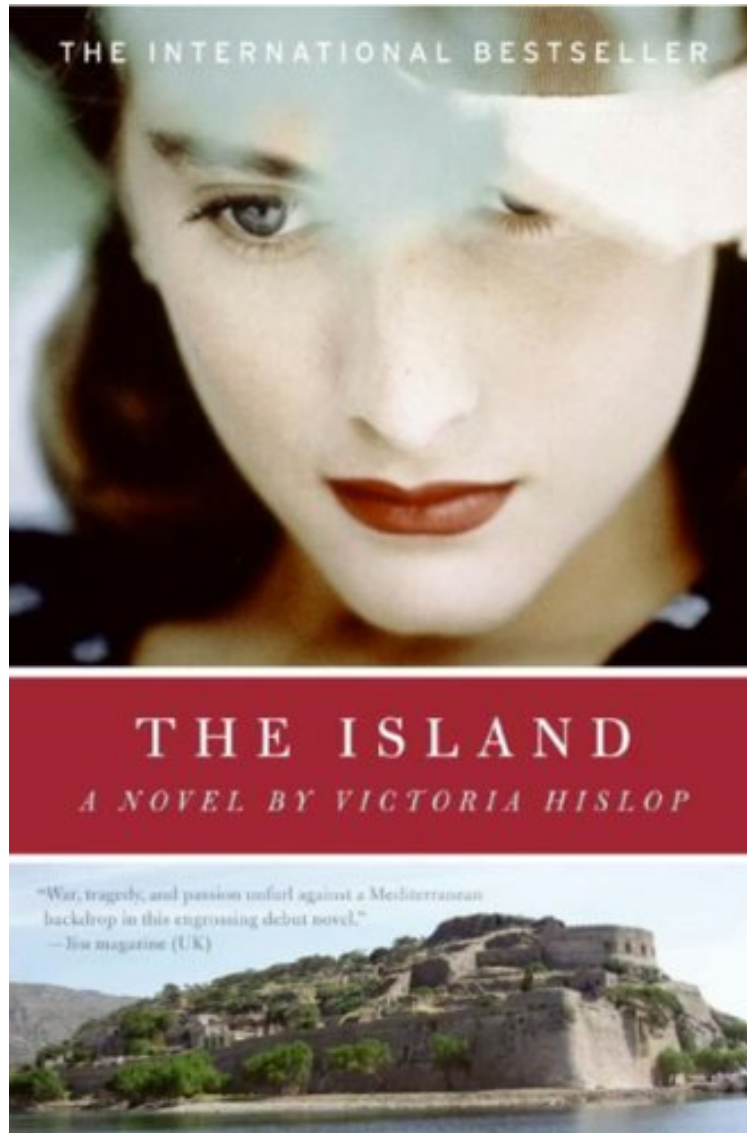


(Free read ebook) The Island

The Island

Von Victoria Hislop

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Von Victoria Hislop : The Island before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Island:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 4 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Ein einmaliges Lesevergnügen! Von Vielleser Ich habe lange kein so gutes Buch gelesen. Am Anfang war ich etwas irritiert, denn bei diesem Buch handelt es sich teilweise schon um schwer verdauliche Lektüre. - Entgegen der Empfehlung auf dem Cover "At last a beach book with a heart". Das Buch regt sehr zum Nachdenken an, denn es geht um die Familiengeschichte einer griechischen Familie die mehrere Tragdienen erlebt. Eine davon ist die Lepra-Erkrankung der

