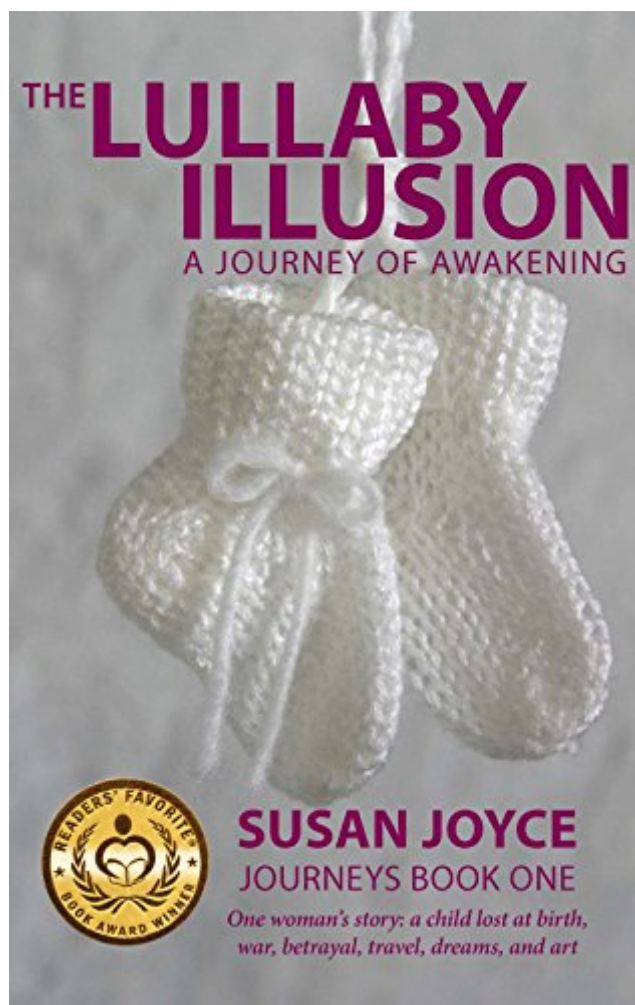


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The Lullaby Illusion: A Journey Of Awakening (Journeys Book 1)



Synopsis

The memoir of a young American woman who experiences an intense personal transformation amidst churning historical events. When Joyce endures the loss of a child, her marriage is shaken. Following a coup, and a war on the island of Cyprus in 1974, her life seems to unravel before her eyes. But she has dreams, and pays attention to them. Following their guidance, she discovers her spiritual connection to the universe and the truth of her mysterious husband's involvement in the Cyprus conflict. Inside this riveting true story about self-discovery and change is a tale of friendships prevailing over deceit, and the importance of making dreams a reality through dedication and determination. It shows how in the strangest twists of fate, adversity can make you stronger, your relationships deeper, and help spirit overcome whatever stands in the way of creating for yourself a life of meaning and beauty.

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Customer Reviews

I meant to read this book for a while. Susan Joyce is a fellow award winner, who won in the

category Non-Fiction - Travel, a genre that is very dear to me. Susan Joyce describes her book's story best when she writes, "... As a young woman I had set out to explore, to travel the world. The more I explored, the more I discovered myself. So much of life seemed to follow a serendipitous path of spiritual discovery...." And what a path it was. Married to Charles, a handsome fellow, who did business in the Middle East, she called Cyprus her home. Cyprus has often been described as a paradise and to Susan it was. Her worst problem is that even after a few miscarriages Charles still does not want to adopt. He seems to make becoming a father his life's goal. Susan gets pregnant again but the baby is stillborn. It is the beginning of the end of her marriage. Other than being inconsiderate Charles also has other flaws. During the famous overthrow of the Makarios government in July 1974 Susan finds out that her husband knows too much. Even though he has never served (to her knowledge), he can identify planes and weapons. Other people seem to suggest that Charles is a spy and his business trips are cover-ups for Lord knows what. Susan's riveting eyewitness account of the junta's attack is high drama. I was fascinated by it because I had never read an innocent bystander's story about a coup d'État. Susan describes in great detail her, her husband's, and her friends' attempt to hide, flee amidst failing electricity and occasionally failing phones, napalm attacks, bombing and shooting. It is a good thing that the Turks don't want to kill foreigners, because Susan gets to meet them too. I had spent three weeks in Cyprus in 1987, when all was calm and peaceful again. Since my Greek friends weren't allowed to visit the Northern Turkish part of the country, they had brought me to the demarcation line, which still existed; I walked across the line and rented a car on the Turkish side. Her account of what happened during the frightful days when the country became divided is absolutely fascinating. In a way some parts of the paradise are still there, "... But the Kyrenia Castle survived." "Once again, after thousands of years of foreign invasions...." It was awesome to find out that during her time in Europe Susan also visited my hometown Vienna, where she not only saw the famous Lippizanners but also watched "Arsenic and Old Lace" with David Cameron. For me it was a cool read because I know so many of the locations well, since I grew up in this region of the world. It was wonderful to read about them as the backdrop for Susan's transformation into the artist she was meant to be. Susan is one hell of a gutsy woman, who did not even hesitate to ask Elvis, if he was "the real Elvis". Indeed, she also saw the 'real' Elvis driving an old beat-up car on an LA freeway. because he did not want to be recognized. Susan still did. Gisela Hausmann, author & blogger

