

the island book victoria hislop

The Island book Victoria Hislop has captivated readers worldwide with its compelling storytelling, rich historical context, and vivid depiction of life on a Greek island. Since its publication, the novel has become a beloved classic in contemporary fiction, praised for its emotional depth and meticulous research. This article explores the themes, plot, background, and impact of Victoria Hislop's acclaimed novel, offering readers a comprehensive understanding of why it continues to resonate across generations.

Overview of The Island Book

Plot Summary

The Island follows the story of Alexis Fielding, a young woman who travels to the Greek island of Spinalonga after her grandmother's death to uncover her family's hidden past. As Alexis delves into the island's history, she uncovers the poignant stories of those who lived there, particularly focusing on the island's role as a leper colony from 1903 to 1957. The narrative intertwines her personal journey with the historical accounts of the island's inhabitants, creating a layered and immersive reading experience.

Main Themes

- Love and Loss: The novel explores romantic relationships set against the backdrop of societal stigma and personal sacrifice.
- Isolation and Humanity: It examines the harsh realities faced by leprosy patients and their resilience.
- Family Secrets and Heritage: The story emphasizes the importance of understanding one's roots and the impact of past secrets on present lives.
- Historical Reflection: It provides insights into Greek history, culture, and social attitudes during the early 20th century.

Background and Inspiration

Victoria Hislop's Research and Motivation

Victoria Hislop's fascination with Spinalonga and its history was sparked by her visits to Greece and her interest in stories of marginalized communities. She conducted extensive research, including visits to the island, interviews with former residents and their descendants, and study of historical records. Her goal was to shed light on a forgotten chapter of Greek history while crafting a compelling narrative that would resonate with a broad audience.

Historical Context

Spinalonga was one of the last active leper colonies in Europe, operating until 1957. The island's history is marked by suffering, stigma, and eventual hope and emancipation. Hislop's novel vividly depicts these realities, blending factual history with fictional storytelling to create an authentic and emotionally charged portrayal.

Characters and Character Development

Key Characters

- Anna Salvà: The original inhabitant of Spinalonga, who becomes a symbol of strength and resilience.
- Kostas: A compassionate doctor who works on the island and develops a complex relationship with Anna.
- Alexis Fielding: The modern-day protagonist seeking her family's secrets.
- Elena: Alexis's grandmother, whose past on Spinalonga reveals the depth of the island's history.

Character Evolution

Hislop masterfully develops her characters, showing their growth amidst adversity. Anna's transformation from a frightened girl to a resilient woman highlights themes of courage. Alexis's journey from ignorance to understanding reflects the novel's overarching message about the importance of confronting the past.

Literary Style and Writing Technique

Narrative Structure

The novel employs a dual timeline narrative, alternating between Alexis's modern-day exploration and the historical account of Anna and others living on Spinalonga. This structure enhances the reader's engagement and provides a comprehensive perspective on the island's history.

Descriptive Language

Hislop's evocative descriptions of the Greek landscape, the island's architecture, and the emotional states of her characters contribute to an immersive reading experience. Her writing balances historical detail with poetic prose, making the story both informative and emotionally compelling.

Accessibility and Readability

The novel's accessible language and compelling storytelling make it suitable for a wide audience,

from casual readers to those interested in history and social issues.

The Impact of The Island

Critical Reception

The Island received widespread acclaim from critics and readers alike. It was praised for its emotional depth, historical accuracy, and engaging narrative. Many reviewers highlighted Hislop's ability to humanize a difficult subject and evoke empathy.

Commercial Success

The book became an international bestseller, translated into numerous languages, and sold millions of copies worldwide. Its popularity led to adaptations in various formats, including a successful television series and stage productions.

Social and Cultural Influence

Hislop's novel raised awareness about leprosy and the social stigmas associated with it. It also contributed to the preservation of Spinalonga's history, inspiring visits to the island and renewed interest in Greek cultural heritage.

Adaptations and Related Works

Television Series

The Island was adapted into a highly successful Greek television series, which expanded its reach and brought the story to a broader audience. The adaptation retained much of the novel's emotional core while visualizing the historical setting vividly.

Other Works by Victoria Hislop

Victoria Hislop has authored several other novels, including:

- The Thread: Set in Granada, Spain, amid the Spanish Civil War.
- The Sunrise: Exploring life in Crete during World War II.
- The Return: A story about a woman's journey to Greece for answers.

