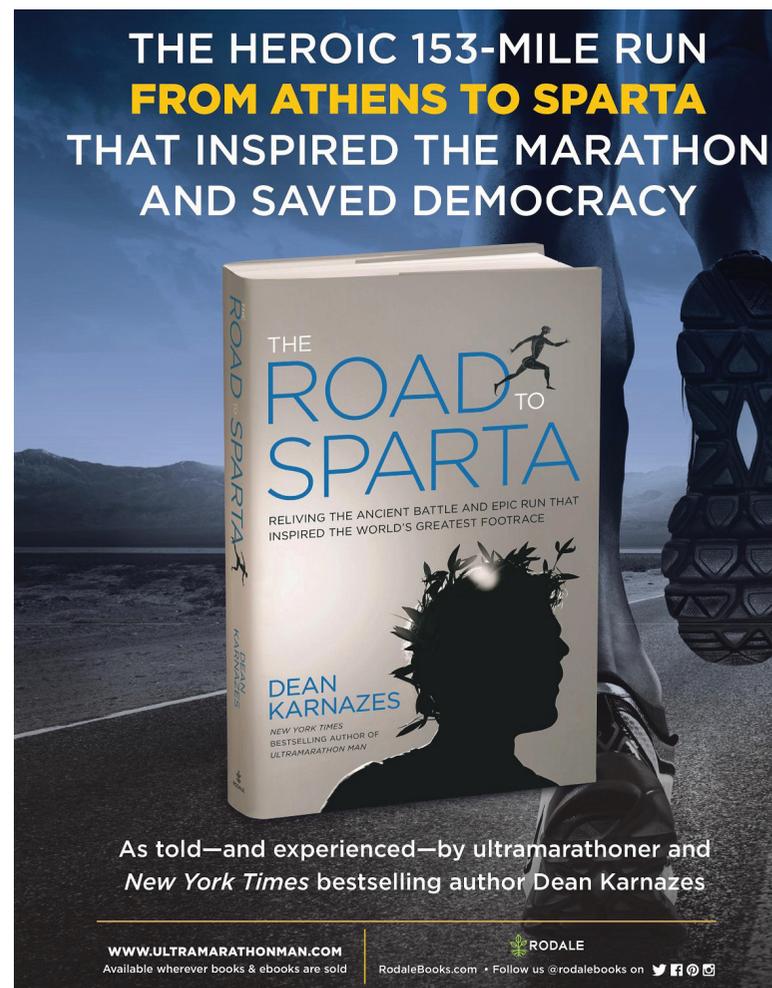
Lena Manta is masterful storyteller. *The House by the River* is an emotionally charged and thought-provoking tale with relatable characters that are strong yet vulnerable. Gail Holst-Warhaft's exceptional translation will bring Lena Manta's work to new audiences. This book is 544 pages, but you won't be able to put it down. You'll follow each girl as she takes on the world. We all chase a dream and long for the charge of the latest adventure, but things always change. Ultimately, it's home and family that center us, keep us grounded. We should never forget where we come from, because our family, our upbringing, our surroundings, influence us more than we realize. In *The House by the River*, we see that the family connection can never be truly severed, and that even after being away for decades, you can go home.

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Connect with Lena Manta: [blog](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#)

Connect with Gail Holst-Warhaft: [website](#)

