

Book Club Kit

Minnie Harper quickly realizes life on a sunny Greek island isn't all sunshine and baklava...



In turn of the 20th century Corfu, widow Minnie Harper struggles to move on after her husband's death. When a young maid is murdered, the local authorities fail to act, and Minnie takes matters into her own hands. Reluctantly, she accepts help from Stephen Dorian, a famous mystery author staying nearby. As they investigate, Minnie uncovers dark secrets about the island—and about Dorian himself. With danger closing in, she must find the killer and bring justice to the girl's family.

Dear Reader,

Thank you so much for picking up my very first mystery novel, *A Death on Corfu*! I began my life as an author writing historical romances, a genre I truly love, but the inspiration for this mystery has been a long time coming. I hope you will enjoy reading *A Death on Corfu* as much as I have enjoyed writing it.

Many romance writers were introduced to the genre by their grandmothers, mothers, or older sisters, and have fond memories of secreting away worn paperbacks of Johanna Lindsey or Kathleen Woodiwiss.

The women in my family, however, were mystery readers. Ann Grafton, Dick Francis, and Agatha Christie could be found on crammed bookshelves and in stacks of library books. But as a child, I had absolutely no interest in reading them. It was a love of Jane Austen and the Bronte sisters that first led me to historical romances.

Admittedly, I was well into adulthood when I read my first Agatha Christie novel. But once I began to write my own romances, I found I liked injecting elements of mystery or suspense into the plot. I began to think about writing a mystery of my own and eventually the idea for *A Death on Corfu* came to me.

Minnie Harper is older than the heroines of my romances. She is a widow and a mother who has lived a bit of life. And she has absolutely no experience with solving a mystery, let alone a murder. Yet she is compelled to see justice and finds an unexpected ally in Stephen Dorian, her new neighbor who also happens to be a scandal-plagued mystery writer.

I hope you enjoy getting to know Minnie and Stephen, as well as their life on the island of Corfu. If you'd like to share your thoughts online, please use #ADeathOnCorfu, #EmilySullivan, #MinnieHarperMysteries or please tag me on Instagram or X @PaperbackLady.

Happy reading!



Dessert Pairing

Best enjoyed with a copy of *A Death on Corfu*

In the book, Minnie serves her children each a warm slice of *milopita*, the ultimate cozy Greek dessert. I've taken my own mother-in-law's (who was born in Greece!) recipe down here. Simple but full of flavor, it's the perfect dessert to share with friends!

Milopita, a spiced cake stuffed with apples, is as simple to make as it is delicious! This recipe serves about 16 slices.

Ingredients:

5 C of Cortland apples peeled, cored, and cut into small pieces

2 ½ C flour

3 large eggs

1 ¼ c sugar

1 C light or mild Olive Oil

2 tspn whiskey

1 tsp baking powder

1 tsp baking soda

2 tsp cinnamon

¼ C raisins or chopped walnuts (optional)

Instructions:

Preheat your oven to 350 degrees.

Combine eggs and sugar in a large bowl and whisk until frothy.

Add oil and whiskey and whisk together.

In a separate bowl mix flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, and mix

Slowly add dry ingredients to the wet ingredients and mix until just combined

Stir in apples (and raisins or walnuts if using). Don't over mix!

Grease a 9 x 13 inch pan and pour in the batter.

Place your cake in the middle rack of the oven and bake for 45 minutes, or until a toothpick comes out clean.



Drink Pairing

Best enjoyed with a copy of *A Death on Corfu*

Mastiha is an after-dinner liqueur made from mastic trees, a small evergreen tree native to the Mediterranean. You'll see Minnie sipping on it a couple of times in *A Death on Corfu*! Slightly pine-flavored, try this take on a traditional Bee's Knees cocktail for your next book club meeting.

Mastiha is a sweet liqueur produced with the mastika resin from the Greek island of Chios

Ingredients:

2 oz gin
0.5 honey syrup
0.5 mastica
1 oz lemon

Instructions:

To make the honey syrup - Combine equal parts honey and water in a microwave-safe bowl. Warm in the microwave or over just until you can completely stir the honey into the water. Set aside.