Each of her works shares her signature style—rich historical detail combined with compelling characters and universal themes.

Why Read The Island?

Educational Value

The novel offers insights into Greek history, medical ethics, and social attitudes towards disease and disability. It serves as an educational tool for understanding the complexities of marginalized communities.

Emotional Connection

Readers often find themselves emotionally invested in the characters' struggles and triumphs, making it a memorable and heartfelt reading experience.

Cultural Appreciation

Through vivid descriptions of Greek island life, Hislop fosters a deeper appreciation of Greek culture, traditions, and landscapes.

Conclusion

Victoria Hislop's *The Island* is more than just a historical novel; it is a poignant exploration of human resilience, love, and the enduring power of memory. Its compelling narrative, well-researched background, and relatable characters make it a must-read for anyone interested in history, social issues, or compelling storytelling. Whether you are seeking a moving story or a window into Greece's past, *The Island* offers a profound and unforgettable experience that continues to resonate with readers around the world.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main plot of 'The Island' by Victoria Hislop?

'The Island' tells the story of a young woman named Alexis who uncovers her family's secret history on the Greek island of Spinalonga, focusing on the island's history as a leper colony and exploring themes of love, loss, and resilience.

Why is 'The Island' by Victoria Hislop considered a popular historical novel?

Because it vividly depicts the real history of the leper colony on Spinalonga, blending historical facts with compelling personal stories, which resonates with readers interested in Greek history and human resilience.

Has 'The Island' by Victoria Hislop been adapted into any other media?

Yes, 'The Island' was adapted into a successful Greek television series in 2010, bringing the story to a wider audience and highlighting its popularity.

What are the major themes explored in 'The Island'?

The novel explores themes such as love and sacrifice, social stigma, isolation, the impact of history on personal lives, and the resilience of the human spirit.

Is 'The Island' suitable for readers interested in Greek history?

Absolutely. The book provides a detailed and heartfelt portrayal of the historical leper colony on Spinalonga, offering insights into Greek history and societal attitudes during that period.

Where can I find 'The Island' by Victoria Hislop to read or purchase?

The book is widely available at bookstores, online retailers like Amazon, and in digital formats for e-readers. It is also available in libraries worldwide.

What makes 'The Island' by Victoria Hislop stand out from other historical novels?

Its combination of meticulous historical research, rich character development, and a compelling narrative set against the backdrop of a real historical location makes it uniquely engaging.

How has 'The Island' impacted Victoria Hislop's writing career?

The novel's success established Victoria Hislop as a prominent author of historical fiction, leading to further bestsellers and recognition for her storytelling and historical accuracy.

Are there any sequels or related books to 'The Island' by Victoria Hislop?

While 'The Island' is a standalone novel, Victoria Hislop has written other books set in Greece, such as 'The Return' and 'The Sunrise,' which share similar themes and settings.

Additional Resources

The Island by Victoria Hislop is a captivating novel that transports readers to the vibrant and tumultuous history of Crete, blending personal stories with larger historical events. As one of Hislop's most celebrated works, it combines rich storytelling, vivid descriptions, and a profound exploration of human resilience and love amidst adversity. This review delves into the various

aspects that make *The Island* a compelling read, examining its plot, characters, themes, and overall impact.

Overview of the Book

The Island was first published in 2005 and quickly gained popularity for its immersive narrative and evocative depiction of Greek life. The story is set against the backdrop of Crete, spanning several decades from the 1930s through the 1950s. It chronicles the life of a young woman named Alexis Fielding, who travels to Crete to learn about her family's history, uncovering secrets buried in a small, isolated leper colony called Spinalonga. Hislop masterfully intertwines personal stories with significant historical events, including World War II and the leprosy epidemic, creating a vivid tapestry of human endurance.

Plot Summary

The novel begins with Alexis, a woman living in contemporary London, who is motivated by her mother's stories and her own curiosity to visit Crete. Her journey leads her to the abandoned leper colony of Spinalonga, where she uncovers her family's connection to the island. The narrative then shifts to the lives of the inhabitants of Spinalonga, focusing primarily on the character of Eleni, a young woman who is diagnosed with leprosy and is forcibly quarantined on the island.