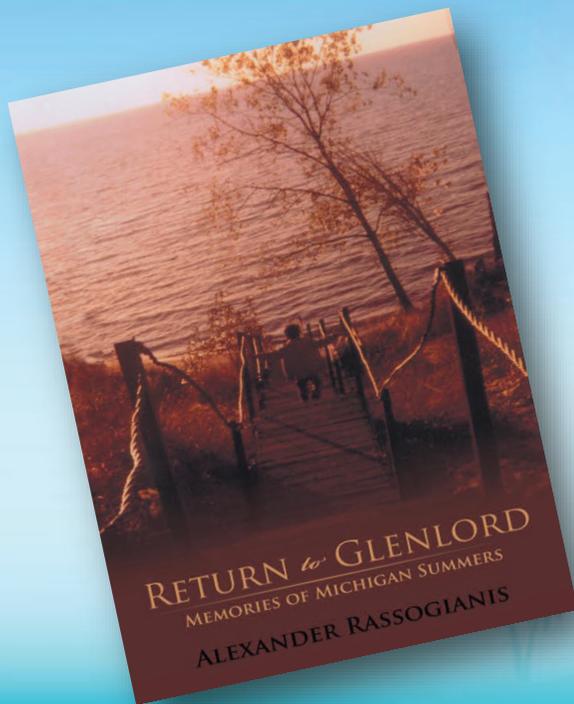
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SUMMER READING

Pull up a lounge chair and enjoy a book by

Alexander Rassogianis



MEMOIR

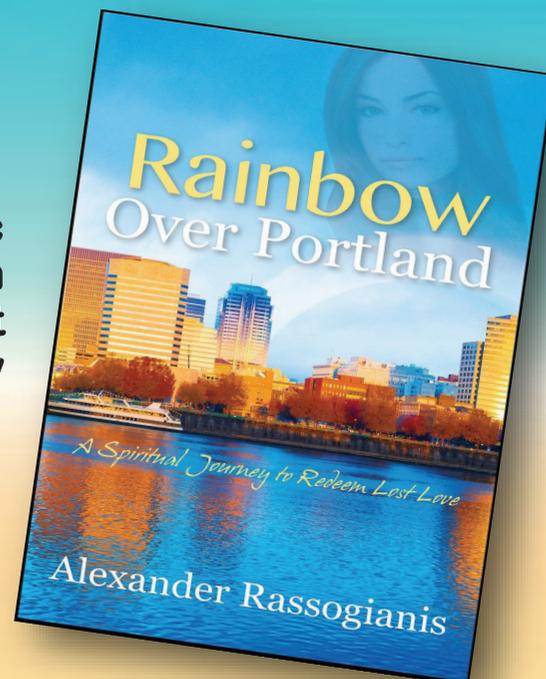
Spending childhood summers with his family in southwestern Michigan during the 1950's brought the greatest joy and the fondest memories. *Return to Glenlord* looks back on the era of old-fashioned resorts, quaint little cottages, sandy beaches, long walks on country roads, and the permeating scent of pine. It was a time of carefree days and memories that can never be replaced.

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

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.”



