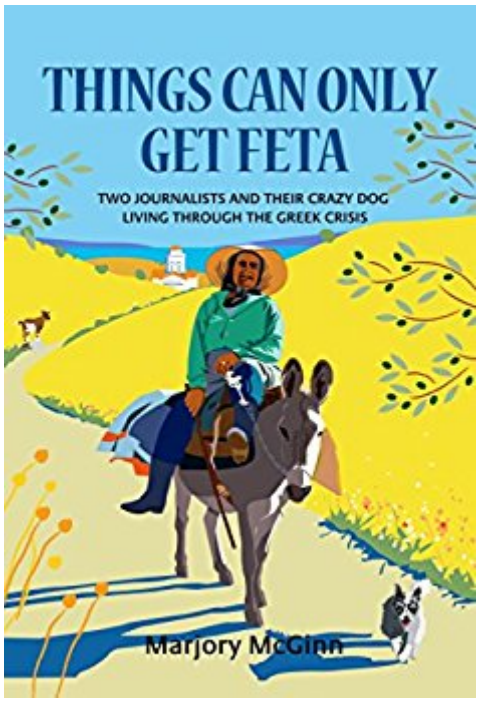
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Things Can Only Get Feta: Two Journalists And Their Crazy Dog Living Through The Greek Crisis



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Synopsis

Book 1 of the Peloponnese series After an Arctic winter, a British recession, and a downturn in the newspaper industry, two journalists and their dog embark on an adventure in the wild and beautiful southern Peloponnese in 2010. A perfect plan, except for one thing - Greece is deep in economic crisis. And if fiscal failure can’t overturn the couple’s escapade in rural Greece, perhaps macabre local customs, a scorpion invasion, zero dog-tolerance, and eccentric expats will. This is a humorous and insightful journey through one of the last unspoilt regions of Greece. It is full of encounters with warm-hearted Greeks who show that this troubled country still has heroes, if not euros. The story of Marjory, Jim, and their dog Wallace’s adventures in southern Greece continue in the next two books: Homer’s Where The Heart Is and A Scorpion In The Lemon Tree. REVIEWS:"Honestly, you won’t be able to put this book down." Maria Karamitsos, The Greek Star newspaper, Chicago."An honest view of life in Greece today, as seen through the refreshingly unblinkered eyes of a very gifted author. An engaging, humour-spiced book that entertains and informs." Peter Kerr, bestselling author of Snowball Oranges."Marjory tells a good story with a journalist’s eye for mood and detail... With luck she will write a second volume as entertaining, good-hearted and moving as this." Alex Martin, Anglo-Hellenic Review, London."A book to relax into, a wonderful record of Greece’s uniqueness, written with wonderment, admiration and wit, all in equal measure." Anne Zouroudi, award-winning author of the Greek Detective series of novels. "I fell in love with this book. With her good nature, insight and sense of pathos, the author perfectly portrays my country and compatriots, especially those in the villages." Margarita Nikolopoulou, Athenian poet "The best book of its kind I’ve ever read. It has it all: humour, interesting facts and a good measure of sentiment... Marjory is a truly talented author." Effrosyni Moschoudi, author of The Lady of the Pier trilogy"Marjory is a talented storyteller. Many descriptions and events made me laugh out loud, a feat until now only achieved by Douglas Adams and PG Wodehouse." Dawn, reviewer ABOUT THE AUTHOR:Marjory McGinn is a Scottish-born journalist who has worked as a feature writer for major newspapers in the UK, and in Australia, including The Sydney Morning Herald, The Times, The Daily Mail and The Scotsman. Based in the UK, she regularly spends time in Greece. She writes a blog with a Greek theme on her website www.bigfatgreekodyssey.com And she can be followed on Twitter www.twitter.com/fatgreekodyssey

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Customer Reviews

If you have not been to Greece, here is a book which will describe for you exactly what a Greek village and it's occupants are like. The countryside is described well, and the couple who settle in the village for a year tell us about their successes with the Greeks and the hilarious misunderstandings which arise due to the vagaries of the Greek language as attempted by two xenoi (foreigners). The author describes their adventures with their small dog Wallace in rural Greece where dogs are kept on chains outside in all weathers, their dog amazes and confuses the villagers but they gradually accept both the foreigners and their dog. The worsening economic situation in Greece is also described firsthand by this journalist author, throwing light on the world news bulletins which call Greece a 'basket case' - quotes from classic Greek authors put it all into perspective.

