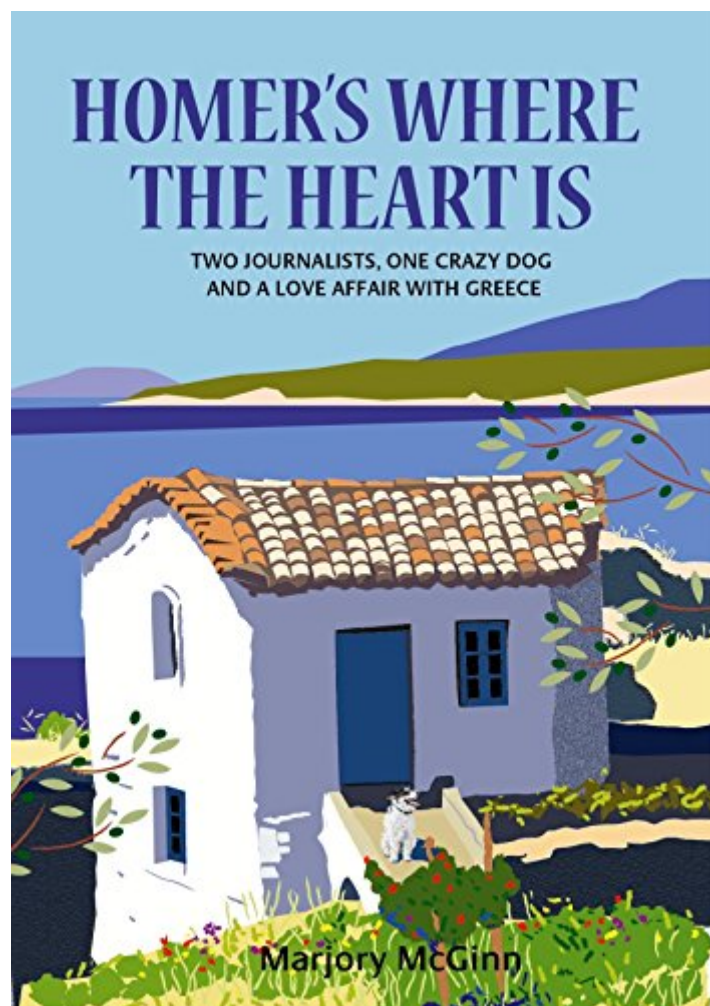




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Homer's Where The Heart Is: Two Journalists, One Crazy Dog And A Love Affair With Greece



Synopsis

Book 2 of the Peloponnese series "Expat book of the year, 2015." Chosen by expat website www.thedisplacednation.com *HOMER* *Where the Heart Is* continues the story where the acclaimed first memoir left off. Two journalists and their crazy terrier Wallace are in their second year of their amazing adventure, living in the Mani, southern Greece, sharing an olive grove with their new Greek landlords as the country veers towards bankruptcy and social upheaval. Soon enough, the couple are pulled into the chaos of the economic crisis with some of the original village characters from Marjory's first memoir, *Things Can Only Get Feta*. This candid memoir is also the story of the author's passion for Greece. Woven into the narrative is Marjory's thrilling back story from another dark time while she was working in Athens, during the military dictatorship of the 1970s. It will reveal haunting parallels between this period of history and the current crisis and will highlight as much about Greece as it does about her own personal journey at a young age. Homer also takes the reader on a fascinating trip around the Mani region, visiting the island of Kythera and also taking an exclusive tour of the late Patrick Leigh Fermor's unique home in Kardamili. This edition also features some of the author's own photographs of Greece.

REVIEWS

"Marjory is a skilled wordsmith who has combined her journalistic expertise and story-telling flair to create a highly laudable sequel to *Things Can Only Get Feta*. Informative and entertaining." - Peter Kerr, best-selling author of *Snowball Oranges*. "Beautifully written, at times funny and always insightful, it entertains and at the same time gives us a unique perspective on an indomitable country coping with crisis. What more could you ask for?" - Richard Clark, author of the Greek Notebook series. "Through her stories, sentiments and humor, we see and feel her love for Greece. Put this at the top of your summer reading list." - Maria A. Karamitsos, founder and editor of *WindyCity Greek*, in Chicago. "Marjory takes us on an odyssey with mind, heart and great skill. I loved reading this book." - Pamela Jane Rogers, author of *Greekscapes*. "Another wonderful book by Marjory McGinn. The ending tugged at my heart." - Linda Fagioli-Katsiotas, author of Greek memoir, *The Nifi*. "Marjory writes at a level that sits with the best of the travelogue genre. Her depth of characterisation and turns of phrase are outstanding." - reviewer. "Beautifully written. Her historic insight gives this book a gravitas far beyond its genre without taking anything away from a charming read." - Anthony Hooper, author of *The Glass Lie*. "A fascinating and heartwarming memoir. I absolutely loved this book and had a huge lump in my throat at the end of it." - Valerie Poore, author of *Watery Ways*.