The story spans several decades, depicting the struggles, hopes, and loves of those living in exile. It explores themes of stigma, resilience, and community, highlighting how the residents of Spinalonga form bonds that transcend the disease that isolates them. The novel also vividly portrays the social and political upheavals in Greece during this period, including the Italian invasion, World War II, and the eventual closure of the colony.

Themes and Messages

1. Stigma and Humanity

One of the central themes of *The Island* is the stigma surrounding leprosy and how it impacts individuals' lives. Hislop emphasizes that beyond the disease, it is societal fear and prejudice that cause suffering. The residents' resilience and ability to find joy and love despite their circumstances underscore the importance of compassion and understanding.

2. Love and Sacrifice

The novel explores various forms of love—romantic, familial, and communal. Characters often face difficult choices that require sacrifice for the well-being of others, illustrating the strength of human bonds in the face of adversity.

3. Historical Turbulence

By weaving personal stories with historical events, Hislop demonstrates how larger political and social upheavals directly affect individuals' lives, shaping their destinies and identities.

4. Cultural Heritage

The book offers a rich portrayal of Cretan culture, traditions, and landscapes, immersing readers in a setting that is both exotic and historically significant.

Characters and Character Development

Victoria Hislop's characters are richly drawn and multi-dimensional, allowing readers to connect deeply with their journeys.

Main Characters

- Eleni: The heart of the novel, her strength and resilience symbolize hope amidst despair. Her evolution from a naive girl to a woman hardened by circumstances is compelling.
- Kostas: A young man who falls in love with Eleni, representing love's persistence despite societal barriers.
- Alexis: The modern-day protagonist, whose quest to uncover her family history adds a layer of mystery and personal discovery.

Character Dynamics

The relationships between characters highlight themes of loyalty, sacrifice, and forgiveness. Hislop's portrayal of the community on Spinalonga reflects a microcosm of society, with characters supporting and challenging each other through hardship.

Writing Style and Narrative Technique

Victoria Hislop's writing is evocative, descriptive, and accessible. Her narrative seamlessly shifts

between the past and present, maintaining suspense and emotional depth.

Strengths of Her Writing

- Vivid descriptions of Crete's landscapes and daily life create immersive imagery.
- Well-paced storytelling keeps readers engaged across decades.
- Use of multiple narrators provides diverse perspectives, enriching the narrative.

Potential Drawbacks

- Some readers might find the parallel timelines slightly disjointed at times.
- Certain plot points are predictable, especially for seasoned historical fiction readers.

Historical Accuracy and Research

Hislop's meticulous research shines through in her detailed depiction of Spinalonga and the historical context. She captures the atmosphere of Crete during wartime and the social attitudes towards leprosy with sensitivity and authenticity.

Pros:

- Accurate portrayal of leprosy and medical practices of the era.
- Detailed descriptions of Greek history and cultural traditions.
- Respectful depiction of marginalized communities.

Cons:

- Some critics argue that certain historical events are simplified for narrative convenience.
- The focus on personal stories sometimes overshadows broader historical analysis.

Reception and Criticism

The Island has received widespread acclaim, becoming a bestseller in multiple countries and inspiring a dedicated reader base.

Pros:

- Engaging storytelling that appeals to a broad audience.
- Educational value regarding Greek history and leprosy.
- Emotional depth and relatable characters.

Cons:

- Some critics feel the novel relies heavily on melodrama.
- Slightly idealized portrayal of the community's resilience.

Impact and Cultural Significance

Victoria Hislop's *The Island* has contributed significantly to raising awareness about Spinalonga and the history of leprosy in Greece. It has inspired tourism to the island, which is now a popular historical site, and has sparked conversations about social stigma and compassion.

Conclusion: Is *The Island* Worth Reading?

Pros:

- Richly detailed depiction of Greek history and culture.
- Moving portrayal of human resilience and love.
- Well-developed characters and immersive storytelling.

Cons:

- May appeal more to fans of historical fiction and romantic dramas.
- Some may find the pacing slow in certain sections.

Overall, *The Island* by Victoria Hislop is a powerful, emotionally resonant novel that offers both a compelling story and a window into a significant chapter of Greek history. Its themes of hope, love, and resilience resonate universally, making it a worthwhile read for anyone interested in historical narratives infused with human drama. Whether you are drawn by the picturesque setting of Crete, the poignant characters, or the historical backdrop, Hislop's *The Island* promises an enriching literary experience that stays with you long after the last page.

