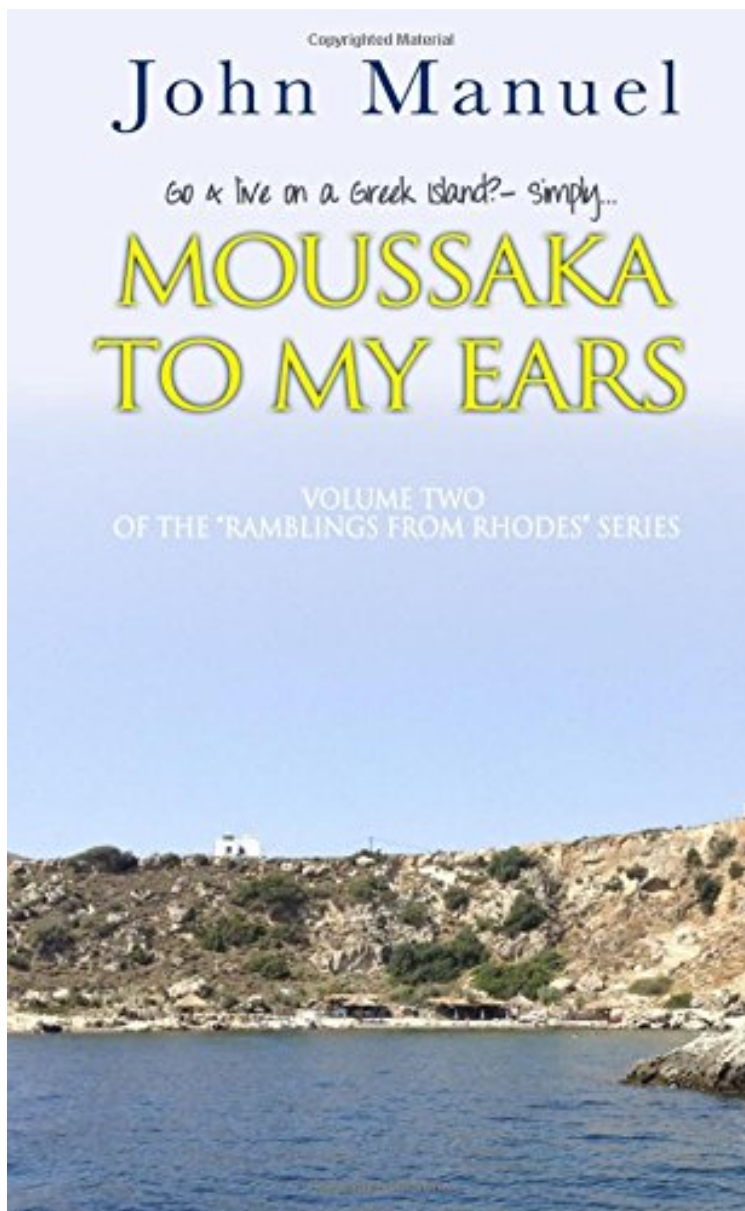


Moussaka to My Ears

John Manuel

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John Manuel : Moussaka to My Ears before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Moussaka to My Ears:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. good content but digresses By JKI ENJOY HIS WRITING VERY MUCH. OFFERS EXCELLENT DESCRIPTIONS OF GREECE/ISLANDS. HAS GREAT CHOICE OF SUBJECTS

GREAT MIX OF HUMOR AND SERIOUS MATERIAL. BUT HAS HABIT OF INTRODUCING AN INTERESTING TOPIC THEN MAKING LARGE DIGRESSION, SOME WHICH HAVE NO RELATION TO INTRO. SOME ARE REALLY IRRITATING FOR EXAMPLE HE DEVOTED PAGES OF CONTENT IN ONE DIGRESSION DEALING WITH GREEK GRAMMAR AND PHONETICS. HE ALSO WIL. OFFER A TOPIC OF INTEREST THEN CHAPTERS OR BOOKS LAYER DISCUSS THEM, FOR ME THAT IS VERY IRRITATING. MORE OR LESS A GOOD BOOK. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Lovely and Evocative Account By Celia Hayes This is a lively and enchanting account of living in Greece, on the island of Rhodes, written by a long-time expatriate. In his first book, *Feta Accompli*, John Manuel told a rambling story of how he came to fall in love with his wife, Yvonne-Marie - and the country of her birth, of how they drove all across Europe with their worldly goods to settle into half of a half-finished duplex on a raw building site of new properties. The sequel is a much more polished account, and even better - ornamented with pictures of some of the places and situations and characters which John and Yvonne-Marie encountered over the years: the German photographer with his roll of carpet, the man who sold botanical concoctions and his tiny second-floor workshop, and their indestructible neighbor Manolis, the 6-Million Drachma man ... all of that and more. Greece is a place which visitors fall in love with at once. Some fall abruptly out of love upon encountering some of Greece's more wayward and exasperating qualities, but others fall even farther into love with Greece's considerable charm; the look of the sky on a clear summer day, the smell of ripe figs, the feeling of having put in a good round of work at bringing in the olive harvest, and dancing at a taverna until the wee hours, the kindness and courtesy of the people: that minority will develop such a deep and knowledgeable love of Greece and the Greek people, that it will carry them over those rough spots - cheerfully acknowledging such imperfections and moving on to the good stuff. This book explores all of that in loving detail, and what it is like to live there, slightly on the outside and viewing it's foibles with a keenly observing eye. All in all, *Moussaka to My Ears* is a lovely evocation of a place and a people.

John and his half-Greek wife Yvonne-Maria moved from the UK to Rhodes in 2005, the account of which was told in his first book, *Feta Compli!* *Moussaka* takes up where *Feta Compli!* leaves off, with Yvonne and John settling into life on Rhodes and coming into contact with some great characters who live around them out there. Plus, there's another helping of reminiscences from past years and other parts of Greece and Europe in general; like the time when Yvonne was Miss August on a calendar that graced the walls of innumerable offices all across Germany after meeting a German businessman on a beach in Corfu. Then there's Manolis, the "Six Million Drachma Man," who climbs olive trees even though he only has one and a half legs! The "Lonely Goatherd" comes by, as does Kostas, the local who shows them which weeds are great to eat. Yvonne helps Greco-Turkish relations during an evening out on Samos and John reluctantly become the elephant man for a while.