



On Persephone's Island: A Sicilian Journal (Vintage Departures)

By Mary Taylor Simeti

Download now

Read Online 

On Persephone's Island: A Sicilian Journal (Vintage Departures) By Mary Taylor Simeti

An American woman residing in Sicily for the past twenty years portrays the Sicilian landscape and customs--both rural and urban--from the perspectives of both a "foreigner" and a resident.

 [Download On Persephone's Island: A Sicilian Journal \(V ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online On Persephone's Island: A Sicilian Journal ...pdf](#)

On Persephone's Island: A Sicilian Journal (Vintage Departures)

By Mary Taylor Simeti

On Persephone's Island: A Sicilian Journal (Vintage Departures) By Mary Taylor Simeti

An American woman residing in Sicily for the past twenty years portrays the Sicilian landscape and customs--both rural and urban--from the perspectives of both a "foreigner" and a resident.

On Persephone's Island: A Sicilian Journal (Vintage Departures) By Mary Taylor Simeti Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #118664 in eBooks
- Published on: 2010-12-08
- Released on: 2010-12-08
- Format: Kindle eBook

 [Download On Persephone's Island: A Sicilian Journal \(V ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online On Persephone's Island: A Sicilian Journal ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online On Persephone's Island: A Sicilian Journal (Vintage Departures) By Mary Taylor Simeti

Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Mary Taylor Simeti arrived in Sicily in 1962 to do volunteer work. Freshly graduated from Radcliffe College after growing up in a distinguished and privileged New York City family, the last thing she expected was to fall in love and marry a Sicilian. *On Persephone's Island: A Sicilian Journal* is the ambivalent love story of an intelligent, complex, and self-reflective woman. The book recounts the events of 1983, the year Simeti turned 42. Her narrative alternates between Palermo, where her children attend school and her husband Toninno is a professor of agricultural economy, and Bosco, in eastern Sicily, where she shoulders demanding responsibilities on the working farm that has belonged to her husband's family for three generations.

Simeti feels the isolation of being an expatriate and outsider, although she claims to welcome this perspective when faced with frustration and disgust at the pervading political corruption and corrosive effects of the Mafia on everyday life. Despite her natural diffidence, she shares personal insights that make *On Persephone's Island* as compelling as her prose. Simeti intersperses rich helpings of Sicilian history and culture with mundane events and insight into what motivates the peasants essential to the survival of the family farm. And she makes pessimistic observations about the complexity of changing times in a society where the persistent reliance on feudal relationships and agriculture is finally crumbling.

An academic manqué, Simeti researches and ruminates on the mythological underpinnings of the many holidays and festivals that punctuate the rhythm of Sicilian life. She focuses particularly on the Greek goddesses Persephone and Demeter, who held Sicily under their protection. She eventually discovers a correlation between her own situation and the story of Persephone, who alternately inhabited the worlds of light and darkness.

From Publishers Weekly

An American married to a Sicilian professor and ancestral farm owner, Simeti with her family divides the year between Palermo and the countryside. In a beautifully written journal covering one year, she records with an artist's eye the rhythm of the seasons, the extremes of climate and contrasts between the lush coastal region, wheatlands and the mountainous, more barren interior of the island. With a useful historical perspective on Sicily's blend of civilizations, she also provides lively insights into the character of its people, their social and burial customs and festivals, some of them of Greek, Arab or Norman origin. The author appears to have retained an American independent spirit while immersing herself in an alien society and mastering the practical demands of rural existence. That her sensitivity to the charms of her adoptive land does not blind her to its shortcomings makes her a most reliable guide. Illustrations.

Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

Simeti, an American who was graduated from Radcliffe in the early 1960s, went to Sicily to aid in Third World development. She married a Sicilian professor; they have two children, an apartment in Palermo, and a farm. Now, after 20 years, she has written this excellent journal depicting the social life and customs of the island. Using the seasons as a guide, she takes the reader on a year-long visit, comparing and contrasting various aspects of daily life, especially holiday customs. There is also a little history and politics and a lot of geography, horticulture, and relating of contemporary to classical lore. A very engaging book that dispels one-sided notions about Sicily. Recommended. Sondra Brunhumer, Western Michigan Univ. Libs., Kalamazoo

Kalamazoo

Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Shawn Midkiff:

Now a day people that Living in the era everywhere everything reachable by connect with the internet and the resources within it can be true or not require people to be aware of each data they get. How a lot more to be smart in having any information nowadays? Of course the correct answer is reading a book. Studying a book can help folks out of this uncertainty Information specially this On Persephone's Island: A Sicilian Journal (Vintage Departures) book because book offers you rich info and knowledge. Of course the data in this book hundred per cent guarantees there is no doubt in it everbody knows.

Alex Santana:

The experience that you get from On Persephone's Island: A Sicilian Journal (Vintage Departures) is the more deep you excavating the information that hide inside words the more you get serious about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to comprehend but On Persephone's Island: A Sicilian Journal (Vintage Departures) giving you joy feeling of reading. The article writer conveys their point in certain way that can be understood through anyone who read that because the author of this reserve is well-known enough. This book also makes your vocabulary increase well. Making it easy to understand then can go together with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We highly recommend you for having this On Persephone's Island: A Sicilian Journal (Vintage Departures) instantly.

Nellie Nelson:

On Persephone's Island: A Sicilian Journal (Vintage Departures) can be one of your beginning books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this guide has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in language, easy to understand, bit entertaining but delivering the information. The article author giving his/her effort to put every word into joy arrangement in writing On Persephone's Island: A Sicilian Journal (Vintage Departures) although doesn't forget the main point, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource data that maybe you can be one among it. This great information can easily drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial considering.

Katie Jones:

Do you really one of the book lovers? If so, do you ever feeling doubt if you are in the book store? Make an effort to pick one book that you find out the inside because don't ascertain book by its cover may doesn't work here is difficult job because you are afraid that the inside maybe not while fantastic as in the outside appearance likes. Maybe you answer is usually On Persephone's Island: A Sicilian Journal (Vintage Departures) why because the great cover that make you consider about the content will not disappoint an individual. The inside or content will be fantastic as the outside or perhaps cover. Your reading sixth sense will directly assist you to pick up this book.

**Download and Read Online On Persephone's Island: A Sicilian
Journal (Vintage Departures) By Mary Taylor Simeti
#2YUAS38PLFD**

Read On Persephone's Island: A Sicilian Journal (Vintage Departures) By Mary Taylor Simeti for online ebook

On Persephone's Island: A Sicilian Journal (Vintage Departures) By Mary Taylor Simeti Free PDF download, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read On Persephone's Island: A Sicilian Journal (Vintage Departures) By Mary Taylor Simeti books to read online.

Online On Persephone's Island: A Sicilian Journal (Vintage Departures) By Mary Taylor Simeti ebook PDF download

On Persephone's Island: A Sicilian Journal (Vintage Departures) By Mary Taylor Simeti Doc

On Persephone's Island: A Sicilian Journal (Vintage Departures) By Mary Taylor Simeti Mobipocket

On Persephone's Island: A Sicilian Journal (Vintage Departures) By Mary Taylor Simeti EPub