For a visit to a small Greek village not far from Kalamata and for plenty of laughs along the way, I recommend Things Can Only Get Feta. A husband and wife move from Scotland to Greece for a year and a star of the tale is their wild and wacky Jack Russell terrier, Wallace. He does his dreaded ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“screamy barkingÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• at the drop of a hat. Yet when the author was sad he hid a heart shaped dog biscuit in her boot for her to find, which cheered her up. The author

laughs at herself when she shares her misadventures with the Greek language, which make a Greek friend, Angelika, laugh until tears roll down her face. Tripping over similar Greek words McGinn says Wallace is a good cucumber and Angelika has lovely golden worms, meaning earrings. They meet Foteini, who lives a traditional life style, when she is riding her donkey and they become dear friends. Thanks to the author for sharing the year she and her husband spent in Greece, and I look forward to her second book.

This book is very enjoyable, especially if youÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve spent time in Greece and if you understand the quirky nature of Jack Russell Terriers. The author, Marjory McGinn, writes about time spent living in a village in Peloponnese on the southern mainland. There are so many comical moments as she interacts with the locals. That Greek spirit which is so endearing when one is on vacation just hanging around and enjoying the anesthetic atmosphere of Greece, quickly becomes laughingly exasperating when the author has to deal with such problems as thoughtlessly placed village garbage-dumpsters (Rubbish bins), or the snail-like progress of roadwork or the ordeal of re-registering oneÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s car. The car issue is especially comical as the author seems to have very few models among the Greek citizens from which she can take an example of the correct way to legally register a car and as she embarks on that adventure, she concludes that it is a process ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“only a masochist with deep pockets would want to purse.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• She pulls the readers further into these contradictory feelings that waft between her euphoric love of Greece and her steaming frustration as weÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢re taken from one adventure to another. Each new circumstance might be so mundane in another setting but when dealing with it the Greek-way, it most certainly means a few chuckles for the reader. The overall theme is reiterated throughout the story with one variation or another of: ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“this is Greece, what do you expect?ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•In addition to the story, the author also has some very enjoyable lines of imagery such as: ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“. . . the elderly members looking demure and well pressed, like old roses kept for eternity in a heavy book.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• Nice, right? Or as she voices her loud objection to being badgered to reveal the amount of rent she pays, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“I said [it] in a loud shrill voice, like a buttoned-up librarian being groped unexpectedly in the back of the reference section.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•I really enjoyed this book and I recommend it whole-heartedly, though I might be a bit Greek-biased.

This book is an excellent account of two journalists' year in the Mani Peninsula in southern Greece about four years ago. Greece was then having a "prequel" of its present day economic problems.

Then there were highly destructive riots in Syntagma Square in Athens and Greeks with pensions saw those pensions reduced five times.Ms. McGinn tells of how these problems affected the lives of Greeks living in the small Mani village of Megalo Mantinea, a town in the mountains overlooking the Messenian Sea and Kalamata. The portrait drawn of the village woman Foteini is unforgettable. One gets the feeling that as long as there are such women in Greece its problems will not bring the country down to third world status. I believe that anyone who reads this book will want to move to Greece. Ms. McGinn tells many anecdotes about her first year in the Mani and how this year confirmed her as a real Grecophile. If you have an interest in Greece, as everyone should, this book is a "must read."

I really enjoyed this book - it’s funny, the characters come to life (I wanna meet some of them!!), even their crazy dog is endearing and I’m not a huge fan of dogs. It is funny, sad and also weaved among the story is relevant historical events of Greece and the various impacts these have had over the years and more recently with the economic downturn. A big plus for me was how it was written - it was extremely well written - you can tell someone with a journalism background has written the story as it is clearly written, characters come to life, situations come to life, there is structure in the story (not haphazard and confusing like some books), there are laugh out loud parts, there are sad parts - basically it makes you want to go to Greece and experience her experiences and meet the people she met. I loved reading it so much I’ve bought the sequel and it is brilliant too. Thanks Marjory for a fantastic read.

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