



One Fateful Summer

Vanessa Star

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In her novel One Fateful Summer, Vanessa Star fuses history, politics, adventure, beautiful nature, and Mediterranean cuisine.

When Lisa, a small business owner from Los Angeles, arrives to Greek Cyprus on a summer vacation, she gets involved in a chain of dramatic events that may change her fate and the future of people close to her... Lisa suspects that several brushes with death that happen to her and her friends are not accidental. In fact, they become targets of a group of well-organized criminals based in Turkish Northern Cyprus whose goal is to eliminate the heirs to a large fortune. Now Lisa and her new friend Steve from British Secret Service need to outplay the intricate plot created by criminal masterminds in order to survive.

Follow the heroes of One Fateful Summer from Los Angeles to Cyprus, London, and Istanbul!

One Fateful Summer Details

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Author : Vanessa Star

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From Reader Review One Fateful Summer for online ebook

Alexa Oliphant says

I read this book on a recommendation, but it's very much a diversion from my usual pantheon of thick Russian novels and post-post modern American lit.

So, I didn't think I would enjoy this travel thriller as much as I did, or I expected it to be a guilty pleasure... Like the occasional historical smut I read. Yet, once I got past the linear straight forward prose that says what it means, as opposed to trying to trick a reader (I'm looking at you Nabokov), it was a delightful unfolding of numerous characters, their families, and their faults amidst an exotic and very historically weighted backdrop. I think it's more akin to War and Peace than to your standard paperback thriller.

It's smart and ambitious, with a female protagonist who learns as much about herself as she does about the world surrounding her. At times this world is daunting, with such a long string of characters and a historical event that Americans tend to know nothing about - the Turkish/Greek trouble in Cyprus. I really recommend checking out the book's website if you're struggling with the logistics of the island. It gave me a helping hand with all of those Greek names. <http://www.onefatefulsummer.com/lisas...>

My favorite aspect of the novel though was the history. It's rich and interesting going back to the medieval and even Biblical era, before hustling into the 20th century turmoil that befell the island. In addition to being palpably tasty, it provided the crux of the story, which is that these characters, flawed though they may be, very much mean well (mostly). Had it not been for the deeply penetrating events around them, they would have led very different lives.

Genre is usually code for bad writing and flat characters, but this novel challenges that idea. While it is eventful, it's going after the human condition and experience as much as the thrills.

My favorite passage of the novel that shows this reads, "Lisa was thinking how human life was transient compared to eternity. She was also thinking how everything could have turned out differently had it not been for the war in 1974. How Panayotis could be happy with Miriam, and Nikos and Elena could know and love each other as brother and sister. How Grandpa Andreas would love them both, and they would help him in business. How Panayotis would make peace with his father, and his wife, Maria, would meet another man who would really love her. But none of this was fated to happen because history ruled otherwise."

Check it out if you're into history, travel, or just need a break from novels about chilly St. Petersburg. It's a scrumptious treat of a book.

Courtney Haas says

"One Fateful Summer" is written in a way that creates beautiful scenery, but it gets a bit bogged down in the details. I loved reading about the characters and their mishaps and adventures, the drama/romance is pretty cool too. If the book is edited and made to flow more smoothly, I think the story will come across more clearly to the reader. As is, the story is enjoyable and appeals to those who like reading romance and adventure novels. Beach scenes are always my favorite to read about, as I love envisioning myself in the

story. Though I received this book for reviewing purposes, this review is written based on my unbiased opinion.

Jeff says

I have traveled to Cyprus several times over the past ten years and this book is spot on about life on the divided island. This a gripping tale of intrigue and suspense that kept my interest from beginning to end. I highly recommend it.

Brigette says

Written by a dear friend of mine, I know how much she loves the area she wrote about in this book. It was full of rich history, and descriptive scenery. A good book, for a first self published novel, I feel History lovers and world travelers would enjoy!

Kathy says

I loved this story! It is exciting and has many twists and turns to keep you guessing. The setting is the beautiful Mediterranean island of Cyprus and includes vivid descriptions of the small villages and beaches along the coast. The story looks back historically to the political upheaval of 1974 between Turkey and Greece but takes place in the modern day. It is both a family history and a spy thriller!

That being said, the writing is very irregular and often meaning is not clear, almost as if the work has been translated badly from another language. Even the American characters do not speak with a smooth natural flow. The work is full of errors in syntax, grammar, some very odd vocabulary and strange phrases are used. Where was the editor on this one?

Jennifer says

I received this as part of Good Reads First Reads
Lisa heads to Cyprus to go on holiday with a long term friend whom she hasn't seen in a while
This story follows them on adventures they take together - some with mishaps along the way.
With descriptions from the author of the scenery and the island you could almost imagine yourself on the journey with them

Lisa Petro says

The book was very interesting and intriguing. It was long but the story kept moving. A lot of rich characters in beautiful Cyprus. A lot of characters to keep track of, but an overall enjoyable book.

Jeff says

I thoroughly enjoyed this novel. The book really hooked my interest, being that I am a history, travel, and suspense enthusiast. I especially liked the detail about the Greek-Turkish conflict.

Anastasia Ruban says

Great read!

Mike says

Thank you for the pre-release copy. I found the detailed insights into local Cypriot cuisine to be an interesting angle for me. I enjoy cooking, so I found your references very interesting. I also enjoyed the detailed descriptions of Cyprus, an island I have visited some years ago. It really brought back memories and made me feel I was in the center of the book's action. Bravo! I highly recommend this book.

Katie says

In One Fateful Summer, Lisa heads to Cyprus to vacation with a friend she hasn't seen in years, hoping to take a break from her everyday life. However her friend Elena doesn't realize that her secret lover has dangerous secrets, which will pull both women into mystery and danger. Lisa finds herself in odd situations over and over that set off her instincts to run, and the one person she finds herself trusting is a man she has only just met.

I really liked that the chapters follow and focus on each of the important characters; it helps to steadily build up each person, the good the bad and the mysterious. I also liked that even though Lisa finds herself in strange situations she stayed a strong character and listened to her instincts.

I received a free copy of the book in exchange for an honest review.

Juli says

This was very difficult to read. English is not the author's first language, and that comes through in odd phrasing and grammar. The characters are inconsistent, with two of the primary characters having some significant personality changes about half-way through. There are times when a character's motivation is unclear, and I was offended by some of the stereotypes and labels. (Just because two characters might be gay, they don't need to be labelled as such every time they're mentioned. There are no other Arabs, so you don't need to specify "gay Arabs" every few sentences.)

The book would have benefitted a lot from a good editor.

To her credit, the author clearly loves the setting and her descriptions of the scenery are vivid. The overall story was interesting, and I kept reading because I wanted to see how it turned out. Still, when one of the characters makes a comment about how he feels like he's in a bad made-for-TV movie, and the reader agrees, that's telling.

Vanessa Star says

Watch the video about Lisa's travels in Cyprus on Vanessa Star's profile page.
