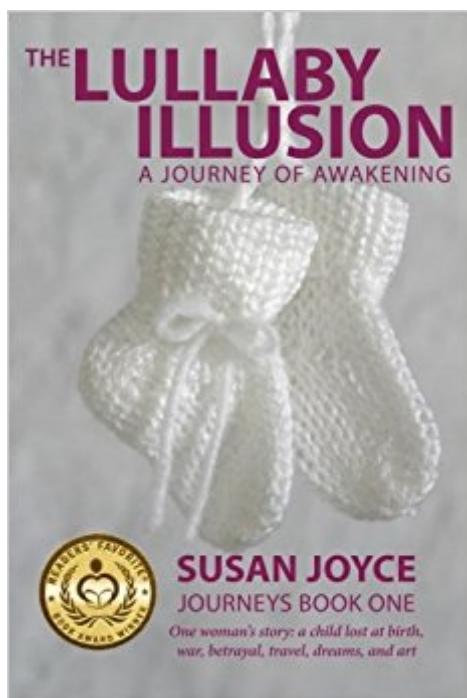


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The Lullaby Illusion: A Journey Of Awakening (Journeys) (Volume 1)



Synopsis

As a child, Susan lived for the clarity of excursions, with her dog Brownie, in the Arizona desert. To escape the chaos of her crowded home. And her Pentecostal preacher father. When she came of age, a husband promised a new life of adventure. And freedom. To Israel. To Cyprus, and a war that somehow involved her husband. Her clairvoyance almost got her killed in Belgium, and left her penniless in the street. In Germany, she reinvented herself as an artist and writer. This twelve-year memoir of profound personal transformation and friendships is a true page-turner. You will find yourself repeatedly asking "what could possibly happen next?"

Book Information

Series: Journeys (Book 1)

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: Peel Productions (October 1, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0939217880

ISBN-13: 978-0939217885

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.9 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 70 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,356,677 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #69 in Books > Travel > Europe > Cyprus #770 in Books > Travel > Middle East > General #1647 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Mental Health > Dreams

Customer Reviews

2014 Readers' Favorite Gold Medal winner: non-fiction / Travel ... a compelling read. The military coup and getting trapped in the middle of a war, a failing marriage, and a suspicion that her husband is a spy give many dimensions ... fast paced and exciting ... The book sees the transformation of the author from a housewife to that of a confident and determined woman. The dialogues are rich, the travel descriptions are detailed, adding to the visual appeal of the scenes. As extras, the history and humor make it a beautiful memoir.~Mamta Madhavan, Readers' Favorite

What was a Pentecostal minister's daughter doing in Cyprus at the outbreak of a war? And how does she end up on a sinking ship in the Indian Ocean? That's what happens when you unknowingly marry a double agent. In The Lullaby Illusion, Susan takes us on a harrowing but enlightening escapade around the globe as the wife of a spy."~ Moxie Lady: Three Page-Turning

Memoirs Susan Joyce's memoir makes you feel that life is a great adventure, and you want to live it to its fullest. From the saddest moment in her life to the funniest, she makes you feel like you are there, seeing the wonderful sights she sees, the landscapes, the cities, the bombs bursting in air, the ride in the rescue helicopter, the triumphs, the enigma of her married life when she was young and trusting. Reading the book is like riding the roller coaster of life, exciting and engrossing, funny and sad. A real page turner. I was sorry to read "The End." ~Isabel Saltonstall `Imagination is everything. It is the preview of life's coming attractions.' -Albert Einstein This is a powerful book, one that reminds us of the indomitability of the human spirit. Rich in characters, in tragedies, in cultural and political events, Susan opens her very personal diary and the result is a vastly entertaining book. Recommended. By Grady Harp HALL OF FAME TOP 100 REVIEWER VINE VOICE... Dreams and illusions there are aplenty, woven into the fabric of the tale, so that it almost comes alive in your hands. I learned so much of her personal tragedy in the Cyprus crisis (I myself was 31 at the time) and her life both before and afterwards. By the time that the Epilogue came around and detailed what had happened to all of her friends, I felt that I had got to know them all so well, and could shed a tear for her losses. This is a magical and moving book, written by an author who has demonstrably enjoyed her life to the full. John Searancke--Reviewer, Tenerife Island