Use a vegetable peeler or channel knife to peel off a strip of zest

Fill a cocktail shaker with ice. Pour in the honey syrup, lemon juice, mastica, and gin. Securely fasten the lid and shake until the mixture is very cold, about 30 seconds.

Strain the drink into a glass of your choice. Enjoy while cold.



A DEATH ON CORFU by Emily Sullivan

Mystery / \$27.00 / \$37.00 (CAN)

ISBN: 978-1-4967-5141-6

Discussion Questions

To spark conversation and enhance your reading of
A Death on Corfu by Emily Sullivan

- 1. Minnie Harper starts the story in a place of personal uncertainty. How does her character evolve throughout the novel? What events or relationships most influence her transformation?**
- 2. The novel explores Minnie's struggle to find her place in a rapidly changing world. In what ways does Minnie's journey mirror the broader societal changes of the time?**
- 3. Minnie is a widow raising two children on her own. How does her grief over her husband's death shape her actions and decisions throughout the book?**
- 4. Which clues did you find most important or revealing in terms of narrowing down the list of suspects? Did you spot any critical clues before Minnie did?**
- 5. Minnie's relationship with Stephen Dorian is complex. Do you think they complement or challenge each other?**
- 6. Given that this is the first book in a series, how do you see Minnie's journey unfolding in future installments?**
- 7. Some of the Greek residents of the island express resentment towards the British. How does colonialism impact the narrative?**
- 8. In what ways do the constraints of the time period, both in terms of technology and societal expectations, influence Minnie's investigation?**
- 9. Daphne Costas is vilified in death for her supposedly scandalous reputation, which is in part what spurred Minnie to begin her investigation. How have things changed and haven't changed for female victims today?**
- 10. Minnie is reluctant to return to England in part because she does not want to send her children to boarding school, which is customary among her class. Do you agree with her? Why or why not?**
- 11. What did you think of the setting? Were there any specific details that were especially evocative? Do you enjoy historical mysteries set outside the United Kingdom?**

A Conversation with Emily Sullivan



Your new novel takes place on an island off the coast of northwest Greece in the Ionian Sea that's known for its stunning beaches, rugged mountains, stunning historical sites, and star-studded resorts. How did you decide to choose this particular island as the setting for your new series?

I thought it would be fun to set it outside England and Corfu seemed like a good choice because it was a British protectorate, so a lot of English people lived there—and still do, in fact. My husband's parents were both born in Greece, and we've visited a couple of times, so I feel like I have a pretty good handle on Greek culture. I also watched a few seasons of *The Durrells on Corfu* and really enjoyed the vibe of the series, so all those elements came together as I was envisioning this book.

Why did you choose to set this series in the 1890s?

My historical romances are all set around 1895-1899 primarily because I think it is a really interesting period, especially for women. So it seemed like a natural choice to set this series around the same era since I was already familiar with it.

In addition to your new Minnie Harper Mystery series, you write award-winning historical romances set in the 19th century, such as *Duchess Material* and *A Rogue to Remember*. What made you want to write mysteries as well as romances?

As you may have seen in my "Dear Reader" letter, I grew up surrounded by amazing women who just happened to love a good murder mystery. I, on the other hand, gravitated towards historical romances. Maybe because of the volumes of Agatha Christie that surrounded me as a child, many of my romance novels have strong mystery subplots. *Duchess Material*, for example, is a romance between an independent woman professor and an arrogant duke who must team up to find the professor's missing star pupil. Because of the intrigue behind these romance novels, I soon decided it was a fine time to pen a fully-fledged mystery.