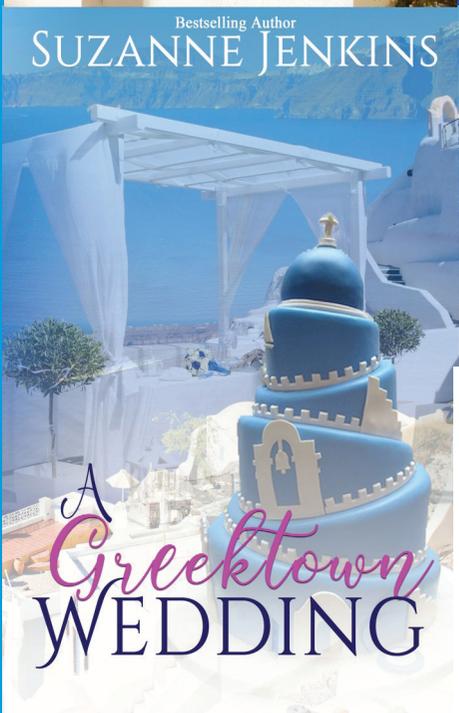
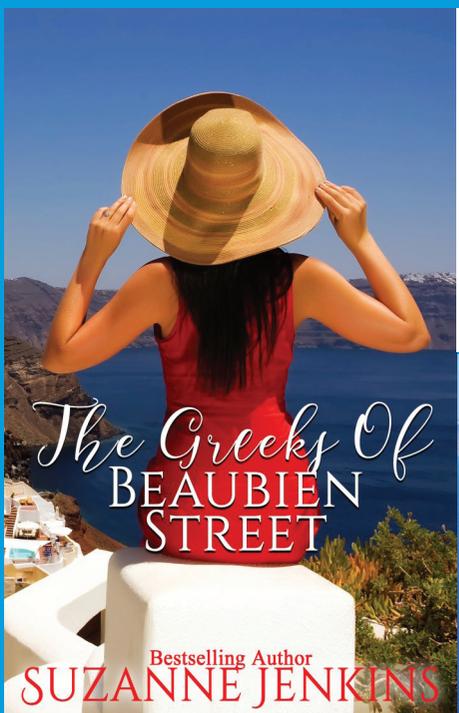
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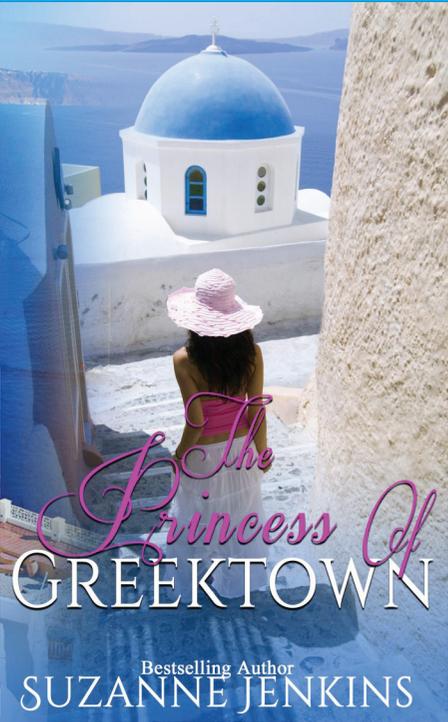
SUMMER READING

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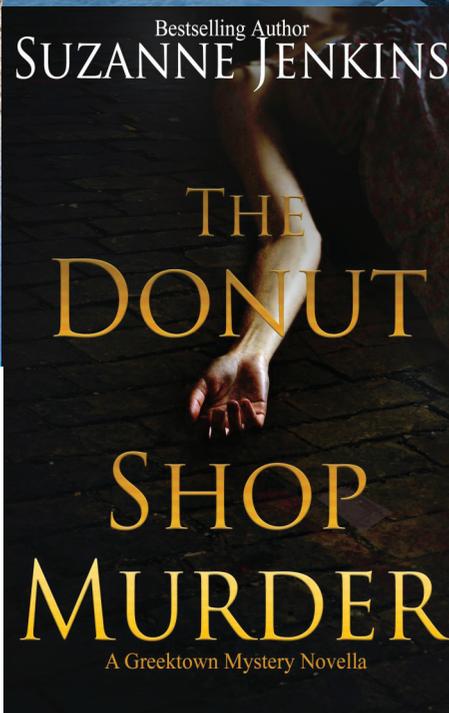
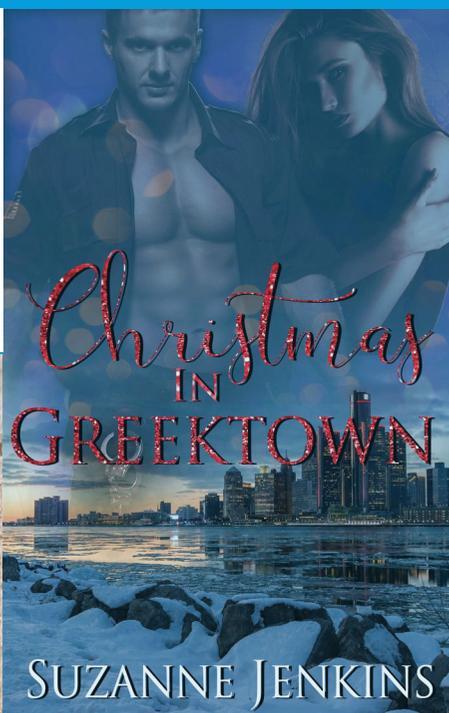
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SUMMER READING