Connections Five stars: The Lullaby Illusion is a tragic and uplifting story about life, loss, and facing those things beyond which we have no control -- and figuring out which ones we do. The story traces a certain period in the life of the author when her tranquil existence in Cyprus is suddenly blown up, figuratively, but also literally, by war. The experience of coping with, surviving, and then escaping for safer ground plays out in interesting parallel with other traumatic events in Joyce's Young life -- namely, the loss of her baby and multiple miscarriages, as well as the revelation that her husband is not who she believes him to be. Joyce's relationship to her vivid dream life, as well as her artistic spirit, guide her through these tragedies to stable - and fulfilled- ground. A must read for anyone who is interested in stories that trace survival and resilience in times of duress.

-Kristin Louise Duncombe Five stars: The Lullaby Illusion is an exquisitely executed memoir, which leaves you spell-bound as you follow Susan's metamorphosis; as she loses herself in her husband, the enigmatic Charles, following their dream travelling the world. Through miscarriages, betrayals and escaping war torn Cyprus to her re-awakening in Germany as an accomplished artist, Susan eloquently tells her story. The characters leap off the page, you can actually hear the dialogue, feel her fear, sadness and joy - it is easy to forget that this is a memoir and not fiction. I would love to see The Lullaby Illusion made into a film, and I hope she writes more about her life, and soon.

-Janet Hughes Five stars: There is so much more to this book than the aspect I am going to rave

about. So often I have read books, and seen films, that either gloss over, dramatise or make war appear heroic that I think that when this is well done, as it is in the book, it is well worth highlighting. Here is a writer who describes being caught in cross fire with all the grim realities and slightly surreal disbelief that it is happening to her. A more realistic and consequently more terrifying account I have yet to read. As for the other aspects of the book - read and find out, this lady has had quite a life.

-CuicaAutobiographies typically center upon the author's life and experiences, and those which add in drama, travel, and growth insights are all the more stronger for their departure from timelines of events to inject a sense of compelling tension and thriller elements usually found in the better fiction novels. The Lullaby Illusion is such a memoir; born of the author's decision to take a year off at age 20 and explore the world - a choice which was to blossom into twelve years of journeys through the world, influencing her evolving sense of self. Given such a topic, it's unusual to have a story begin with an ending: "How odd to have news of his death interrupt my life now. A man I had married and divorced years ago. A man I never felt I knew. A man I last saw in a Chinese restaurant in Frankfurt, Germany over 27 years ago. Twenty-seven years? Was it that long ago?" Perhaps one reason this story sounds so melodic is because Susan Joyce was (in one of her many Renaissance Woman incarnations) a songwriter and lead singer in a country-rock group. This lends a musical feel to a winning review of her relationship with not just a man who was once a big part of her life, but with life itself: "As a child, my days passed as sometimes-here, sometimes-there, but I was always aware of an inner voice as true as anything my eyes delivered. With no television allowed in our home, I tuned into my surroundings, saw and heard things others didn't perceive. My parents called it my "wild imagination." Memoirs often fail to transmit the magic and drama of changing life events to their readers; but The Lullaby Illusion takes a different approach in assuring that such magic is not just presented, but transmitted to the reader; there to resonate and spread like ripples in water until the course of events becomes compelling and hard to put down. Whether Joyce is using this magic to explore tragedy or success, it's a powerful voice indeed that allows readers to not just read about a life well lived, but to enter that world and experience that life from the inside out. Maybe this is due to a wild childhood that encouraged higher goals even before she moved to L.A. and experienced a hectic life that was to careen her into the decision to travel and take a break from the demanding world of work: "For many years, the static of my busy, buzzing life drowned out my intuitive insight. And I lost sight of myself - the self that once listened and trusted a still, small voice. Until Cyprus." Or perhaps it's because of Joyce's ability to synthesize all these emotions, incoming experiences, and changes into a breathtaking account that inhales the world with a big

breath and breaths out life into accounts that sparkle and shine with descriptions designed not just to entertain readers, but immerse them. There's tragedy, discovery, and change. There's tension, drama, and the unexpected. All the elements of a solid, compelling fiction read are here - but The Lullaby Illusion is nonfiction; it's all true. It's Joyce's world brought to life in a memoir that will prove riveting reading for any who relish autobiographical stories of a spectacular existence well lived, filled with both the richness of paradise and the poignant saga of a perfect world that unravels until it's ready, once again, for a new infusion of meaning and commitment.