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. In 2010 she moved to the Mani, southern Greece, with her partner Jim and famously mad terrier Wallace, during the economic crisis, which became the basis for her two travel memoirs. She writes a blog with a Greek theme on her website www.bigfatgreekodyssey.com You can also follow her on Twitter www.twitter.com/fatgreekodyssey and Facebook www.facebook.com/ThingsCanOnlyGetFeta

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Customer Reviews

In this sequel to the brilliant *Things Can Only Get Feta: Two Journalists and Their Crazy Dog Living Through the Greek Crisis*, Marjory McGinn shares more of her experiences living in rural Messinia. Along with her partner, Jim Bruce, and their sidekick Wallace – a Jack Russell terrier, who, with equal parts mischief and mayhem, steals the show on multiple occasions – she spent time in Megali Mantinea, then on to Paleohora, before returning to the UK after some 3-1/2 years. The book is part travelogue, part commentary on Greece, and ode to her spiritual home. In *Homer*, we follow Margarita – as she was christened by the villagers – on adventures traveling the countryside, communing with the villagers,

learning the language, partaking in local customs and celebrations, and continually seeking ways to extend her stay (crisis or not). Juxtaposed with stories of her first time in Greece during the early 1970s, McGinn brings to the forefront startling comparisons of two very difficult times in Modern Greek history. We also learn that despite the great challenges for a foreigner living in Greece during the Junta, and the horrible incident that sparked her return to England, her love for her adopted country took root and has flourished. McGinn is frequently asked why she wants to be in Greece, especially during such challenging times. Through her stories, sentiments, and humor, we see and feel her love for Greece – and why she will keep going back. If you haven't previously experienced an extended stay in Greece, you will want to sign up for your own such adventure, so you can feel it too. She's working on the third book of this series, and I can't wait. Put this at the top of your summer reading list. ~ Maria A. Karamitsos - Founder & Editor, WindyCity Greek

"Homer's Where the Heart Is" is the second book in a series by a talented author who adds humor to her descriptions of their years in Greece. I read the first book by McGinn, "Things Can Only Get Feta", where she describes their first two years in Greece, when she and her husband rented a house in a small village in southern Greece. They chose to become friends with the Greek people and not so much with other expats. "Homer's Where the Heart Is" has a great chapter on Patrick Leigh Fermor (one of the world's great adventure writers who lived near their village for 40 years until his death at about 90) and another chapter on a young Greek Orthodox priest they got to know plus plenty of funny antics by their Jack Russell terrier, and great and not so great times bonding with their Greek friends and improving their Greek. Their friend Foteini is in both books, as she leads an eccentric old fashioned life with her donkey and goats and cheese making. McGinn ranges back and forth from her first time living in Greece in the turbulent 1970s under martial law there, and living there during the current economic tribulations. The Greeks cope with the financial disasters and continue to celebrate life.

Another wonderful book by Marjory McGinn! I finished reading this one while I was sitting in a café in Greece. The ending tugged at my heart so much that I had to conjure up enough self-control not to cry. McGinn does a beautiful job of portraying small village life in Greece and it does not matter one bit where that village is. The characters are endearing and so recognizable. In particular, there is one character – an old goat herder named Foteini – who encapsulates the old Greek world trying to deal with the new. There is

a very humorous scene when McGinn takes Foteini into the new supermarket and Foteini comes across baguettes and Ferrero Rocher chocolates. In addition to McGinn's life in her adopted homeland of the Peloponnese, she also poignantly captures different political climates in Greece. My favorite chapters were those that flashed back to the 1970s when McGinn was a 20-something-year-old in Athens during the dictatorship. However, the general spirit of the Greek people—that which McGinn calls the “national sport of living in the minute,” is relevant throughout the book, regardless of the location, the time period or the government in power. This book is a must-read to anyone who has any kind of connection to Greece or for anyone who is interested in trying to understand the “Greek spirit.”

The prequel "Things can only get Feta" was my favourite book of 2014, so being on holiday on a Greek island and finding out that the second instalment had been published sent me jumping for my Kindle and downloading. The only problem was that I finished it in 2 days and trying to find a next read that would be even half as entertaining. Many of the much loved characters from Feta were still there, along with new ones, and of course Wallace the Parson Russell Terrier once again steals the show. On a serious note this book will give you an understanding of the average rural Greek people and the difficulties they face in the current crisis and the way they endure with a smile and ever generous spirit. It also gives an insight into Greece under the rule of the military dictatorship during the early 1970s, when the author worked in Athens as a teenager. My 84 year old mother read the first book and so of course I had to order Homer's where the heart is for her. She has just finished it and is asking when the next instalment will be coming published? So a big thumbs up all round. P.S. I now look out for newspaper articles from Ms McGinn, there was an especially good one recently in the Daily Telegraph.

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