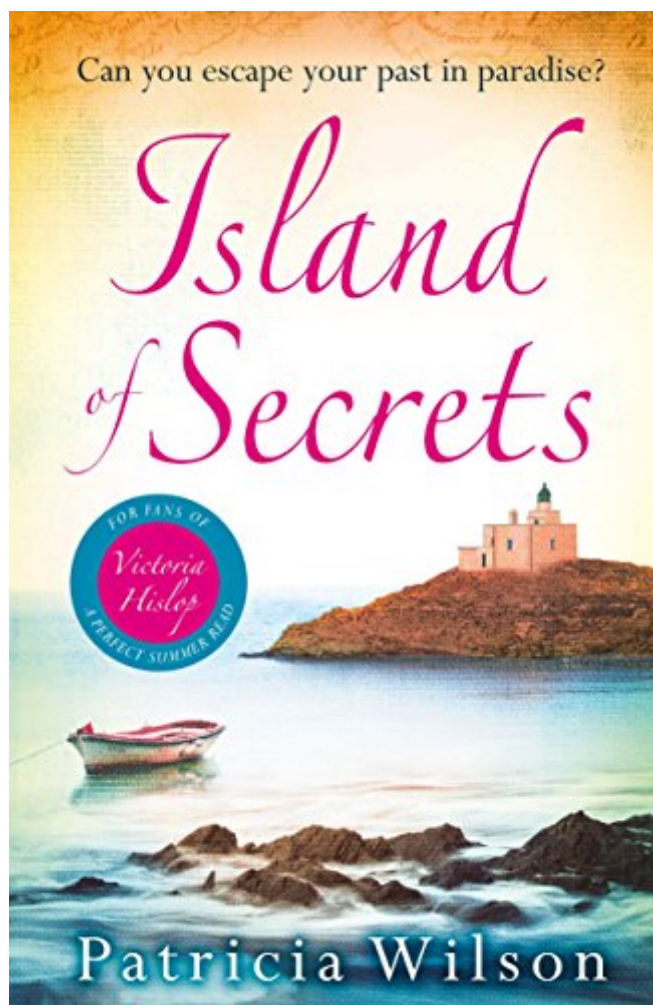


The book was found

Island Of Secrets: Escape To Paradise With This Perfect Holiday Read!



Synopsis

If you love *The Island* by Victoria Hislop and *The Villa in Italy* by Elizabeth Edmondson, you will love this perfect summer read. 'The story started at dawn on the fourteenth of September, 1943 . . . ' All her life, London-born Angelika has been intrigued by her mother's secret past. Now planning her wedding, she feels she must visit the remote Crete village her mother grew up in. Angie's estranged elderly grandmother, Maria, is dying. She welcomes Angie with open arms - it's time to unburden herself, and tell the story she'll otherwise take to her grave. It's the story of the Nazi occupation of Crete during the Second World War, of horror, of courage and of the lengths to which a mother will go to protect her children. And it's the story of bitter secrets that broke a family apart, and of three enchanting women who come together to heal wounds that have damaged two generations. What readers are saying about *Island of Secrets*: 'Island of Secrets is a book full of raw emotions, family vendettas, hidden secrets and three very strong women. It's a book I enjoyed very much and one which fans of Victoria Hislop and Debbie Rix are sure to enjoy.' (NetGalley Reviewer) 'So well written and utterly heartbreaking . . . a story that needs to be told' (NetGalley Reviewer) 'Page-turning, enthralling and heartbreaking by turns.' 'Made me laugh and cry, just couldn't put this book down.'

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Captivating from start to end. Island of Secrets is multi generational story with romance at its heart but also is a deeply moving immersion into village life in occupied Crete during WW2. The story is told with tenderness and flair and has many finely nuanced observations on the human condition, but at its heart rests a dark secret that is only revealed in the final pages. I highly recommended this novel to all lovers of finely crafted tales.

Loved the story. Well written and interesting. The only low point at all was near the end - no doubt the author tried to put in as many twists and turns as possible, but it started to feel like reading a soap opera. Not to the detriment of the entire story, thank goodness. Definitely recommend as a very good read!

A brilliant story. Fast moving and difficult to put down. Not good for getting the housework done!

Wow! What an amazing debut novel and an incredibly well told story that has everything you could wish for in a book. I pre-ordered this book out of my lifelong curiosity with the Greek Islands, acquired from films such as Shirley Valentine and Mamma Mia! Not my normal read, but I was immediately drawn into a long standing historical family feud which takes Angie, some thirty seven years later, to seek out her Cretan ancestors. Wanting to unravel what has kept her mother so long away from her native Crete and deprived Angie of her relatives, she seeks to try to reunite her mother with her family. This book is immediately appealing couched in vivid images and descriptive beauty, the island of Crete comes alive in present day with a backstory to war torn German occupancy as told by her Grandmother when she flies out to meet them. She discovers there is a family secret that most people are loath to remember, but which her 90 year old grandmother feels it's her duty to tell. The story unfolds and is astonishing. The formatting is flawless and seamless as the backstory comes to life and little by little she hears about her origins and it wrenches her heart. This is beautifully written and demonstrates immediately the author's gift as a writer. If this is a debut novel we are in for a treat for future reading. Pat McDonald British Crime Author

This story centres around Angie trying to reconcile her family and find her Greek roots. It incorporates the history of World War II and the Nazi invasion of Crete and the atrocities committed. This is told through the reminiscences of Angie's grandmother Maria. The book reminds me

very much of Victoria Hyslop's *The Island*, also set in Crete. Although the history is very good and well researched, I found the repetitive nature of the telling very tedious. Maria tells the story of the Nazi invasion of the village and then Angie retraces her steps and effectively reflects on the same story. To me this adds nothing new to the narrative. Suspense in the story is another problem and this is where I think a good editor really should have intervened. The past is told by Maria and all the characters defer to her saying Angie must not ask them questions she must speak to her. This gets tiresome after the 3rd, 4th, 5th etc time it happens. Manoli refuses to tell her, Voula and Matthia refer her back to Maria. Matthia will not even explain his grumpy behaviour, it is just attributed to the past. The complicated nature of the family relations in this novel are also beyond belief. I understand that paternity can be confusing in a time of war, but the twists in this book are taken to extremes with mistaken identity and changing roles. The language of the book is accessible and I am sure it will be praised for its history and the use of Greek culture but I feel the plot does let it down by trying to be too clever.

I received this ARC from netgalley.com in exchange for a review. Angie is marrying Nick, the love of her life. Angie wants to return to her birthplace of Crete with her mother and finally meet her grandparents and extended family, but her mother is violently against returning home saying the family is cursed. Grandmother Maria recounts the family history to Angie and as each layer of tragedy and war violence are unwrapped throughout the book the story slowly unravels.

I spent several sleepless nights reading this book. I found it hard to put down as I became more immersed in the lives, loves and tragedies of this Cretan family. I love the WWII history and the beautiful description of life in this small village. The characters jumped off of the page and in your heart. Congratulations on your first novel. I am looking forward to reading more works by Wilson. The book was well researched, written and edited.

I loved this story. I was totally drawn in to it from the start and it just got better. It ticked a lot of boxes for me. I was fascinated with historical facts, enlightened on the Cretan culture and emotionally involved with characters and the stories. I honestly cried tears of sadness and then happiness throughout. The author has done an amazing job of bringing together so much intrigue and so many threads. I won't spoil it for anyone suffice to say I highly recommend this bookand that you keep a box of tissues close by.

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