Escape to the Greek Islands, One Season at a Time

Review by Maria A. Karamitsos

[Escape to the Islands: The Four Seasons Greek Island Collection](#)

By Holly Greene

Publication Date: February 28, 2017

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

ASIN: B01N4GD3OF

Meet Author Holly Greene

Irish Author Holly Greene began writing 15 years ago, and “hasn’t stopped since.” She loves “escapist” reads and that inspired her to begin writing her own escapist adventures. Holly began with [Escape to Italy](#) in 2015, and then [Escape to the Caribbean](#). She’s also written [Christmas in New York](#) and [A Weekend in Paris](#).

Holly fell in love with Greece during her first-ever holiday in Crete, 22 years ago. Since then she’s been a regular visitor to the islands.

“I adore the Greek islands and have visited many times,” Holly revealed. “It’s such a wonderfully escapist and relaxing place, and I adore the Greek people - I knew it would be a perfect follow-on to my Italian series.”

She said that *The Greek Island* series took about six months to write. “I wrote Spring and Summer just before the summer and then Autumn & Winter during the summer months.”

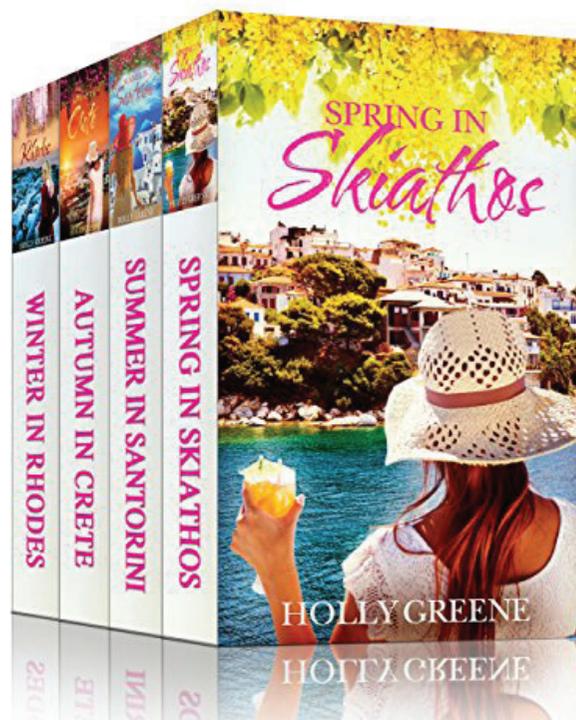
The author, who lives in Dublin, is planning another ‘Escape’ series for next year, this time in the French Riviera.

The Greek Island series

There are four books in the series, each set on a different island in a different season. Keep reading to learn about the books in this collection.

Spring in Skiathos

Joanna works for a New York-based publishing company and is in a “safe” relationship. He wants her to move in, but she’s not sure. He can’t even say, “I love you.” While she’s trying to determine what to do, she receives a call from a Greek lawyer – the father that she never knew has died and left her an inheritance. There’s one catch: she must go to Skiathos to learn



more and claim it. Joanna grew up with only her mom, who never told her anything about her paternity. All she knew was that her mother said she “made a mistake”. Was Joanna the mistake or something else?

Frustrated with her romantic situation, Joanna heads to Skiathos. The attorney turns out to be a handsome young man, to whom her father was a mentor. There she learns all about her father, his influence on the islanders, and what her inheritance is. As she falls in love with the island, and the islanders fall in love with her, she learns all about how she came to be, and the truth about her parents. The island works its magic, and Joanna has much to decide. Will these revelations change her life forever?

Summer in Santorini

Olivia’s fiancé has run off with her best friend, and she becomes more depressed and reclusive by the day. Finally, her beloved Aunt Carole steps in, and sends Olivia to stay at her timeshare in Santorini, which is available for two weeks. Aunt Carole is sure that the island is just what her niece needs to recover from this loss and get a new lease on life.

The beautiful Santorini welcomes her, and she begins to relax and settle in. A couple of days later, she’s shocked to find a man in her cottage. American author Ben has been sent there by his agent to cure his writer’s block. Turns out there was a computer issue at the management company, which showed the cottage as available, even after Aunt Carole booked it for Olivia. The company offers complementary meals at local restaurants and more, if the two are willing to share the two-bedroom villa for the next ten days. They agree.

Santorini turns out to be what both were hoping for and more. Will it write a new ending for these two?

Autumn in Crete

Ellie lands a sought-after marketing job with Greek-American Celebrity Chef Zach Rose, who’s ego rivals the size of his media empire. On Ellie’s first day, the boss sends her to Crete to spy on a Hersonissos hotspot. The

SUMMER READING

mogul wants to put them out of business, so he can open his own place and gain the admiration of his fellow Greeks.

On the plane, Ellie meets Chris, who happens to be the son of the restaurant's owners. She's attracted to him, and becomes conflicted, as she's there to do a job. She gets to know Chris and starts falling for him. When her secret is revealed, he throws her out in disgust. But things have changed – Ellie cares for him and wants to help save his parents' restaurant. She devises a brilliant plan, but will it work? Will Chris forgive her?

Winter in Rhodes

Sara is planning to marry Robert, a successful businessman, in the New Year. Her friends want to throw her a bachelorette party, but she doesn't want the typical, trashy party. It's winter, but she decides she'd like to take her friends to Robert's posh villa on the island of Rhodes. Her friends agree to go, each with their own idea of what the trip should be. One friend even thinks Robert is too good to be true and is determined to find out.

As Sara gives up her own plan and settles in to doing what the group wants to do, she's faced with revelations that make her question her future with Robert. Is he her real-life Prince Charming or is this just a fairy tale? Can she hold on long enough to not ruin her girls' trip?