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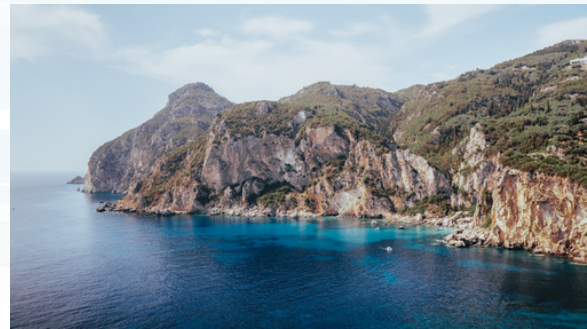
Welcome to the Island of Corfu

If you're not able to plunge into Corfu's cerulean waters, take a dive into these facts about the island's history!

The Greek name for the island, *Kerkyra*, comes from Greek legend. According to the myth, Poseidon, god of the sea, fell in love with the beautiful river nymph Korkyra. Poseidon kidnapped Korkyra and brought her to an unnamed island which he named after her. This spelling gradually evolved to *Kerkyra*.

Corfu is part of the Ionian Island archipelago, a group of seven islands off the coast of Greece. Their combined land area is only 891 square miles but due to their geographical location to the West of Greece they have been a valued trade port for thousands of years.

British influence on the Island of Corfu dates back to the early 1800s when the Ionian Islands came under British rule as a protectorate of the United Kingdom. While this period only lasted from 1814 to 1864, many Brits still live there today.



During World War II, Corfu was bombed by the German Luftwaffe. The air raids destroyed most of the city's buildings and Corfu fell under German occupation until they were liberated by British troops in 1944.



Corfu's capital (called Corfu town) is a UNESCO World Heritage site filled with cobbled streets and Venetian architectural influence. From one of its stunning beaches, you can swim in the shallows, watch ships come in to port, and enjoy views of the Old Fortress

About the Author



Emily Sullivan is an award-winning author of historical romance and mysteries set in the late Victorian period. Her books have received multiple starred reviews from trade journals including *Publishers Weekly* and *Booklist*, and have been praised in publications such as *Entertainment Weekly*, *Buzzfeed*, *Self*, and *BookPage*.

Emily holds both a BA and MA in English and taught college composition for over a decade, but now she writes full-time.

She lives in New England with her family, where she enjoys reading about history and writing about rebellious women. You can read more at emilysullivanbooks.com.

Share Your Thoughts

Did you enjoy *A Death on Corfu*? If so, we'd love for you to share your review online!

#ADeathOnCorfu

#EmilySullivan

#MinnieHarperMysteries

Tag Emily on Instagram or X @PaperbackLady

Tag Kensington on Instagram, X, and TikTok @kensingtonbooks

Tag Kensington on Facebook @kensingtonpublishing

Praise for *A Death on Corfu*

“Fans of *The Durrells in Corfu*... will appreciate this prequel of sorts, as will fans of cozy historical mysteries by Rhys Bowen, Jacqueline Winspear, and Amanda Flower.”

— *First Clue*

“Emily Sullivan has created a delightful period mystery with a refined Victorian voice, two unlikely sleuths, a Greek island, and an underlying romance. A treat for fans of historical mystery!”

— **Dianne Freeman, USA Today bestselling author of
the Countess of Harleigh Mysteries**

“This delightful caper through clues, suspicion, and romance held me captivated, while the charming Greek setting left me craving the next installment!”

— **Alyssa Maxwell, author of *Murder at the Elms***

“*Death on Corfu* has every element that makes a mystery work for me: a smart, pragmatic heroine, an exotic locale, an interesting love interest, and of course, a compelling murder. I can’t wait for Minnie’s next adventure!”

—**Colleen Cambridge, author of *Mastering the Art of French Murder***

More Praise

“Sullivan’s emphasis on how norm-bucking Victorian women were able to transcend expected roles adds to the appeal. Historical romance fans will eat this up... Enchanting.”

—***Publishers Weekly* STARRED Review of *Duchess Material***

“Sullivan expertly exposes her characters’ emotional depths and keeps the pages turning with a steady undercurrent of mystery.”

—***Publishers Weekly* Review of *The Hellion and the Hero***

“[Sullivan’s] gift for crafting a wit-infused plot that effectively threads the needle between desire and danger without dropping a single stitch.”

—**Booklist STARRED Review of *The Rebel and the Rake***

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