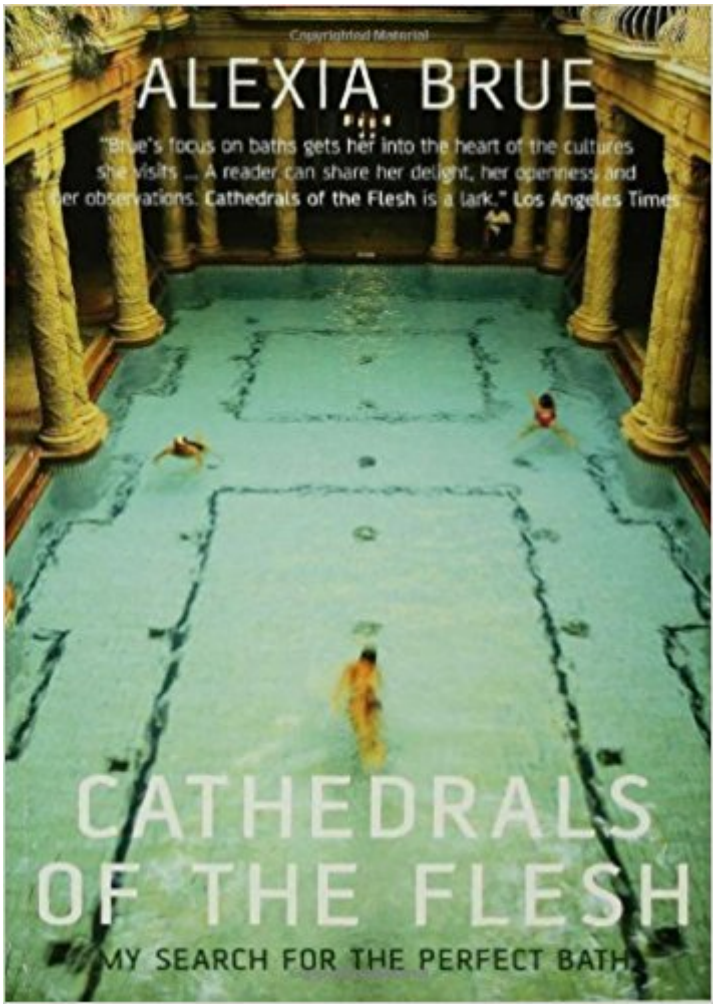
Ebook Directory
the best source of ebook

The book was found

Cathedrals Of The Flesh: My Search For The Perfect Bath



PDF
Adobe
DOWNLOAD EBOOK

Synopsis

People journey to Greece for the ruins, Turkey for the Aya Sophia, and Russia for St. Basil's, but Alexia Brue travels with a different itinerary: to visit the baths. At once deeply personal and highly informative, Cathedrals of the Flesh is the candid and playful account of one woman's determination to follow her passion.

Book Information

Paperback: 230 pages

Publisher: Bloomsbury USA (February 7, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1582343608

ISBN-13: 978-1582343600

Product Dimensions: 4.7 x 0.6 x 0.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 7 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 18 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #3,811,630 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #40 inÃ Â Books > Travel > Europe > England > Bath #316 inÃ Â Books > Travel > Specialty Travel > Spas #5876 inÃ Â Books > Travel > Europe > Great Britain

Customer Reviews

Originally undertaken as research for setting up a Turkish bath business in New York City, journalist Brue's project revealed that her cultural curiosity was greater than her entrepreneurial drive. At first, the book hews too closely to the genesis of Brue's endeavor as the opening chapters, about her initiation at various Parisian baths and her first forays in Turkey, are overshadowed by the urge to take notes for the business. But then there's a trip to Greece to visit ancient thermae-a fine excuse to meditate on the centrality of baths to classical culture-followed by an amusing stay in Russia, where skillful flogging at scorching banyas proves suffering can still be a cultivated art. It's then on to Finland and Japan, where it's clear this has become a cultural inquiry, not a business research project. Brue, who's bold enough to wander abroad speaking a bare handful of polite phrases, does get herself into the proverbial hot water on occasion-mistakenly stripping naked for a Japanese mixed sex bath, for example-but with humor and good attitude she manages to learn even from her faux pas. Her style is delightfully informal, packing in a lot of (admittedly esoteric) information, e.g., what's the physiological effect of birch twig beatings? "What sicko" invented the Japanese electric bath? And who knew how popular breast implants are with young Russian women, or that they have