[The Island Book Victoria Hislop](#)

the island book victoria hislop: *The Island* Victoria Hislop, 2006 The million-copy number one bestseller On the brink of a life-changing decision, Alexis Fielding longs to find out about her mother's past. But Sofia has never spoken of it. All she admits to is growing up in a small Cretan village before moving to London. When Alexis decides to visit Crete, however, Sofia gives her daughter a letter to take to an old friend, and promises that through her she will learn more. Arriving in Plaka, Alexis is astonished to see that it lies a stone's throw from the tiny, deserted island of Spinalonga - Greece's former leper colony. Then she finds Fotini, and at last hears the story that Sofia has buried all her life: the tale of her great-grandmother Eleni and her daughters and a family rent by tragedy, war and passion. She discovers how intimately she is connected with the island, and how secrecy holds them all in its powerful grip...

the island book victoria hislop: *The Island* Victoria Hislop, 2008-02-10 'This is one of the most touching, gripping and inspiring books that I have ever read. Hislop seamlessly weaves an accurate history of a Greek island with a forbidden love story' Real Reader Review, [INSPIRED BY TRUTH, THE STORY THAT HAS CAPTIVATED THE WORLD](#). This was not the start of a short trip to

deliver supplies. It was the beginning of a one-way journey to start a new life. Life on a leper colony. Life on Spinalonga. Fifty years later, making a life-changing journey of her own, Alexis Fielding feels the pull of the abandoned island. A distant shadow off the coast of Crete, she knows it holds the secrets of her mother's past, buried for so long but surely not forgotten . . . Discover for yourself why 10 million readers and critics worldwide love Victoria Hislop's books . . . 'Passionately engaged with its subject . . . meticulously researched' The Sunday Times 'Hislop carefully evokes the lives of Cretans between the wars and during German occupation, but most commendable is her compassionate portrayal of the outcasts' Guardian 'A page-turning tale that reminds us that love and life continue in even the most extraordinary of circumstances' Sunday Express 'The story of life on Spinalonga, the lepers' island, is gripping and carries real emotional impact. Victoria Hislop . . . brings dignity and tenderness to her novel about lives blighted by leprosy' Telegraph 'Vivid, moving and absorbing' Observer 'A deeply moving, captivating, humane and beautiful story of enduring love, and life' Real Reader Review, ★★★★★ 'The most powerful and gripping story I've ever read!' Real Reader Review, ★★★★★ 'An intriguing and unusual story that keeps you turning the pages . . . The descriptions of Crete are beautiful, and you can just imagine yourself there with the blue sea and sun shining. It is a triumph in many ways, and a part of history I was unaware of' Real Reader Review, ★★★★★ 'Victoria Hislop has created a collection of wholly believable characters woven around the factual history of Spinalonga . . . A gripping and moving tale' Real Reader Review, ★★★★★

★ *Victoria Hislop's most recent novel, THE FIGURINE, is out now.*

the island book victoria hislop: The Islands Collection Victoria Hislop, 2020-05-04 *Pre-order THE FIGURINE, the brand-new novel from Victoria Hislop. Coming September 2023.* The Islands Collection is a captivating omnibus of two of Victoria Hislop's most gripping novels, The Island and The Sunrise. Heartbreaking and immersive stories set against the backdrop of stunning Mediterranean islands from the Sunday Times number one bestselling author. 'Victoria Hislop's view of history in her novels is, like the writer herself, a compassionate and generous one' Scotsman The Island, the acclaimed million-copy bestseller: On the brink of a life-changing decision, Alexis Fielding longs to find out about her mother's past. But Sofia has never spoken of it. All she admits to is growing up in a small Cretan village before moving to London. When Alexis decides to visit Crete, however, Sofia gives her daughter a letter to take to an old friend, and promises that through her she will learn more. Arriving in Plaka, Alexis is astonished to see that it lies a stone's throw from the tiny, deserted island of Spinalonga - Greece's former leper colony. Then she finds Fotini, and at last hears the story that Sofia has buried all her life: the tale of her great-grandmother Eleni and her daughters and a family rent by tragedy, war and passion. She discovers how intimately she is connected with the island, and how secrecy holds them all in its powerful grip... The Sunrise, the Number One Sunday Times bestseller: In the summer of 1972, Famagusta in Cyprus is the most desirable resort in the Mediterranean, a city bathed in the glow of good fortune. An ambitious couple are about to open the island's most spectacular hotel, where Greek and Turkish Cypriots work in harmony. Two neighbouring families, the Georgious and the Özkans, are among many who moved to Famagusta to escape the years of unrest and ethnic violence elsewhere on the island. But beneath the city's façade of glamour and success, tension is building. When a Greek coup plunges the island into chaos, Cyprus faces a disastrous conflict. Turkey invades to protect the Turkish Cypriot minority, and Famagusta is shelled. Forty thousand people seize their most precious possessions and flee from the advancing soldiers. In the deserted city, just two families remain. This is their story. Praise for The Island and The Sunrise: 'Fascinating and moving' The Times on The Island 'A vivid, moving and absorbing tale' Observer on The Sunrise 'An imaginative tour de force, and a great read' Daily Mail on The Island 'Wonderful descriptions, strong characters and an intimate portrait of island existence' Woman & Home on The Sunrise 'An absorbing tale about family, friendship, loyalty and betrayal' Good Housekeeping on The Island 'A beautiful tale of enduring love and unthinking prejudice' Express on The Sunrise