Leaving my country as a naive young woman (raised in a religious home) was definitely a culture shock, but what an exciting adventure. My first memoir in the series, The Lullaby Illusion, is a kaleidoscopic personal journey which follows my metamorphosis from a student on a ulpan in Israel, through miscarriages, betrayals, an escape from war torn Cyprus to my awakening in Germany as an accomplished artist. Along the way, I discover that my husband leads a secret life and more. My second memoir, Good Morning Diego Garcia, is about visiting India, Sri Lanka, and crossing the Indian Ocean in 1975. Following the upheaval of the Cyprus War and losing everything, Charles and I were biding time when a letter arrived from friends we knew in Cyprus inviting us to join them in Sri Lanka as crew, and help sail a new yacht across the Indian Ocean and back to the Mediterranean. We knew nothing about boats and I wasn't a strong swimmer, but cruising the Indian Ocean in a pleasure yacht seemed the trip of a lifetime. What could possibly go wrong? In monsoon season? With no charts? SPOILER: everything. I now live in a sleepy beach town in Uruguay (my tenth country of residence) where many more adventures happen daily.

I meant to read this book for a while. Susan Joyce is a fellow award winner, who won in the category Non-Fiction - Travel, a genre that is very dear to me. Susan Joyce describes her book's story best when she writes, "... As a young woman I had set out to explore, to travel the world. The more I explored, the more I discovered myself. So much of life seemed to follow a serendipitous path of spiritual discovery...." And what a path it was. Married to Charles, a handsome fellow, who did business in the Middle East, she called Cyprus her home. Cyprus has often been described as a paradise and to Susan it was. Her worst problem is that even after a few miscarriages Charles still does not want to adopt. He seems to make becoming a father his life's goal. Susan gets pregnant again but the baby is stillborn. It is the beginning of the end of her marriage. Other than being inconsiderate Charles also has other flaws. During the famous overthrow of the Makarios government in July 1974 Susan finds out that her husband knows too much. Even though he has

never served (to her knowledge), he can identify planes and weapons. Other people seem to suggest that Charles is a spy and his business trips are cover-ups for Lord knows what. Susan's riveting eyewitness account of the junta's attack is high drama. I was fascinated by it because I had never read an innocent bystander's story about a coup d'ÃfÃ©tat. Susan describes in great detail her, her husband's, and her friends' attempt to hide, flee amidst failing electricity and occasionally failing phones, napalm attacks, bombing and shooting. It is a good thing that the Turks don't want to kill foreigners, because Susan gets to meet them too. I had spent three weeks in Cyprus in 1987, when all was calm and peaceful again. Since my Greek friends weren't allowed to visit the Northern Turkish part of the country, they had brought me to the demarcation line, which still existed; I walked across the line and rented a car on the Turkish side. Her account of what happened during the frightful days when the country became divided is absolutely fascinating. In a way some parts of the paradise are still there, "... But the Kyrenia Castle survived. ""Once again, after thousands of years of foreign invasions...." It was awesome to find out that during her time in Europe Susan also visited my hometown Vienna, where she not only saw the famous lippizaners but also watched "Arsenic and Old Lace" with David Cameron. For me it was a cool read because I know so many of the locations well, since I grew up in this region of the world. It was wonderful to read about them as the backdrop for Susan's transformation into the artist she was meant to be. Susan is one hell of a gutsy woman, who did not even hesitate to ask Elvis, if he was "the real Elvis". Indeed, she also saw the 'real' Elvis driving an old beat-up car on an LA freeway. because he did not want to be recognized. Susan still did. Gisela Hausmann, author & blogger

The Lullaby Illusion is a tragic and uplifting story about life, loss, and facing those things beyond which we have no control -- and figuring out which ones we do. The story traces a certain period in the life of the author when her tranquil existence in Cyprus is suddenly blown up, figuratively, but also literally, by war. The experience of coping with, surviving, and then escaping for safer ground plays out in interesting parallel with other traumatic events in Joyce's Young life -- namely, the loss of her baby and multiple miscarriages, as well as the revelation that her husband is not who she believes him to be. Joyce's relationship to her vivid dream life, as well as her artistic spirit, guide her through these tragic to stable - and fulfilled- ground. A must read for anyone who is interested in stories that trace survival and resilience in times of duress.