their pubic hair waxed down to a Mohawk? Better her than me, many readers may be muttering, but isn't that the point of armchair travel? Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This entertaining picaresque chronicles the author's mostly naked reconnaissance of the world's public baths, from cavernous marble Turkish hamams and smoky Helsinki saunas to militantly hot Moscow banyas and a New York bathhouse of dubious hygiene. Between fierce scrubbings and whippings with birch twigs, Brue stealthily observes her fellow-bathers: jaded Russians (commenting on the decline of banyas, one says, "Stalin very bad man, so bad banyas"), fleshy Brooklynites discussing linoleum, and Romanian strippers who refuse to take off their swimsuits at a Japanese hot spring. Brue's depiction of herself as a bumbling innocent abroad isn't entirely believable, but her approach to other cultures is refreshingly humble, and her devotion to the pleasures of bathing with strangers makes a seductive case for "skinship," in which, naked together in the same water, "you do away with all the normal social barriers in life." Copyright Ã Â© 2005 The New Yorker --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

As a fan of the bathing culture the author investigates in this book, I was looking forward to a sort of travelogue through these cultures around the world. Brue offers that, exploring the banyas of Russia, hammams of Turkey, sento and onsen in Japan, and saunas in Finland. She does it all with a pretty clear eye, matter-of-factly describing some of the less stellar moments and aspects of the various baths and how similar ones compare against each other. She works in some of the history of bathing, and although I read a complaint or two from readers about the way she worked romance into the book, as an author myself I know that editors often ask for that and many readers like it. (She kept it to a minimum.) There is a helpful list of baths at the end of the book for readers interested in exploring such places themselves.In a few ways, the book fell short. First and most importantly, she left out any mention of South Korea and jjimjilbangs, or Korean spas, which are amazing pool-and-sauna facilities that are some of the best in the world and a big part of Korean culture. Numerous large jjimjilbangs can be found in the United States and are used by Koreans and Americans alike. In the appendix of her book she makes passing reference to two public baths in South Korea, but they are not jjimjilbangs and the largest and most famous of those are not mentioned. It's a significant omission, especially given the space devoted to saunas, which are less a "bath" than these. She also glosses disparagingly over the Yunessun "spa theme park" in Japan, which is a fascinating place with green tea, wine, and coffee baths as well as themed baths from

many cultures. While that place might be too cheesy for her tastes, it would be very interesting to her readers and its existence reflects something meaningful about Japanese bathing culture. The grimy, rather scary authenticity of Russian baths gets plenty of space in the book, but Yunessun is dismissed in a sentence.Finally, the Kindle version has many serious editing errors, including several paragraphs that cut off midway through and are never finished (made me wonder just how much content was missing-- it could have been a lot) and many proofreading mistakes. None of this is Brue's fault, but the mistakes are serious enough that it is fair to say that Bloomsbury is selling a damaged version of the book to readers, and with a pub date of 2010 they should have fixed this by now. I had thought of Bloomsbury as a good publisher and it was surprising to see their poor editing for this version.Overall I recommend this book to those interested in bathing culture. It is not a complete guide, but it is an interesting firsthand account and contains some good resources. Brue did a good job creating a travel narrative that is an enjoyable read.

This book's even better than a bath.Brue is a wonderful writer, but far beyond that, she's a wonderful story-teller.The quest for the perfect bath forms the plot line, but the quest makes a far richer tale than any particular bath.Even for those of us in quest of nothing more than a daily shower, this makes for wonderful reading, as Brue is witty, insightful, and above all humorous.While she acts humble as a stranger in strange lands pursuing a strange interest, she shouldn't be humble as a story-teller. She's gifted in taking a specialized field and making it lively, even delightful, to anyone who loves human nature and passions.I'd recommend it strongly -- and have to loads of people.

I really liked this book! Interesting, and written with an easy to read conversational tone. She even has a list in the back with places to visit.There were quite a few typos in it though.

Having experienced first hand the joys of public bathing, I was excited to see a travel book about bathing cultures. I wasn't disappointed. Brue's book blends historical narrative, social commentary on our daily ritual of bathing and travel writing into a witty and engaging journal of self discovery. This fun, interesting read will inspire you not only to embark on new travels, but also to seek challenges and adventures in your own life.

Having experienced first hand the joys of public bathing, I was excited to see a travel book about bathing cultures. I wasn't disappointed. Brue's book blends historical narrative, social commentary

on our daily ritual of bathing and travel writing into a witty and engaging journal of self discovery. This fun, interesting read will inspire you not only to embark on new travels, but also to seek challenges and adventures in your own life.

Is practiced by all cultures. The ways in which each culture goes about it speaks both to the prevalent resources, and to the cultural style.