the island book victoria hislop: Victoria Hislop Tpb Bind Up - the Island and the Return Victoria Hislop, 2014-01-20

the island book victoria hislop: One August Night Victoria Hislop, 2021 25th August 1957. The island of Spinalonga closes its leper colony. And a moment of violence has devastating consequences. When time stops dead for Maria Petrakis and her sister, Anna, two families splinter apart and, for the people of Plaka, the closure of Spinalonga is forever coloured with tragedy. In the aftermath, the question of how to resume life looms large. Stigma and scandal need to be confronted and somehow, for those impacted, a future built from the ruins of the past.

the island book victoria hislop: Those Who Are Loved Victoria Hislop, 2019-05-30 *THE FIGURINE, the brand-new novel from Victoria Hislop, is available to order now.* 'She brings Greek history to compelling life' The Sunday Times 'Hislop has done her research and handles the great sweep of complex Greek history with skill and confidence' Daily Mail Athens, 1941. Nazi forces occupy Greece ... and a nation falls apart. Victoria Hislop's NEW Sunday Times Number One bestseller takes you into the darker days of Greek history and, through the eyes of its extraordinary heroine, illuminates the courage it takes to live in peace. After decades of political uncertainty, Greece is polarised between Right- and Left-wing views when the Germans invade. Fifteen-year-old Themis comes from a family divided by these political differences. The Nazi occupation deepens the fault-lines between those she loves just as it reduces Greece to destitution. She watches friends die in the ensuing famine and is moved to commit acts of resistance. In the civil war that follows the end of the occupation, Themis joins the Communist army, where she experiences the extremes of love and hatred and the paradoxes presented by a war in which Greek fights Greek. Eventually imprisoned on the infamous islands of exile, Makronisos and then Trikeri, Themis encounters another prisoner whose life will entwine with her own in ways neither can foresee. And finds she must weigh her principles against her desire to escape and live. As she looks back on her life, Themis realises how tightly the personal and political can become entangled. While some wounds heal, others deepen. This gripping new novel from bestselling author Victoria Hislop sheds light on the complexity and trauma of Greece's past and weaves it into the epic tale of an ordinary woman compelled to live an extraordinary life. Victoria Hislop. Discover for yourself why 10 million readers worldwide love her books... Here's what the critics said about *Those Who Are Loved*: 'A searing and powerful story full of passion, showing how one woman's ideals and beliefs shape everything that she becomes. It's both a beautifully woven love story and a spellbinding, heart-breaking depiction of a country torn apart by hatred' Daily Express 'A glorious Greek setting and rich historical detail form the backdrop of this captivating and poignant story' Woman & Home 'An eye-opening and moving read' Mirror 'Anyone who reads Victoria Hislop's novels falls in love with Greece ... A moving read that sweeps you through time' S Magazine 'A wonderfully researched and beautifully written piece of historical fiction' CultureFly *Those Who Are Loved* was a Sunday Times Number One bestseller in paperback for four weeks in August and September 2020.

