



The Last Dance and Other Stories

Victoria Hislop

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Ten short stories by the million-copy best-selling author of the island, the return and the thread collected in a beautiful demy-format hardback edition.

Three of these stories were previously published in Victoria Hislop's ebook collection, One Cretan Evening.

In ten powerful stories, Victoria Hislop takes us through the streets of Athens and into the tree-lined squares of Greek villages. As she evokes their distinct atmosphere, she brings vividly to life a host of unforgettable characters, from a lonesome priest to battling brothers, and from an unwanted stranger to a groom troubled by music and memory.

These bittersweet tales of love and loyalty, of separation and reconciliation, captured in Victoria Hislop's unique voice, will stay with you long after you reach the end.

The Last Dance and Other Stories Details

Date : Published November 8th 2012 by Headline Publishing Group (first published November 1st 2012)

ISBN : 9780755396276

Author : Victoria Hislop

Format : Hardcover 160 pages

Genre : Short Stories, Fiction, Historical, Historical Fiction, Contemporary, Cultural, Greece

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From Reader Review The Last Dance and Other Stories for online ebook

Adrian says

Now I really enjoyed these stories, but I can understand that to get the most out of them you have to be a real Hellenophile.

The author's understanding and insight into the Greek people is wonderfully perceptive. Some of the stories are sad, some are happy, but they are all truly a joy to read.

Iris Rassios says

What a delight to read those short stories by Victoria Hislop. As in her novels, you can feel her love for Greece and its people and that's what makes her stories so beautiful. Always a pleasure to read!

Jennie says

General rating (for the whole book): 3 stars

•να μικρ? βιβλ?ο με 10 σ?ντομες ιστορ?ες ανθρ?πων (φανταστικ?ν προσ?πων) που ζουν και μ?νουν στην Ελλ?δα (μια ιστορ?α εξελ?σσεται στην Κ?προ). Μ?σα απ? αυτ?ς τις σ?ντομες ιστορ?ες π?ρα απ? το ?τι κ?ποιος διαβ?ζει για τις περιπ?τειες των ηρ?ων που εξελ?σσονται ε?τε σε χωρι? ε?τε σε μια μεγ?λη π?λη ,μπορε? επ?σης να π?ρει και μια γε?ση απ? τα φαγητ? που υπ?ρχουν στην Ελλ?δα και την Κ?προ, τα ?θη, τις παραδ?σεις, τις συν?θειες και τα ?θιμα των Ελλ?νων (παλι? και καινο?ργια) και κυρ?ως την νοοτροπ?α των Ελλ?νων.

•Αυτ? που μου ?ρεσαν πιο πολ? σε αυτ? το βιβλ?ο ?ταν οι εικονογραφ?σεις στην αρχ? της κ?θε ιστορ?ας αλλ? και η ?κδοση Hardcover στην οπο?α βρισκ?ταν αυτ? το βιβλ?ο ?ταν το π?ρα. ?ταν σαν να διαβ?ζω ?να μικρο βιβλιαρ?κι, ?να τετρ?διο με ιστορ?ες. ? ακ?μα καλ?τερα ?να ημερολ?γιο.

Specific rating for each story:

1. The Priest and the Parrot: 3,5 stars
2. The Kafenion: 3 stars
3. Aflame in Athens: 2 stars
4. The Zacharoplasteion: 3,5 stars
5. The peripteron: 1,5 star
6. One Cretan Evening: 3 stars
7. The Butcher Of Karapoli: 2,5 to 3 stars
8. The Lesson: 3 stars
9. The Pine Tree: 3 to 3,5 stars
10. The Last Dance: 2,5 to 3 stars

•Τ?λος, με χαροπο?ησε πολ? το γεγον?ς ?τι η συγγραφ?ας φα?νεται ?τι ?ψαξε για την Ελλ?δα και την Κ?προ, τους τ?πους ,τα ?θη,τα ?θιμα,τις παραδ?σεις,τις συν?θειες των ανθρ?πων αλλ? ?ψαξε και για τους ?διους τους ανθρ?πους . Δεν ?ταν επιφανειακ? ο?τε ψε?τικα αυτ? που ?γραψε. Το μ?νο

μως που μου κακοφ?νηκε καθ?ς δι?βαζα τις ιστορ?ες ?ταν το γεγον?ς ?τι ?ταν πολ? μικρ?ς και εκε? που βρισκ?σουν στο καλ?τερο σημε?ο και λες: «Τ?ρα τι θα γ?νει;» εκε? ε?ναι που σου κ?βει την ιστορ?α και μ?νεις με την απορ?α και πρ?πει μετ? εσ? να φανταστε?ς το τ?λος της. Π?ρα απ? αυτ? μως το βρ?κα ?να αρκετ? ενδιαφ?ρον βιβλ?ο, με αρκετ? ενδιαφ?ρουσες ιστορ?ες να πει.

Despoina says

A book with more than one short stories. All of them take place in Greece. It's hard to talk about these stories but I can say that my favorite one was the "The last dance" which was pretty romantic, about a love story that was meant not to survive, although they loved each other.

Susan Abraham says

This delightful book of short Greek stories from Victoria Hislop, sweetens the memory greatly. A decade ago, while in Melbourne, Australia, I was often treated to a lot of old Greek films, being televised at nights, from a Geelong (seaside area) channel. Hence, I straightaway drew an easy familiarity with the closely-entwined Greek communities that sought their solace from various everyday entanglements still caught in a series of faithful and rigid traditions, as carefully painted by Hislop.

How sensitively too, would the writer portray the colourful fictitious scenes featuring shops and streets and the ordinary lives of children, priests and village folk that accompanied these.

The endearing tales which rest on affairs of the heart or otherwise, a wry introspection, are locked into an ancient set of manners that only someone with an intimate knowledge of Greece culture and deep-rooted affection for its people, could offer her audience. These are the perfect stories for a summertime garden or bedtime read. It is easy to picture the Mediterranean flavour that encompasses the mood of each tale, and I, the outsider, watching events unfold eagerly through a glass window. The Last Dance and Other Stories had that gentle, illuminating effect on me.

Josie says

This was ludicrously bad. I've not read anything quite so terrible in a long while. It's not just that the characters were one-dimensional and the writing painfully bad ("The buildings were warmly characterful") but that the stories were, to put it simply, pointless. Writing short stories is an art. You have to set the scene, describe the characters, and tell a tale -- all within a limited word count. Some authors rise to this challenge. Victoria Hislop didn't.

The banality of her stories can be summed up in 50 words or less:

"Once upon a time two people were going to get married but they broke it off because their families disapproved. Ten years later they meet again, having just married other people, and realise they've made a mistake but it's too late. They dance. The end." (*The Last Dance*)

"A female student discovers that her boyfriend is an arsonist when he disappears and she discovers the charred remains of his lodgings. The flame in her heart is extinguished. The end." (*Aflame In Athens*)

"An Englishwoman suffering from culture shock despairs of ever being accepted by her future mother-in-law. Her fiancé explains that his father disappeared in the civil war and his mother is naturally afraid of losing her son too. The Englishwoman's homesickness is miraculously solved by this revelation and she is happy. The end." (*The Pine Tree*)

I'll stop there because I'm losing the will to live, but you get the idea. Take my advice and please don't waste precious minutes of your life reading this.

Dominique says

This is a great collection of short stories to read on a nice summer's day.

It is composed of ten short stories which all are about every day Greek life. The stories are short and sweet, sometimes sad; but always beautifully written. Victoria Hislop is one of my favorite writers, her previous books (*The Island* and *The Thread*) moved me a lot. Especially the fact that I have so many Greek colleagues now who have taught me quite a few Greek words, made me enjoy this collection of short stories more than I would have otherwise.

Kirstie says

Easy to read and fabulously written in true Hislop style. I wanted the stories to carry on

Nicola Bullivant-parrish says

Short stories are (IMHO) tricky territory. I think that Hislop has done a good job here though. There was enough depth of character crafted to allow me to empathise with the characters or to feel some other emotion towards them. The fact that they were set in Greece was always going to be a winner with me!

Athena says

Το βιβλίο αυτό αποτελείται από διηγή ματα της Victoria Hislop! Δεν μπορείται να ιστορίες αυτές με εντυπωσιασταν. Φανεται πως η συγγραφέας θελει να περιπλανηθεί μαζί με τον αναγνωστη σε μια ρη της Ελλάδας. Και να κατοχυρώνει τα θηματα, τα θιμα, το κοινωνικό της πλαστικό. Πολλές φορές τα διηγή ματα θυμίζουν ηθογραφικές διηγή ματα. Ωστόσο, οι ιστορίες μου φένηκαν ατελείς. Σαν μη ολοκληρωμένες.. Δεν θα το συνιστούσα...

Antonis B says

2.5 stars

Clarabel says

C'est (encore) une plongée fabuleuse et dépaysante, vers un ailleurs ensoleillé et radieux, sauf lorsqu'on dépoussiére les vieilles photos de famille, à l'ombre d'une terrasse, et qu'on écoute les souvenirs remonter à la surface... Guerre civile d'Espagne, 1936-1939. La famille Ramirez, le couple, 3 fils, 1 fille. Tous pris dans la tempête, au nom de l'amour, du désespoir, du sacrifice ou du dévouement. Un récit de feu et de sang. Poignant, émouvant mais magique... Même si la construction de l'histoire rappelle L'Île des oubliés, le pouvoir de séduction est incontestable et fait des merveilles ! Une lecture idéale pour les vacances.

Katy says

Disappointingly boring. I don't think short stories are the author's strong point... every time something was about to start happening, the story immediately ended, so every story was dull and ended too abruptly. ("Once upon a time, some totally Greek people were in Greece. They did nothing for a while. Then something happened! They felt conflicted about the thing that had happened. The end.")

I read this because my mother and sister both said her novel The Island was great, so perhaps Victoria Hislop is better at longer stories. I probably won't hurry to check it out, though.

J says

"This slim volume..." says an endorsement on the classic historical work '1066 And All That'. Which is about what I feel about this collection of short stories. Definitely slender. Interesting titbits of Greek life, some characteristics and characters that go beyond the Mediterranean stereotypes of those as ignorant as me, but not a lot else. Apart from the stories "The Priest and the Parrot" and "The Lesson", there really isn't sufficient justification for the printing of this book. Which is a shame, as the author clearly loves her subject and manages to communicate some of that to the increasingly weary reader. Perhaps her acclaimed novels about Greek and Mediterranean life will be worth a glance.

A nice moment from "The Lesson", as two small children meet a stern teacher...

When Katia Kakanidis saw the pair of them for the first time, that was how they were. Hand in hand. She came towards them and leaned down. "Kalimera paidia. Good morning children."

Both the children looked up at the bony-faced woman. They saw big shadows round beady black eyes, and a pointed chin. Wisps of dark hair floated around her head and the rest was swept into a bun. As she leaned in

close, Giannis noticed a tiny spider climbing towards her scalp.

Louise says

Quick way to read with some sweet stories set on little islands.

Nice.