Mutter. Ich wusste nicht einmal, dass Lepra selbst heute noch ein Thema ist, geschweige denn, dass es Inselkolonien gab, auf die die Erkrankten gebracht wurden um nicht noch mehr Menschen zu infizieren. Das Buch ist jedenfalls wundervoll geschrieben und die Beschreibung der Insel Spinalonga auf Kreta hat mich so neugierig gemacht, dass ich das ganze Internet durchforstet habe um mir ein Bild von der (wunderschönen) Insel zu machen. Ich kann das Buch nur jedem empfehlen, der Familiengeschichten mag und nicht vor dem Thema Lepra zurückschreckt. 2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Good Story, Lots of Facts Von Meks Librarian It is mainly the story of a family who are hit by tragic events, such as two of their members contracting leprosy, one being murdered and all that against the backdrop of a life of general hardship in a small fishermen's village on Crete in the years before, during and after WWII. Today's frame is provided by a young woman who finally wants to find out more about her mother's past; she knows her mother grew up on Crete before coming to England, where she married and had children, but other than that, very little is revealed, and strangely enough, never really questioned by her family until now. The young woman travels to the village she knew her mother spent part of her childhood in, and meets an elderly lady who knew her family very well. A letter the woman takes to this lady from her mother instructs her to tell the young woman everything she wants to know. That in itself is strange; if I had a dark secret in my past, I would want to be the one to reveal it, if I thought it appropriate and/or necessary; I certainly would not have anyone else tell what could always only be their side of the story, however intimate they'd known me and my folks in the past. Also, none of what comes to light about the family has any negative reflection on the woman who chose to conceal her past so completely; so one really wonders why she took all that trouble and was so secretive. On the contrary, it should have made her proud to tell of those of her family members who had, against all odds, created happy, fulfilled lives for themselves and gave her a loving home when her own parents could not. But, that and some other rather illogical things aside (real life and real people are often illogical, so it is hardly a point to be overly critical about), the story itself is very well done and the places and characters captured well enough to set the mental cinema in motion. Spinalonga, where most of the story happens, was a leper colony until the late 1950s. The author of this book has, I am sure, travelled there personally and done a lot of research to get the facts right, because it all sounds plausible. There are pictures and informations about the island on the internet; it certainly enhanced my reading experience. The author's website is also useful; I always like to know a bit more about the person who wrote what I read, don't you? To summarise, "The Island" is a good read, the story takes some rather unexpected twists and turns while other things are a bit too predictable, but everything I found out about Spinalonga was certainly worth it. That colony of outcasts and the island itself combine two things that hold great appeal to me: the art of Making Do, and an abandoned place that is being reclaimed by nature (more or less - Spinalonga has remained uninhabited since the colony was closed, but tourists are regularly ferried there. Some buildings have been reconstructed, and there is a small museum about the history of the disease and the colony itself.). 2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Mehr als ein Strandbuch Von Mark Twain Ich kann der Rezension von Cory "xxx" nur zustimmen. Das Buch ist vielschichtig geschrieben und trotzdem leicht verständlich. Weniger leicht ist das Thema und deshalb ist es mehr als ein Strandbuch wie es auf dem Cover genannt wird. Obwohl es sich um eine traurige Geschichte handelt, ist der Stil und die Schreibweise sehr positiv. Absolut empfehlenswert, besonders wenn man schon mal auf Kreta war.

Kurzbeschreibung The Petrakis family lives in the small Greek seaside village of Plaka. Just off the coast is the tiny island of Spinalonga, where the nation's leper colony once was located a place that has haunted four generations of Petrakis women. There's Eleni, ripped from her husband and two young daughters and sent to Spinalonga in 1939, and her daughters Maria, finding joy in the everyday as she dutifully cares for her father, and Anna, a wild child hungry for passion and a life anywhere but Plaka. And finally there's Alexis, Eleni's great-granddaughter, visiting modern-day Greece to unlock her family's past. A richly enchanting novel of lives and loves unfolding against the backdrop of the Mediterranean during World War II, *The Island* is an enthralling story of dreams and desires, of secrets desperately hidden, and of leprosy's touch on an unforgettable family. From Publishers Weekly Travel writer Hislop's unwieldy debut novel opens with 25-year-old Alexis leaving Britain for Crete, her mother Sofia's homeland, hoping to ferret out the secrets of Sofia's past and thereby get a handle on her own turbulent life. Sofia's friend Fortini tells Alexis of her grandmother Anna, and great-aunt Maria. Their mother (Alexis's great-grandmother) contracted leprosy in 1939 and went off to a leper colony on the nearby island of Spinalonga, leaving them with their father. Anna snags a wealthy husband, Andreas, but smolders for his renegade cousin, Manoli. When philanderer Manoli chooses Maria, Anna is furious. Conveniently, Maria also contracts leprosy and is exiled, allowing Anna to conduct an affair with Manoli. Meanwhile, Maria feels an attraction to her doctor, who may have similar feelings. Though the plot is satisfyingly twisty, the characters play one note apiece (Anna is prone to dramatic outrages, Maria is humble and kind, and their love interests are jealous and aggressive). Hislop's portrayal of leprosy those afflicted and the evolving treatment during the 1940s and 1950s is convincing, but readers may find the narrative's preoccupation with chronicling the minutiae of daily life tedious. (July) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights

reserved. From Booklist When beloved schoolteacher Eleni is diagnosed with leprosy, she is exiled to the Greek island of Spinalonga. Left behind on Crete are her husband and two beautiful daughters, headstrong Anna and dutiful Maria. Years later, Eleni's great-granddaughter Alexis returns to Crete to find answers to her family's mysteries. Conveniently, a witness to her family history is still alive to tell her and us the dark story. The novel is a romantic page-turner, but a little shallow. For example, the Nazi occupation of Crete becomes a plot device to turn the boy next door into a hunk, and, after much tribulation, the good are rewarded and the bad punished. The novel, successful in Britain, will probably be a popular beach read and book club selection this summer. There's little to object to in this historical romp. Block, Marta Segal Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved