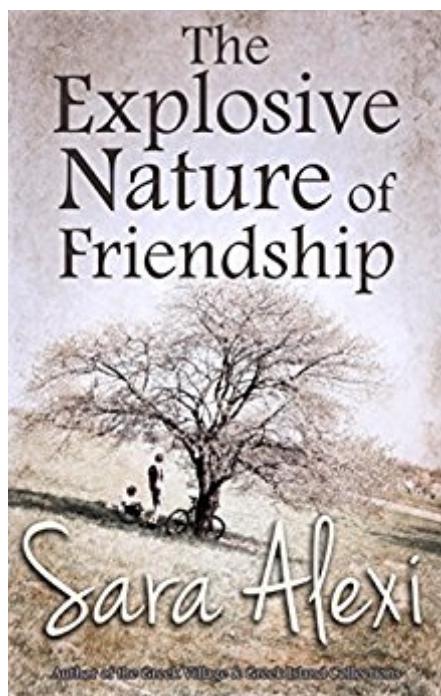


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The Explosive Nature Of Friendship (The Greek Village Series Book 2)



Synopsis

WARNING! If you read this book on the beach you may lose track of time and get sunburnt...A real page-turner and evocative of a lovely life style perhaps lost to many of us in the modern world - Dad PadIn a tangible portrayal of rural Greek Life, The Explosive Nature of Friendship is a compelling tale of humour, heartache and regret as we follow one manâ™s reflection of his unruly and mischievous past.Easily led in his younger years, Mitsos would often find himself hurtling head first down the wrong path, usually with his best friend Manolis leading the way. Old Greek traditions of arranged marriage and inheritance strongly influence the choices of two wilful young men, eventually culminating in life changing consequences.Now an old man leading a life of solitude and order, Mitsosâ™ less eventful existence is suddenly interrupted by the arrival of his young nephew. In a bid to amuse the child, he begins recounting tales of romance and calamity from his own youth, and finds himself face to face with a painful past; with one event in particular he is yet to come to terms with, one that has haunted him every day for twenty years.With hindsight now in his favour, can hope and compassion finally prevail? Will Mitsos ever come to forgive himself, and will those around him be able to do the same?

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Customer Reviews

If any other writer took a spineless, clueless character and turned him into the protagonist of an otherwise delightful plot with an original, cultural backdrop, he or she wouldn't be able to pull it as well as Sara Alexi did. The story is about two childhood friends, the gullible Mitsos and wheeling and dealing Manolis who takes advantage of Mitsos all through their lives. There is also Manolis' wife Marina who Mitsos refused to marry when she was handpicked by his parents, but when Manolis married her, Mitsos fell in love with Marina. Add to this other perfectly developed characters in the Greek village and the story is a success. Still, I hated to read about a main character like Mitsos. It is difficult for me to empathize with idiocy in a protagonist even if it supports all the warmth and saintliness of humanity. From the beginning of the story, I kept on reading and hoping that Mitsos will gain brains and judgment somehow, but it wasn't to be. Still the story is a winner because the writing is so perfect, and all characters, even the quirky ones, as flawed as they are, do come alive.

Sara Alexi got me again. She knows about Greek village life, and writes about it very well. This book follows Mitsos, who was mentioned briefly in book 2, and it seems he has misunderstood his life his entire lifetime. I again got caught up in these people's lives, and hope there is a fourth book. I purchased book one of the series, and actually paid money for it. Try it, you'll like it.

"The Explosive Nature of Friendship" reunites us with Mitsos, who we met in book one of the Greek Village Series, and Marina, the protagonist of book two. We follow Mitsos from his childhood, where he befriends ne'er-do-well Manolis, the class clown and local troublemaker. A few catastrophes and years go by, and Mitsos learns to stay away from Manolis. However, when Mitsos turns down his arranged marriage, and then discovers that Manolis married his former intended, Marina, things change. Mitsos realizes that he really did love Marina, and had he known it was her, would never have backed out of the engagement. Manolis is up to his old tricks, and treats Marina poorly. Mitsos feels bad for her, so he continues to associate with Manolis to--as best he can--keep him out of trouble and protect Marina. Manolis' antics ultimately--and irrevocably--change the lives of all three. We learn much in Mitsos' discussions with his baby nephew, who in turn reveals Mitsos' softer side, and in some ways, teaches him about life. Mitsos tries to right some wrongs, and at last, to find love. Will he prevail? In these characters, we see people we know. Sara creates such plausible characters, and writes the story in a way that we find humanity in all of them, all the while enjoying our stay on their island. We learn that we can't save people from themselves, and that we shouldn't

let love slip away. We learn that we don't want to live a life of regret. Another surprise ending will have you yearning for the next book in the series. As soon as I finished this, I had to immediately start book 4!~ Maria A. Karamitsos, Associate Editor - The Greek Star newspaper

Second book in the series and was a great read for me. Childhood friends, the naive Mitsos and not so great friend who looks to take advantage of his loyal friend, Manolis. Mitsos refused an arranged marriage to Marina so who but his best friend, Manolis marries Marina and he is abusive. Mitsos falls in love with Marina but she is married to Manolis. They go through ups and downs...

An old man reflects on his solitary life and lost chances, mourning what could have been. His long-time love has little to do with him. He thinks she blames him for her husband's death and wishes he could make his failure up to her. He's increasingly drawn to the woman who runs the restaurant where he eats, but she's married to the brutish owner. He wishes he could help her. Then a letter comes. Maybe he will have a chance to redeem his mistakes. Alexi has created a wonderful series about people in the village: petty ones, pretty ones, good ones, and mean ones. The stories tell about past lives, current lives, how people grew into what they are, and how they came to the village. There are some problems--engrossed in one point of view, we suddenly find ourselves in someone else's head; occasionally, we come upon a missed/wrong word--but the writing paints such a wonderful picture of the Greek village, we don't care. The stories remind me a lot of Alexander McCall Smith's No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency books. They immerse us in another culture and make us want to take a year off to experience it. I thought the first one I read was a nice story. The second seemed an interesting piece relating to the first. Then the third one made me realize each one was a sliver of a magnificent, lyrical whole. This is not the best book in Alexi's Greek village series, but it's still entertaining. If you are looking for a gentle, interesting story of how people relate, you'll enjoy these books.

I like these Greek stories. Great when you want to take a break from murder mysteries or written to formula romances. The story may seem to lag at times but the author always pulls everything together by the end. I got invested with the characters and wanted to see how things turned out. They are stand alone but also tie in to each other - bringing back characters met in previous books.

I am not sure how I feel about the book now that I have finished. The scenery is vivid and alive, the characters so real I wanted to choke a couple of them at their stupidity sometimes, and the plot so

believable I might have known these folks if I'd ever been to the village, but the end of the book left me sad for Mitsos and confused at the baby's name and overall unsatisfied. Perhaps it was too sophisticated an ending for me, or I've come to look for happy endings.

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