the island book victoria hislop: The Sunrise Victoria Hislop, 2014-09-25 'This is a story of courage, brutality and fear, of loyalty and betrayal, of love and hatred, of despair and unquenchable hope. As always, Victoria Hislop brings vividly to life a horrendous episode in the history of the beautiful island of Cyprus. Excellent, in every way' Real Reader Review, □ □ □ □ In the golden city of Famagusta, Greek and Turkish Cypriots alike enjoy a life of good fortune. Invasion comes without warning, bringing chaos and terror. As forty thousand people flee their homes in panic, Famagusta becomes a ghost town. But not everyone will find it so easy to leave . . . Discover for yourself why 10 million readers and critics worldwide love Victoria Hislop's books . . . 'Intelligent and immersive . . . Hislop's incisive narrative weaves a vast array of fact through a poignant, compelling family saga' The Sunday Times 'Adroitly plotted and deftly characterised, Hislop's gripping novel tells the stories of ordinary Greek and Turkish families trying to preserve their humanity in a maelstrom of deception, betrayal and ethnic hatred' Mail on Sunday 'Fascinating and moving . . . Hislop writes unforgettably about Cyprus and its people' The Times 'An imaginative tour de force, and a great read' Daily Mail 'Victoria Hislop writes so vividly about the Med, you can almost feel the scorching heat. An absorbing tale about family, friendship, loyalty and betrayal, set during a violent period in the history of Cyprus' Good Housekeeping 'Victoria Hislop has never let me down. Characters,

storyline and location are all woven together into an intricate tapestry that educates as much as it entertains' Real Reader Review, ☐☐☐☐ 'As usual, Victoria casts a spell over her readers, telling a wonderful story that is spellbinding and awful . . . Fascinating' Real Reader Review, ☐☐☐☐ 'Excellent . . . I highly recommend The Sunrise and defy anyone reading it to remain unmoved and dry eyed' Real Reader Review, ☐☐☐☐ 'A wonderfully evocative tale of life before, during and after the Spanish Civil War . . . Fantastic' Real Reader Review, ☐☐☐☐ 'Victoria Hislop's well researched book with its convincing characters from both Greek and Turkish communities brings the history of this wonderful island to life and gives a remarkable picture of traumatic events . . . a superb read' Real Reader Review, ☐☐☐☐

the island book victoria hislop: Maria's Island Victoria Hislop, 2021 A dramatic and moving story set in the same world as the international bestseller *The Island* from the celebrated novelist Victoria Hislop. The absorbing story of the Cretan village of Plaka and the tiny, deserted island of Spinalonga - Greece's former leper colony - is told to us by Maria Petrakis, one of the children in the original version of *The Island*. She tells us of the ancient and misunderstood disease of leprosy, exploring the themes of stigma, shame and the treatment of those who are different, which are as relevant for children as adults. Gill Smith's rich, full-colour illustrations will transport the reader to the timeless and beautiful Greek landscape and Mediterranean seascape.

the island book victoria hislop: *The Figurine* Victoria Hislop, 2023-09-28 THE GRIPPING NEW PAGE-TURNER FROM THE AUTHOR OF THE ADORED, MULTI-MILLION COPY BESTSELLER, *THE ISLAND* 'A beautiful, moving and thought provoking story, *The Figurine* is a stunning read . . . her love and passion for Greece comes through loud and clear with every word she writes' Real Reader Review, ☐☐☐☐ 'Her love for Greece shines through and transports readers to a brilliantly drawn world' Independent 'Family turmoil, unanswered questions, romance and betrayal, all served up against the backdrop of Greece and its enchanting history' Daily Express An unputdownable read with a family's dark history giving a unique glimpse into Greece's troubled past. Athens sparkles in Victoria Hislop's imagination. Concealed beneath the dust sheets in the Athens apartment she has inherited from her grandparents, Helena McCloud discovers a hidden hoard of rare antiquities, amassed during a dark period in Greek history when the city and its people were gripped by a brutal military dictatorship. Helena's fascination for archaeology, ignited by a summer spent on a dig on an Aegean island, tells her that she must return these precious artefacts to their rightful place. Only then will she be able to allay the darkness of the past and find the true meaning of home - for cultural treasures and for herself. Sunday Times bestselling author Victoria Hislop's powerful new novel shines a light on the questionable acquisition of antiquities and the price people will pay to possess them.* --- Victoria Hislop is back with another compulsive page-turner. Discover for yourself why 10 million readers and critics worldwide love Victoria Hislop's books ... 'A tightly wrought excavation of family history' Mail on Sunday 'Searing and powerful' Daily Express 'Glorious Greek setting and rich historical detail' Woman & Home 'Hislop's thyme-scented, Aegean-lapped fictional Greece' The Sunday Times 'Victoria Hislop has done it again! A truly captivating story . . . I wish I could give it more than 5*' Real Reader Review, ☐☐☐☐ 'There is no doubting Victoria Hislop is an incredible storyteller who has opened up the history of Greece to a wider contemporary world; her attention to detail and the creation of warm and sympathetic characters instantly grabs readers' Real Reader Review, ☐☐☐☐ 'This is the best novel I have read in a long time' Real Reader Review, ☐☐☐☐ 'A beautifully told story with fabulous characters and a vivid scenery that makes you believe you are in Greece' Real Reader Review, ☐☐☐☐ 'This was a wonderful read . . . a vivid picture of Greece and the people who live there' Real Reader Review, ☐☐☐☐ *Victoria Hislop's *The Figurine* was a Number Two Sunday Times bestseller in paperback for two weeks in August 2024.

