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Travel writer takes readers – and her mom’s diary – back to Greece

Australian author Sally Jane Smith announces the April 20th publication of ‘Repacking for Greece: A Mediterranean Odyssey’

[GOSFORD, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA, April 9th, 2024] The eagerly awaited second book in Sally Jane Smith’s ‘Packing for Greece’ series of standalone travel books – in which she once again packs her mother’s 1978 diary and sets out solo for Greece – will land on shelves on April 20th, 2024. American writer Jeffrey Siger, creator of the enormously popular ‘Chief Inspector Andreas Kaldis Mystery’ series, says of Smith’s forthcoming book, “Fans of legendary UK travel-writer and explorer of all things Greece and beyond, Patrick Leigh Fermor, will find a kindred spirit in *Repacking for Greece* author Sally Jane Smith.”

Repacking for Greece travels from a flashback chapter in twentieth-century South Africa – recalling Smith’s enthralling experience as a teenager at Nelson Mandela’s release rally – to eleven mainland and island destinations in contemporary Greece. Peter Barber, award-winning author of the best-selling ‘The Parthenon Series’ of humorous Greek travel memoirs, remarks on Smith’s talent for delving into the history of the iconic landmarks that feature on many tourists’ itineraries, as well as lesser-known sites that often go unnoticed. “These facts are like a hidden treasure for travelers,” he says, explaining that Smith has inspired him to return to the area around Delphi to witness what he’s missed before. Although the book focuses on Greece as a travel destination, Barber continues, it “tackles weighty subjects like apartheid in South Africa, her life-changing accident in Sri Lanka, and the disappointment of a failed trip to Canada. She manages to connect them seamlessly.”

Smith’s 2023 debut, *Unpacking for Greece*, was named ‘Reading Greece Book of the Month’ by Greek government website *Greek News Agenda*, described as a “soul-stirring adventure through Greece” in major Greek-Australian newspaper *Neos Kosmos*, and selected for a literary panel hosted by the Hellenic American Women’s Council. Now, *Repacking for Greece* travels to Nafplio, Mycenae, Epidavros and Methana on the Peloponnese Peninsula, as well as the islands of Hydra, Aegina, Poros, Kefalonia and Corfu (with a side trip to Butrint, an Albanian heritage site with links to ancient mythology). It also travels to both Athens and Delphi – which features on the cover – on the Greek mainland.

“I didn’t think Andrew Brown [of Design for Writers] could surpass the beautiful cover he created for my first book,” says Smith, “but this dawn-lit image says everything I could possibly want it to say about the story. It was at this archaeological site that I experienced a moment of personal transformation. And the inclusion of my mom’s journal in the design means the world to me.”

Smith is an immigrant Australian who has lived on five continents and visited thirty-three countries, but she gives credit to Greece for turning her into a writer. She completed a residency at Varuna, the renowned Writers’ House in Australia’s Blue Mountains, in 2018 and has published articles in *Gulf News*, *JourneyWoman*, *TripFiction*, *Women’s Ink!* and *Brevity Blog*. Smith’s story of her great-great-grandmother’s extraordinary life appears in the anthology *Itchy Feet: Tales of Travel and Adventure*. Her exploration of travel and grief is included in the *Newcastle Short Story Award Anthology 2022*.

***Repacking for Greece* is available at bookstores and online retailers from April 20th, 2024**

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