Los Angeles California author Susan Joyce has seen the world and the world has seen her as she demonstrates in this life journey novel, THE LULLABY ILLUSION, that recalls a 12 year period of

her life from 1973 to 1985 that is a staggering as a full length feature film thriller. After spending her childhood in Tucson, Arizona she returned to LA as a young working woman working as a secretary, freelance writer, teacher of computer classes, composer of songs, artist, and creator of an impressive number of award winning children's' books. But it is the period prior to this that her memoir-like novel describes: Susan left the United States at age 20 to see the world - for a year. That year grew and became the nidus for the composition of this novel of her life and in addition to the myriad experiences she shares here she also during this timeframe was a lead singer in a country-rock group, wrote songs, and did backup vocal work in studios. In retrospect, when questioned as to the veracity of her writing, she states 'The idea for this memoir originated as I struggled to find answers, and attempted to fit together pieces of a life shattered by the coup in Cyprus on 15 July 1974, followed five days later by the Turkish invasion on 20 July 1974.

Thousands of lives were drastically changed forever by the atrocities, including foreigners who happened to live there. Of which I was one. For years following the war, I marveled, bewildered, at how a tranquil place-- which seemed like paradise-- could simply go away, rendered a living hell in the space of a few days. Equally, I marveled, horrified, at how my own perfect life had unraveled, disintegrated-- and gone away as a result. As I started putting my life back together, I realized my existence in paradise only existed as scattered fragments of news clippings, letters from friends, microfiche news reports, travel and dream journals, poems, penciled notebooks filled with tidbits of thoughts, and piles of typed paper. These and the faded photos felt like a dream puzzle with lots of missing pieces.'Susan has a seductive way of entering this memoir - her opening passage is from Mexico in 2008 when she discovers that her long divorced, multi-married, nefarious ex-husband Charles is dead. And in that opening chapter the outlines of how her life over that twelve-year period she is about to share becomes sensitively lucid: hints at many of the crises she faced are offered. 'Ahh, destiny. As a child, my days passed as sometimes-here, sometimes-there, but I was always aware of an inner voice as true as anything my eyes delivered. With no television allowed in our home, I tuned into my surroundings, saw and heard things others didn't perceive. My parents called it my "wild imagination." But my inner voice taught me to use my imagination and trust. I listened. Not that it made my life easier.' From Arizona where she meets Charles and she moves to LA - ' The peace of the desert succumbed to busy-ness in the City of Angels, to the point that reflection seemed anathema in the face of the chrome, neon, and tinsel fantasyland of LA. For many years, the static of my busy, buzzing life drowned out my intuitive insight. And I lost sight of myself-- the self that once listened and trusted a still, small voice. Until Cyprus.'To be brief, the synopsis follows: ' After many miscarriages and the loss of a child in childbirth on the island of Cyprus, Susan seeks

solace by creating art and recording her vivid dreams. Through difficult life changes--Cyprus's bloody coup and war in 1974, a rescue from a sinking ship in the Indian Ocean, learning of her husband's secret life, and surviving his deadly assault in Belgium, she discovers her "ticking clock" is not the child she fails to produce, but rather her creative potential. Following her vivid dreams and intuition, she successfully reinvents herself as an artist and writer. From beginning to end, Susan Joyce reminds us of the stream of awareness that flows through all of us.'This is a powerful book, one that reminds us of the indomitability of the human spirit. Rich in characters, in tragedies, in cultural and political events, Susan opens her very personal diary and the result is a vastly entertaining book. Recommended. Grady Harp, January 15

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