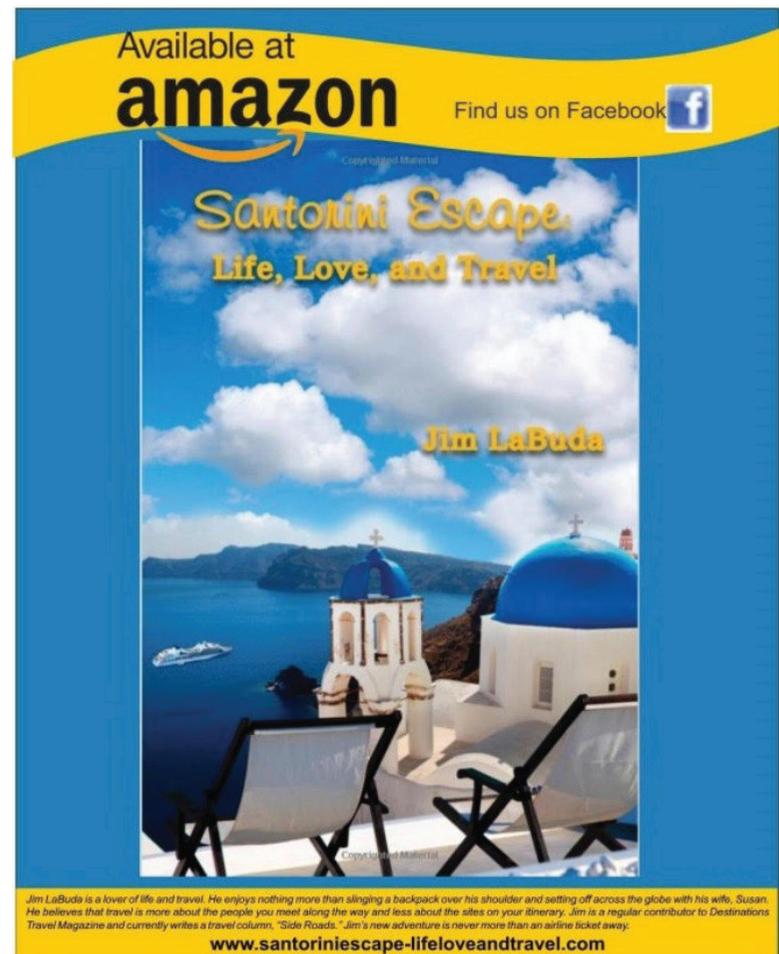


IMAGE: PIXABAY

REVIEW of *Escape to the Islands: The Four Seasons Greek Island Collection*

We all know that Greece casts a spell, and each of the islands has its own magic. In her *'Escape to Greece collection'*, Holly Greene adeptly captures that magic and creates characters you'll fall in love with – and find yourself rooting for. The books are each available separately, but you'll want to read all of them. At just over 100 pages each, they're quick reads, perfect for a day at the beach. You could easily read the entire collection in an afternoon. These stories will transport you to the Greek islands, and have you planning your own escape.

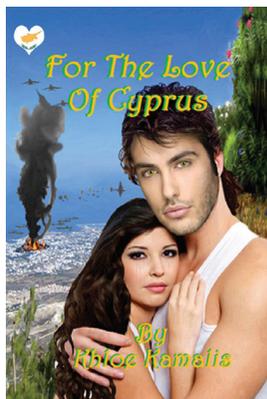
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Old favorites ...

Here are some old faves that make for great summer reads.

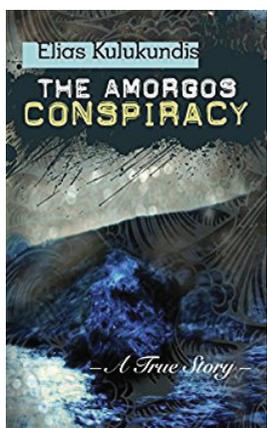


[For the Love of Cyprus: A Tale of Love, War, and Honor](#)

By: Khloe Kamalis
 Publisher: Magnolia Hall Press, LLC
 Publication Date: February 20, 2011
 ASIN: B004OR1GNK

A young and very talented Cypriot Greek-American author and accomplished musician, Khloe's love for her ancestral home of Cyprus shines through in this e-book.

The author crafts an epic tale of love, loss and intrigue, woven into the beauty and historical turmoil of the island nation of Cyprus. This book has great movie potential. The story is intense; it's so real--you are right there with Zoe. It's a story you hate to put down, and one you can't wait to get back to. As I read, I cried, I cheered, and I cried and cheered again. At one point, as the story took an unexpected turn, I shouted a very loud, «NO!» You'll fall in love with Zoe and Michael as they fall in love. Don't be surprised if you find yourself planning a trip to this amazing island. You--yes you--will end up falling in love with Cyprus.



[The Amorgos Conspiracy: A True Story](#)

By: Elias Kulukundis
 Publisher: BookBaby
 Publication Date: June 17, 2015
 ASIN: B00ZYVW486

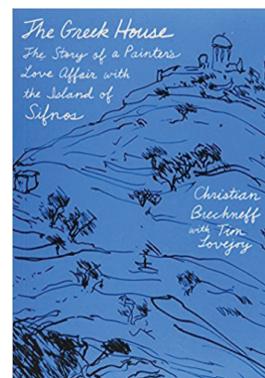
The Junta Years, also known as the Regime of the Colonels, is a dark era in Modern Greek history. Greek American Elias Kulukundis, author, and member of the famous shipping family, became part of that history. Riding on a young man's belief of being invincible, and wanting to wrong a right,

in 1969, he set forth an ambitious, courageous -- and very risky -- plan to rescue an exiled Greek government minister, who just happened to be his father-in-law.

A gifted storyteller, Elias doesn't disappoint. As the plan unfurls and the rescue mission is set in motion, you'll be on the edge of your seat. He offers a suspenseful, intriguing thriller -- and a true story -- of a young man's dangerous fight for what's right, in a period of great mystery, fear and loss of hope.

