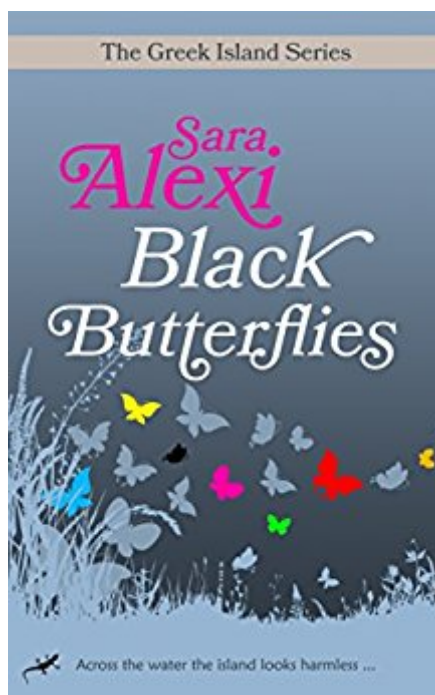


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Black Butterflies (The Greek Island Series Book 1)



Synopsis

Black Butterflies is a gripping summer story of love, loss and ultimately forgiveness, leaving you basking in sunshine and suspense as you find yourself transported amongst the sounds, tastes and smells of life on a Greek Island. Marina is a gentle soul who makes a modest living in her corner shop. Her husband died years ago, and her children have grown up. Life is pleasantly predictable, if a little dull. But all is not as it seems, and buried deeply in Marina's younger years is a secret that she has managed to keep hidden...until now. Even her daughters don't know about the lonely months spent on a nearby island thirty five years ago, with the events from that summer haunting her ever since. When Marina discovers one of her daughters wants to move to the same island, the past and present threaten to collide with dreadful consequences. Reluctantly, yet without doubt, Marina knows she must revisit the island. Armed with nothing but a vague plan and a determination to stop the looming tragedy, she will come face to face with the consequences of her long kept secret, but will she be in time? Confronting a past steeped in the intolerance and prejudice of those around her, Marina's roller-coaster journey will make you laugh, cry and eagerly hold out for one woman's redemption.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Even better than the first book in the series, *Black Butterflies* takes us on an endearing character's search to find the man her daughter must not marry. Along the way we meet delightful people, and the story unfolds in unexpected ways. I loved this book. It takes us to a place both ancient and modern in every way and has an ending so satisfying and unusual that you will want to share this book with others, as I did.

I read the first book in this two-book "Greek series," *The Illegal Gardner*, and absolutely loved it. This is what inspired me to read the second book, *Black Butterflies*. I was surprised that a minor character in the first book became the major character in the second book and the major character in the first book became a minor character in the second. The result is two different perspectives of life in Greece, one from an ex-pat, in the first book, and one from a Greek. I advise reading *The Illegal Gardner* first.

Marina, Eleni, Artemis, Petra, Ireni, Zoe and Bobby, Panos, Papas, Costa Voulgaris... Names so musical and so, well, Greek. An old Greek island, full of history and memories, yet growing a little more modern to appease the tourists. Bougainvillea, stone steps, whitewashed walls, red tile roofs, donkeys, cats, and stray dogs; quayside cafes with *boutsakas* and coffee. This place is the setting, these people are the lives you have been made privy to. The author has brought a wonderful story to life. Martina's secret has kept her from loving her daughter Eleni. Eleni's secret kept her angry at her mom. The loss of a baby boy, Marina's friendship with first the boat captain (and his fiancée, who brings her to the island, then Zoe's family where she lodges, then meeting the cafe keeper Costas (who has his own secrets!) and Panos the barber and Papos the priest, and Maria, who makes so many things clear- the story will touch your heart, the suspense of knowing will cause you to smile and cry. And then there are the beautiful black butterflies that finally come together in recognition. Feast on this beautifully drawn tale of life and love and loss and new beginnings. While this book is ostensibly one of three, I did not read the first, nor have I yet read the last, but I found nothing lacking and nothing that needed adding to this book. While the beginning may seem a bit slow and meandering, if you stay the course, I promise you will be delighted!

Another beautiful book. This is the second book I've read by Sara Alexi and it will not be the last. Her prose is beautiful, characters are true and believable. Ms. Alexi brings the reader along on her character's journey. I felt the sun and sea breeze on my face. I could smell the jasmine, the food and yes, even the not quite as pleasant donkey dung on the mountain path. I smiled, chuckled and

had tears in my eyes. There is such joy in reading a story well told.

Expecting a continuation of the first book, *The Illegal Gardener*, and more time with Juliet, the main character in that first tale, I was disappointed to find Marina and her life as the story line. She is the overweight shopkeeper in the first book, and didn't seem interesting enough to take center stage. Her story was all pretty predictable and overly dramatic. Some of the characters on the island did not seem real at all, more caricatures - Bobby, Eleni, the millionaire waiter. Marina, herself, was not terribly appealing; the giggling in a 40-something woman was unsettling. Unlike one reviewer, I liked the cats roaming the island as they do in many countries, Greece and Turkey particularly. Once again, the locale was well drawn, and I had a vivid image of the island and its terrain. Now I'm thinking that each book to follow will have as its main character one of the peripheral ones from the first book. I will read reviews carefully before buying subsequent books in the series.

I read the first in the series and curiosity kept me going. I still prefer the first book out of all four but reading all of them gave a more complete picture. I liked this storyline for the most part even though I figured it out fairly early. I don't like the writer's need to have cats mentioned so much and luckily this doesn't really carry on in the other books. Also, everyone is always 'giggling'. I think that could have been worded differently. You'll have to read to see what I mean. I know it doesn't sound like it but I do recommend it. The mental picture the author gives you of Greece is worth it.

So I loved the first book in the Village Series, *The Illegal Gardner* (5*) and I was confused between books in the Greek Island and Greek Village series. This book was pretty darn good but not as great and the 1st...looking forward to reading the rest of the series!

I can't really say I enjoyed the second book as much as the first. I appreciate that the author tried to draw a literal portrait of this Greek island, but the descriptions of the island and setting the scene took up a great chunk of the book, at least half I would say. Since I wasn't interested in a travelogue, I found myself often paging many, many pages ahead to get to a section where the plot would move forward. The ending was obvious well before the end of the book. The characters were very well drawn and I think I would have enjoyed it more if they had been more of a central theme. I would still give another of this author's book a chance.

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