the island book victoria hislop: Glimpses of Greece: Santorini's Pictorial Poetry Elizabeth Jimenez , *Glimpses of Greece: Santorini's Pictorial Poetry* takes viewers on an enthralling visual tour of the island's well-known scenery and diverse culture. The book invites readers to immerse themselves in the island's whitewashed cottages, blue seas, and sun-drenched panoramas by revealing its timeless beauty through vivid pictures and engrossing text. Readers are drawn into

the center of Santorini's allure with every turn of the page, as each sight is revealed like a beautiful poem, encapsulating the spirit of this Aegean treasure in a spellbinding exhibition of visual poetry.

the island book victoria hislop: The Return Victoria Hislop, 2009-10-06 From the internationally bestselling author of *The Island* comes a dazzling new novel of family betrayals, forbidden love, and historical turmoil. Sonia knows nothing of Granada's shocking past, but ordering a simple cup of coffee in a quiet café will lead her into the extraordinary tale of a family's fight to survive the horror of the Spanish Civil War. Seventy years earlier, in the Ramírez family's café, Concha and Pablo's children relish an atmosphere of hope. Antonio is a serious young teacher, Ignacio a flamboyant matador, and Emilio a skilled musician. Their sister, Mercedes, is a spirited girl whose sole passion is dancing, until she meets Javier and an obsessive love affair begins. But Spain is a country in turmoil. In the heat of civil war, everyone must take a side and choose whether to submit, to fight, or to attempt escape.

the island book victoria hislop: The Thread Victoria Hislop, 2012-07-10 "A brilliant page turner...rich with drama and historical detail." —Glamour (UK) A beautiful and epic novel that spans nearly a hundred years, *The Thread* is a magnificent story of a friendship and a love that endures through the catastrophes and upheavals of the twentieth century—both natural and man-made—in the turbulent city of Thessaloniki, Greece. Victoria Hislop, internationally bestselling author of *The Island* and *The Return*, has written a wonderfully evocative and enthralling saga enriched by deep emotion and sweeping historical events, from fire to civil war to Nazi brutality and economic collapse. *The Thread* is historical fiction at its finest, colorful and captivating with truly unforgettable characters—a novel that brilliantly captures the energy and life of this singular Greek city.

the island book victoria hislop: The Book Lover's Quiz Book 2 Gary Wigglesworth, 2023-10-05 Put your bookworm reputation on the line and prove your literary knowledge with this collection of quizzes for book whizzes. Book lovers can answer questions by themselves or host a quiz among friends with twenty-four quizzes to keep you guessing with a variety of question styles including: - 'Blankety Books', where you must fill in the missing word in each title - Anagrams to decipher - 'Two of a Kind', where you must identify a character and author who share the same initials - Guess the book with 'Say What You See' pictures and badly drawn covers - 'Book Bingo' The quizzes are carefully weighted so avid bookworms will get a workout, while more casual readers can still have lots of fun having a go. All questions are designed to aid guessing, with multiple-choice answers and hints, and make the reader smile with amusing wrong answers, clever red herrings, little-known facts and footnotes.

the island book victoria hislop: The Last Dance and Other Stories Victoria Hislop, 2013-05-23 In these 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.

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