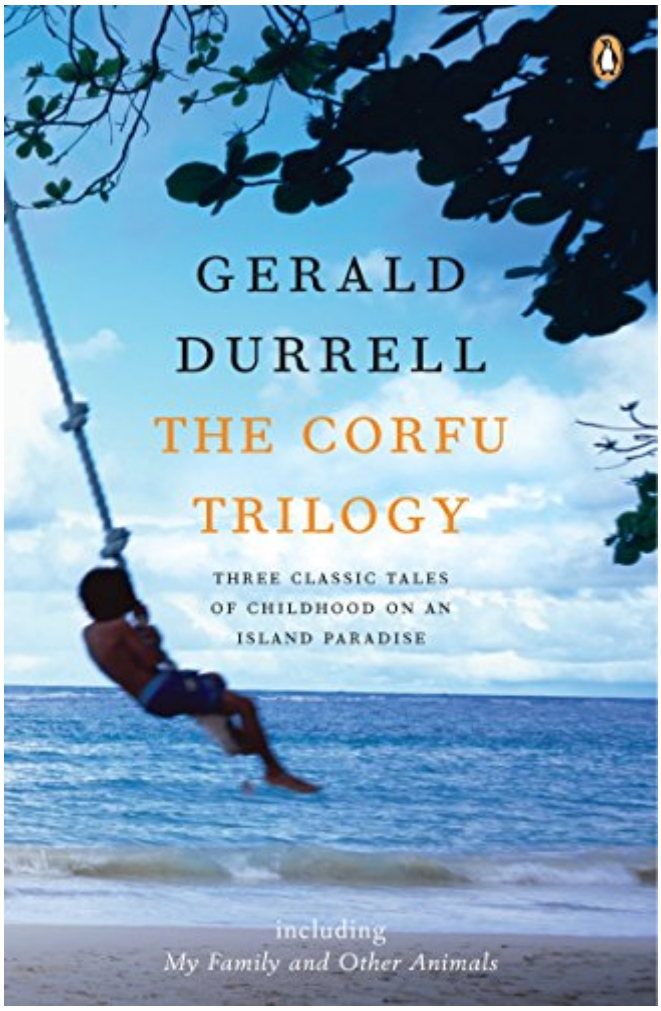
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The Corfu Trilogy



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Synopsis

The trilogy that inspired ITV’s six part television series The Durrells.Three classic tales of childhood on an island paradise - My Family and Other Animals, Birds, Beasts and Relatives and The Garden of the Gods by Gerald Durrell - are available in a single edition for the first time in The Corfu Trilogy.Just before the Second World War the Durrell family decamped to the glorious, sun-soaked island of Corfu where the youngest of the four children, ten-year-old Gerald, discovered his passion for animals: toads and tortoises, bats and butterflies, scorpions and octopuses. Through glorious silver-green olive groves and across brilliant-white beaches Gerry pursued his obsession . . . causing hilarity and mayhem in his ever-tolerant family.Durrell’s memories of those enchanted days gave rise to these three classic tales, loved by generations of adults and children alike, which are now available in one volume for the first time.’He has an uncanny knack of discovering human as well as animal eccentrics’ Sunday Telegraph’A delightful book full of simple, well-known things: cicadas in the olive groves, lamp fishing at night, the complexities of fish and animals - but, above all, childhood moulded by these things’ New York Times

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Customer Reviews

All in all, this trilogy is a pretty collection of must read books. However, I regret reading it in a stride.I heard about 'My family and other animals' a few times before, but finaly took it to read upon an acquaintance' recommendation. I took a trilogy because it paid off (t was a good one book price for three) and I like having books of a collection neatly sticking together.It is also a good edition - I haven't got a complaint about it.About the content.As said, 'My family and other animals' is a must-read. The author poured his soul on the pages, his enthusiasm is tangible and contagious. There's also a faint child-like feel to the first book, to the stories about first encounters with earthly creatures and the family's reactions to young Gerald's growing "managerie".The stories are hillarious, made me want to learn more about some of the animals (I knew only a few of them, like dogs and a donkey, but I had to search the web for geckos, spiders and various beetles).The three books in the Corfu Trilogy were not written consequently, and it shows. While the language improved visibly, the style changed as well. Not necessarily in a bad sense (some of the best, the most funny stories are in the third book), but it's visible. The style difference is what prevented me from giving the Trilogy five stars.What bothered me personally was reading the same chronology three times repeated. The stories are different each time, but to me it was a little boring knowing Gerry was through growing up once or twice already. So, I recommend reading the Trilogy in three chunks, with at least a few months in-between. Start with 'My family and other animals'.

Became interested after watching the TV series on PBS. The series caught the characters just right, although the specific episodes depicted were different from those in the book. I knew of Lawrence Durrell, of course, because of the Alexandra Quartet, but this was my first acquaintance with Gerald. My rating really should be read as 4.5. The family anecdotes were priceless, but the overly detailed descriptions of the island's wildlife left me less enthused. On the other hand, I had a chance to visit Corfu a few years ago, and the book brought back some wonderful memories of the landscape and the people.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading about the Durrell family and their adventures on Corfu. It was fascinating to discover along with Gerry, the whole world of insects,reptiles,birds etc and to laugh at his family's reactions to each additional animal that he added to the family house. Fun reading.

I love these books, but packing them all in one volume produces a ponderous, intimidating book. It is three inches thick and is paperback sized. Very hard to hold and read.

I've previously owned/read most of Gerald Durrell's books in the past and loved them, but after multiple moves had to part with them. After buying a Kindle I decided that it was time to buy 'My Family and Other Animals' again, and was very pleased to find the trilogy combining his three Corfu books.I love Durrell's style; beautifully descriptive, a nice mix of nature and family eccentricities and many genuinely laugh-out-loud anecdotes. While maybe not an entirely accurate or truthful version of events (as other accounts of his life differ somewhat) it gives a wonderful warm description of the idillic life of an animal-mad teenage boy growing up on the Greek island of Corfu prior to the second World War. I would strongly recommend this book for any age.

I'm nearly through all three books, and have thoroughly enjoyed the trilogy! They are great as a set, but also stand alone. The family is at once dysfunctional but at the same time like so many of our families. Each character has a distinct personality and voice that comes across clearly. It's as though you are right there with them. The writing is delicious, especially the descriptions of the landscapes and the island. It makes me want to go there! Normally a fast reader, I found myself enveloping myself in the words and rereading a passage to get the full effect. And Gerry! He reminds me so much of myself, both as a young child fascinated by all lifeforms, and as an adult who still love bugs and critters! I have enjoyed revisiting animals/bugs/reptiles that I know about, as well learning about unfamiliar creatures. (If you're not into wildlife you may find parts of this book at worst uninteresting.) There are many humorous anecdotes about the family and their encounters with both each other and various people who make appearances throughout. They are obviously very well off (with no explanation as to how), but it isn't off putting. I highly recommend these books--very entertaining!

Who knew slow worms existed, much less that they were hilarious when stored in the family bathtub? Durrell's books are fall off the chair laughing kind of funny, my favorite antidepressant. Durrell shows the deep mutual affection of his family as well as skewering the pompous. It is a tricky combination but Durrell pulls it off every time.

Three incredible novels by Gerry Durrell...his long suffering, often frustrated family must endure his ever changing, always challenging menagerie. A romp through and around the island of Corfu. Not all of the menagerie are wild animals.

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