The Lullaby Illusion is a tragic and uplifting story about life, loss, and facing those things beyond which we have no control -- and figuring out which ones we do. The story traces a certain period in

the life of the author when her tranquil existence in Cyprus is suddenly blown up, figuratively, but also literally, by war. The experience of coping with, surviving, and then escaping for safer ground plays out in interesting parallel with other traumatic events in Joyce's Young life -- namely, the loss of her baby and multiple miscarriages, as well as the revelation that her husband is not who she believes him to be. Joyce's relationship to her vivid dream life, as well as her artistic spirit, guide her through these tragedies to stable - and fulfilled- ground. A must read for anyone who is interested in stories that trace survival and resilience in times of duress.

Los Angeles California author Susan Joyce has seen the world and the world has seen her as she demonstrates in this life journey novel, *THE LULLABY ILLUSION*, that recalls a 12 year period of her life from 1973 to 1985 that is as staggering as a full length feature film thriller. After spending her childhood in Tucson, Arizona she returned to LA as a young working woman working as a secretary, freelance writer, teacher of computer classes, composer of songs, artist, and creator of an impressive number of award winning children's' books. But it is the period prior to this that her memoir-like novel describes: Susan left the United States at age 20 to see the world - for a year. That year grew and became the nidus for the composition of this novel of her life and in addition to the myriad experiences she shares here she also during this timeframe was a lead singer in a country-rock group, wrote songs, and did backup vocal work in studios. In retrospect, when questioned as to the veracity of her writing, she states 'The idea for this memoir originated as I struggled to find answers, and attempted to fit together pieces of a life shattered by the coup in Cyprus on 15 July 1974, followed five days later by the Turkish invasion on 20 July 1974. Thousands of lives were drastically changed forever by the atrocities, including foreigners who happened to live there. Of which I was one. For years following the war, I marveled, bewildered, at how a tranquil place-- which seemed like paradise-- could simply go away, rendered a living hell in the space of a few days. Equally, I marveled, horrified, at how my own perfect life had unraveled, disintegrated-- and gone away as a result. As I started putting my life back together, I realized my existence in paradise only existed as scattered fragments of news clippings, letters from friends, microfiche news reports, travel and dream journals, poems, penciled notebooks filled with tidbits of thoughts, and piles of typed paper. These and the faded photos felt like a dream puzzle with lots of missing pieces.' Susan has a seductive way of entering this memoir - her opening passage is from Mexico in 2008 when she discovers that her long divorced, multi-married, nefarious ex-husband Charles is dead. And in that opening chapter the outlines of how her life over that twelve-year period she is about to share becomes sensitively lucid: hints at many of the crises she faced are offered.

`Ahh, destiny. As a child, my days passed as sometimes-here, sometimes-there, but I was always aware of an inner voice as true as anything my eyes delivered. With no television allowed in our home, I tuned into my surroundings, saw and heard things others didn't perceive. My parents called it my "wild imagination." But my inner voice taught me to use my imagination and trust. I listened. Not that it made my life easier.' From Arizona where she meets Charles and she moves to LA -` The peace of the desert succumbed to busy-ness in the City of Angels, to the point that reflection seemed anathema in the face of the chrome, neon, and tinsel fantasyland of LA. For many years, the static of my busy, buzzing life drowned out my intuitive insight. And I lost sight of myself-- the self that once listened and trusted a still, small voice. Until Cyprus.'To be brief, the synopsis follows:

` After many miscarriages and the loss of a child in childbirth on the island of Cyprus, Susan seeks solace by creating art and recording her vivid dreams. Through difficult life changes--Cyprus's bloody coup and war in 1974, a rescue from a sinking ship in the Indian Ocean, learning of her husband's secret life, and surviving his deadly assault in Belgium, she discovers her "ticking clock" is not the child she fails to produce, but rather her creative potential. Following her vivid dreams and intuition, she successfully reinvents herself as an artist and writer. From beginning to end, Susan Joyce reminds us of the stream of awareness that flows through all of us.'This is a powerful book, one that reminds us of the indomitability of the human spirit. Rich in characters, in tragedies, in cultural and political events, Susan opens her very personal diary and the result is a vastly entertaining book. Recommended. Grady Harp, January 15

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