We also get a glimpse into this little-known and rarely-spoken-about time, and insight into the evolution of today's Greek politician. Lovers of history, as well as thrillers, will enjoy this book.

<http://eliaskulukundis.com/>



[The Greek House: The Story of a Painter's Love Affair with the Island of Sifnos](#)

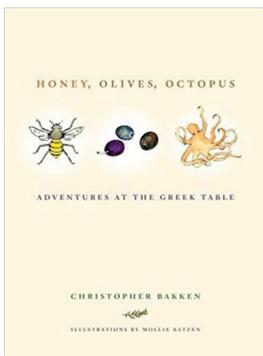
By: Christian Brechneff with Tim Lovejoy
 Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux;
 Reprint edition
 Publication date: January 20, 2015
 ISBN-10: 0374535264
 ISBN-13: 978-0374535261

In his memoir, internationally recognized painter Christian Brechneff takes us on an excursion to a Greek island, telling an engaging story about a young man's journey of not only self-discovery, but artistic development, and more. It's a very personal story, from the early 1970s to present. For those of us unable to get to Greece right now, the book is a virtual voyage to an idyllic island, if not an idyllic time—before computers and cell phones, before the Euro, before tourists -- when Sifnos was, for most, just another far-off island.

We explore the island with Christian; we acclimate to the island with him. We grow as he grows. His descriptions are so vivid, we're right there, at the *panegyria* (festivals), weddings, interacting with the locals, sitting on his "rock" contemplating life, and of course, falling in and out of love. He remembers the villagers fondly, and in them, we see people that we know. He connects with the island and finds his own "safe haven." But is it real or is this a fairy tale life? A hideaway or a refuge from the world—and himself?

<http://christianbrechneff.com/>

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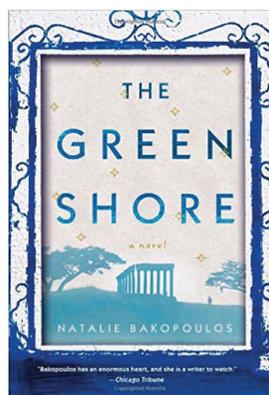
[Honey, Olives, Octopus: Adventures at the Greek Table](#)

By: Christopher Bakken
 Publisher: University of California Press; 1 edition
 Publication Date: February 11, 2013
 ISBN-10: 0520275098
 ISBN-13: 978-0520275096
 ASIN: B00B9S66HS

Originally from Wisconsin and of Norwegian and Swiss descent, Christopher shares his passion for Greek food, Greek people, and the -- in some cases -- dying art of producing some of Greece's culinary treasures. The author lived in Greece for two years in the 1990s, while teaching at Anatolia College. During this time, he fell in love with Greece and its people, and upon returning to the States, he sought a way to keep going back there, he says, so he could eat.

Follow this self-described "Hellenized Barbarian," traveling through Thasos, Crete, Naxos, Serifos, Kythira, and even climbing Mount Olympus, as he seeks to experience the joys of Greek food -- through the people, the methods, the history, and sharing conversation at the Greek table. His words are very poetic and create vivid images for the reader to not only enjoy accompanying him on his adventures, but also to feel his genuine love for Amazing Greece. What a cool adventure. I'd like to do that someday!

www.christopherbakken.com



[The Green Shore](#)

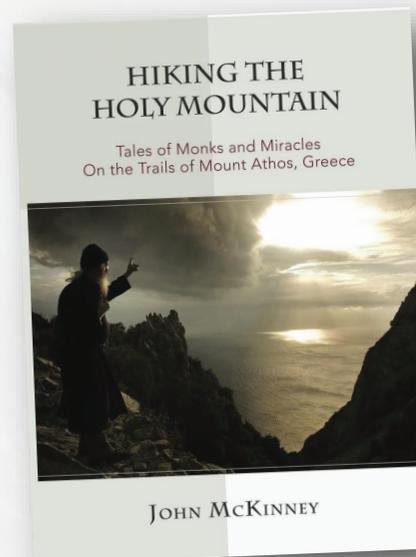
By: Natalie Bakopoulos
 Publisher: Simon & Schuster; Reprint edition
 Publication date: June 18, 2013
 ISBN-10: 1451633947
 ISBN-13: 978-1451633948

The story, which unfolds on the night of the 1967 *coup d'etat* in Greece, follows a family through their experiences during the Junta years.

