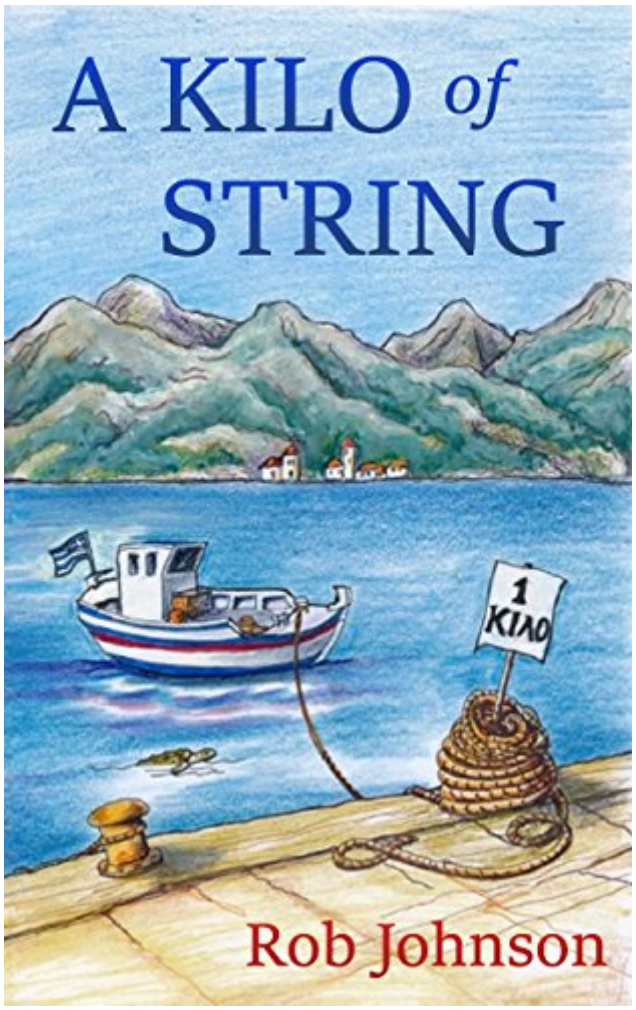
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A Kilo Of String



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Synopsis

Everything you never realised you wanted to know about Greece or didnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t dare to ask.After living in Greece for thirteen years, writer and reluctant olive farmer Rob Johnson has got used to most of the things that he and his partner Penny found so bizarre at the beginning. Most, but not all.A Kilo of String is the story-so-far of this not-particularly-plucky coupleÃ¢â ¬â„¢s often bewildering experiences among the descendants of Sophocles, Plato and Nana Mouskouri with occasional digressions into total irrelevances.This is a book which is almost guaranteed not to change your life, but what it will do is answer many of the fundamental questions about life in Greece, such as:How do you avoid ordering a double tomato for your pine marten when booking a hotel room?Should olive harvesting be registered with the Dangerous Sports Association?Why are chicken livers useful (other than to the chickens themselves)?Why is it a good idea to wear your underwear inside-out?Why is playing the bassoon bad for your health?Oh yes, and there are some serious bits too about how life in Greece has changed since the beginning of the economic crisis.A Kilo of String is loosely based on Rob JohnsonÃ¢â ¬â„¢s podcast series of the same name, which is free to listen to and download at https://rob-johnson.org.uk/podcasts/a-kilo-of-string/.

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Customer Reviews

There is certainly a large genre of books by folks who have moved to some foreign land, gradually making it seem less foreign through their experience. As a passionate traveler, I have a mild addiction to this sector. With the advent of electronic publishing, some of the books on offer haven't had the vetting of a good editor (or even a bad one). I've endured a few books which upon reflection were probably not worth the time invested. This is not one of them! Rob and Penny come across as people you would be glad to know in person. Their adventures and misadventures in the Peloponnese ring true and there are interesting insights to be gleaned into how the Greeks and ex-pats are coping with the country's current problems.Several of the later chapters are a bit thin, and focus on minutiae that may not be of great interest to every reader. Still they add small pieces to the puzzle of a country that certainly has its quirks. For those who have an affection for Greece and Greeks, the book will be entertaining. The greater mystery of what the Johnsons are doing with 420 olive trees and less than an unswerving calling to harvest them may have to wait for a sequel. They certainly have staked a claim in a non-touristy area of Greece that merits reflection. I wish we were told more about their neighbors. But wanting to know more suggests there is more to be written by an entertaining author.

I live in Greece and Rob has captured it perfectly, would definitely recommend it.

Autobiographies aren't usually my thing but I've enjoyed Rob Johnson's other novels so picked this one up & I wasn't disappointed. A Kilo Of String outlines Rob and Penny's relocation to Greece. Even though they'd researched about the country in advance it was by no means any preparation with what they actually discovered. Each chapter covers a single event and the hoops they had to jump through to achieve their aim, like getting their pet through Europe, finding and buying a house, getting electricity to the remote property they purchased or picking olives. There's a heap of local colour - the title comes from one a local oddity. The phrase "in Greece nothing is impossible but everything is difficult" entirely sums up the country. However, it's clearly a place the couple love. Ultimately A Kilo Of String is as much a 'how to' guide of relocating to Greece as a memoir. A really enjoyable read.

You can always tell as soon as you pick up and read the first few pages of a novel whether or not

you are going to enjoy the journey it will take you on and this lastest novel of Rob and Penny's unique Greek experiences does not disappoint, in fact I must confess to laughing out loud on many occasions as I leafed through the pages.Having been an avid listener to his podcast series,on the same subject, the printed experience can only be described as meeting old friends and enjoying a convivial night recounting old tales and learning of new more recent stories. There is a certain knack to storytelling and this book does not fail to keep its interest, indeed by far the opposite. Well done on yet another well written work and look forward to your next.

I once heard it said that there are two kinds of people. Those who are Greek, and those who wish they were Greek. Ok, maybe thatÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s not strictly true, but if youÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve ever wondered what it is like being a Greek living in Greece nowadays, then A Kilo of String will be the perfect book for you. The author Rob Johnson certainly did enough studying for his book, 13 years in all. Deciding to leave his native England in 2004 with his wife, he moved to the Peloponnese. Though written quite tongue-in-cheek, it gives an excellent insight to the ways and workings of Greece and the Greeks, and their interactions with each other and with foreigners. The humour, mostly directed at the author himself, is levelled in a way so as not to be at the expense of the Greeks, which is a refreshing change for this kind of book. As a fellow Brit who has lived and worked in Greece since 1999, I can say that A Kilo of String is an extremely accurate, honest and light-hearted outsiderÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s viewpoint that has been captured beautifully. Highly recommended. (I received a free copy and chose voluntarily to review it).

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