I thought this was a fantastic book. I bought this book thinking that I'd get a relatively straightforward discussion of the history of bathing, but this is actually much more. The author, a young woman with a taste for adventure, writes about her own experiences as she tackles the problem of how to open a bathhouse, crossing the globe and visiting baths in many countries. But instead of taking a highly authoritative tone from the start, she begins with a naive, befuddled tone, describing how she practically stumbles into the bathing scene, seduced not only by the baths, but by the cultures and places she visits. As a reader, I can see the transformation of the author from a novice to an expert over the course of the book, which to me is reminiscent of some of the best travel writing (consider Bill Bryson's self-deprecatory writing, the feeling that on starting his journey, he is no more informed than you or me). I think this book is only partially about bathing, and equally about getting your imagination captured by something different and exciting. I found it really inspirational, it really gives a sense that there is nothing stopping the average reader from deciding to get on a plane and travel the world to learn about something completely different, even if you don't speak the language or don't have any technical experience. So much bad travel writing condescends to the reader, makes me feel that unless I've lived 25 years in Provence or have climbed Mt. Everest, I couldn't possibly appreciate the world. This book made me feel like, with a little bit of courage and a lot of excitement, even I could explore strange places and meet different people!

Download to continue reading...

Bath Bombs: A Step-By-Step BeginnerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Guide to Making Simple, Homemade Bath Bombs + 50 Luxurious DIY Bath Bombs Recipes (bath bombs for beginners, bath bombs recipes book, bath salts, body scrubs) Cathedrals of the Flesh: My Search for the Perfect Bath Homemade Organic Bath and Shower Products: DIY All-Natural Bath Salts, Bath Milks, Bath Bombs, Shower Gels, Bubble Baths, Bath Teas, Body Scrubs, Body Cleansers and Suds Bath Bombs: Fizzy World Of Bath Bombs - Amazing Recipes To Create Beautiful And Creative Bath Bombs (Organic Body Care Recipes, Homemade Beauty Products, Bath Teas Book 2) Bath Bombs: Amazing DIY Bath Bomb Recipes that You Can Make At Home for a Luxury Bath (Bath Recipes, DIY Home Recipes

Book 1) The Bath and Body Book: DIY Bath Bombs, Bath Salts, Body Butter and Body Scrubs Bath Bombs: A Step-by-Step Beginner's Guide to Making Simple, Homemade Bath Bombs + 50 Luxurious DIY Bath Bombs Recipes Bath Bombs: Fizzy World Of Bath Bombs - Amazing Recipes To Create Beautiful And Creative Bath Bombs (Organic Body Care Recipes, Homemade Beauty Products) (Volume 2) Bath Planning: Guidelines, Codes, Standards (National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA) Professional Library Series) (National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA) Professional Library Series) Bath Abbey (Cathedrals & Churches) Adorkable Bubble Bath Crafts: The Geek's DIY Guide to 50 Nerdy Soaps, Suds, Bath Bombs and other Curios that Entertain Your Kids in the Tub Bath Bombs: A Beginner's Guide to Making Amazing Bath Bombs and Bathtub Treats! Luxurious Bath Bombs - 40 Bath Bomb Recipes: Simply DIY Recipes For Relaxation or Profit (Luxury Homemade Beauty Products Book 1) How To Make Bath Bombs, Bath Salts & Bubble Baths: 53 All Natural & Organic Recipes How to Make Bath Bombs: Bath Bombs Recipes for Self-Care and Daily Life DIY Bath Melts - A Step-by-Step Recipe Guide: How to Make Your Own Bath Melts in Minutes (Tanzi Beauty Book 2) Warriors Word Scramble: Word Scramble Games - Word Search, Word Puzzles And Word Scrambles (Word Games, Brain Games, Word Search, Word Search Games, Word ... Scramble, Word Scrabble, Unscramble Word) Word Search: 100 Word Search Puzzles: Volume 3: A Unique Book With 100 Stimulating Word Search Brain Teasers, Each Puzzle Accompanied By A Beautiful ... Relaxation Stress Relief & Art Color Therapy) Word Search For Adult 100 Puzzles Book Volume1: Word Search Book Word Find Puzzles Large Print Game (Word Search Book For Adult 1) Word Search: 100 Word Search Puzzles: Volume 1: A Unique Book With 100 Stimulating Word Search Brain Teasers, Each Puzzle Accompanied By A Beautiful ... Relaxation Stress Relief & Art Color Therapy)

Contact Us

DMCA

Privacy

FAQ & Help