Natalie skillfully crafted her characters. You become invested in them. You care about them, you worry about them; you cheer them on. It's one of those books you don't want to end -- you want to know what happens next. The story shows us the human side of weighing the quandary of conformity with the risks of fighting for freedom. Seeing these characters continue on with their lives seems at once paradoxical -- but it's a tribute to people who try to find normalcy in the most difficult and trying of circumstances; people did have to continue living during this time, even through the many challenges. The recurring themes resonate today, especially with the current crisis in Greece.

www.nataliebakopoulos.com

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



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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.

A bittersweet love story that takes place during the Nazi occupation of Greece.

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Karen
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WindyCity Greek Staff Recommends...

IMAGE: PIXABAY

Looking for more books? Check out these recommendations from some of our staff. All books available at Amazon.

Diane Adam, Contributor Writer & Special Edition Layout Designer

[*Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes*](#) by Edith Hamilton

[*Goddess Girls Series*](#) by Joan Holub

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

Maria A. Karamitsos, Founder & Editor

[*North of Ithaka*](#) by Eleni Gage

[*An Aegean April*](#) by Jeffrey Siger

[*Harlot's Sauce: A Memoir of Food, Family, Love, Loss, and Greece*](#)

by Patricia V. Davis

[*For the Love of Cyprus*](#) by Khloe Kamalis

Peter Karamitsos, Book Reviewer

[*Miracles*](#) and [*Martin Luther*](#) both by Eric Metaxas

[*The Durrells of Corfu*](#) by Michael Haag

Chryssoula Katsarou, Contributing Writer

[*Greeks Bearing Gifts*](#) by Philip Kerr

[*My Family and Other Animals*](#) by Gerald Durrell

[*The Quest*](#) by Nikos Themelis

[*The Secret Sister*](#) by Photeini Tsalikoglou

[*Μπαρόκ \(Baroque\)*](#) by Amanda Michalopoulou

Apollo Papafrangou, Contributing Writer

[*The Marriage Plot*](#) by Jeffrey Eugenides

[*The Big Blowdown*](#) by George Pelecanos

[*The Magus*](#) by John Fowles

Katerina Sirouni, Contributing Writer & Greek Property Expert

[*Achilles' Fiancée*](#) by Alki Zei

[*Eurydice Street*](#) by Sofka Sinovieff

[*Drifting Cities*](#) by Stratis Tsirkas

[*Girl Gone Greek*](#) by Rebecca A. Hall

[*Greek Expectations: The Last Moussaka Standing*](#) by Ekaterina Botziou

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['Lament from Epirus' by Christopher C. King](#)

['Martin Luther: The Man Who Rediscovered God and Changed the World' by Eric Metaxas](#)

[The Liberty Club by Marianne Aleck](#)

['Remember for Me' by Diana Tarant Schmidt](#)

['From Pyrrhus to Cyprus' by Billy Cotsis](#)

['An Aegean April' by Jeffrey Siger](#)

['Citizen Cardenas' by Steve Cole](#)

['Guerrillas of Crete' by Colin Janes](#)

['Hiking the Holy Mountain' by John McKinney](#)

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

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[Nicholas Gage \[Q&A\]](#)

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[Greek Kid's Reading Guide 2017](#)

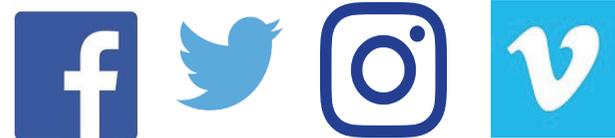
[Summer Reading Guide 2016](#)



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