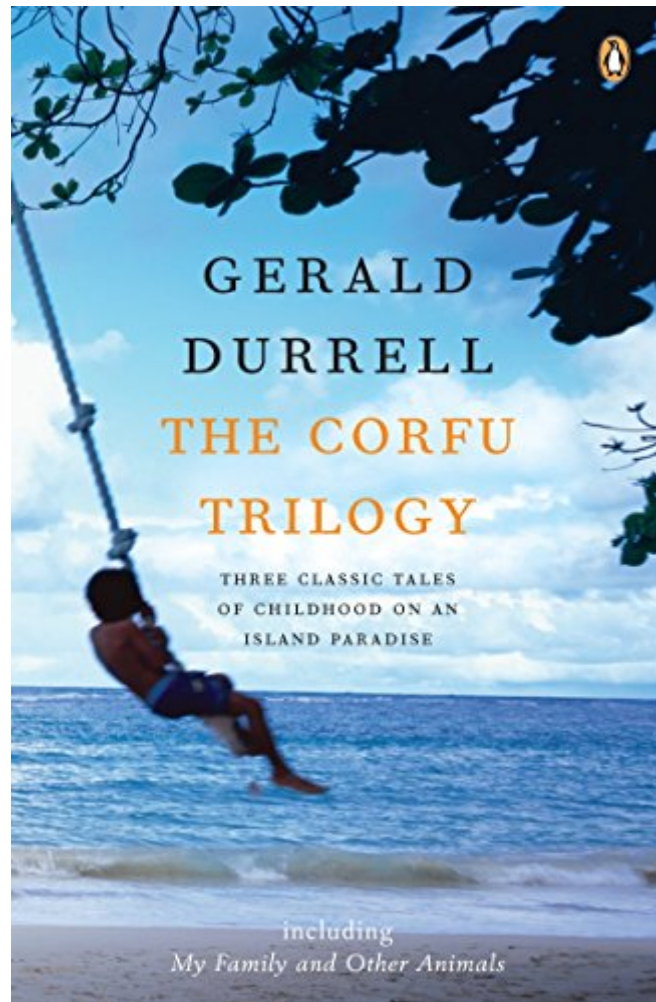


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The Corfu Trilogy



Synopsis

The trilogy that inspired ITV's six part television series *The Durrells*. Three classic tales of childhood on an island paradise - *My Family and Other Animals*, *Birds, Beasts and Relatives* and *The Garden of the Gods* by Gerald Durrell - are available in a single edition for the first time in *The Corfu Trilogy*. Just before the Second World War the Durrell family decamped to the glorious, sun-soaked island of Corfu where the youngest of the four children, ten-year-old Gerald, discovered his passion for animals: toads and tortoises, bats and butterflies, scorpions and octopuses. Through glorious silver-green olive groves and across brilliant-white beaches Gerry pursued his obsession . . . causing hilarity and mayhem in his ever-tolerant family. Durrell's memories of those enchanted days gave rise to these three classic tales, loved by generations of adults and children alike, which are now available in one volume for the first time. 'He has an uncanny knack of discovering human as well as animal eccentrics' *Sunday Telegraph* 'A delightful book full of simple, well-known things: cicadas in the olive groves, lamp fishing at night, the complexities of fish and animals - but, above all, childhood moulded by these things' *New York Times*

Book Information

File Size: 1778 KB

Print Length: 768 pages

Publisher: Penguin (August 3, 2006)

Publication Date: August 3, 2006

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B002RI9B76

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #12,008 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #1 inÂ Books > Travel > Europe > Greece > Corfu #1 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Science > Biological Sciences > Zoology #1 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Travel > Europe > Greece

Customer Reviews

• My Family and Other Animals • is the most famous part of Gerald Durrell's Corfu Trilogy, which describes his childhood on the Greek island of Corfu. It is also the only one which, in Britain at least, is still in print in its own right. I will not, however, say much about My Family in this review, as I have reviewed it elsewhere. The other two parts are only available as part of this compendium volume, which I bought primarily for Part III, The Garden of the Gods. Unlike its two predecessors, I had never read this book before. (I am not sure why, given that it first came out in 1978, at the height of my youthful enthusiasm for all things Gerald Durrell—perhaps I missed it because I was too busy studying for exams). I didn't enjoy The Garden of the Gods quite so much as the other two books, possibly because Durrell was starting to run out of things to say about his stay on Corfu. There are some amusing anecdotes, such as his account of the visit of the King of Greece to Corfu, but his gift for characterisation is less marked here than elsewhere. Too often his characters seem more like stock types than believable individuals. The Count Rossignol, for example, seems less like a recognisable human being than a compendium of every English prejudice about the French. The two gay men Harry Honey and Lumy Lover are similarly dealt with in stereotypical terms. (At least, I presumed they were meant to be gay men, although Durrell seems to write about them with a deliberate ambiguity which leaves open the possibility that Lumy Lover might be a woman). At the beginning of Birds, Beasts, and Relatives Durrell describes a (probably imaginary) conversation with his family in which he informs them of his intention to write a sequel to My Family.

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