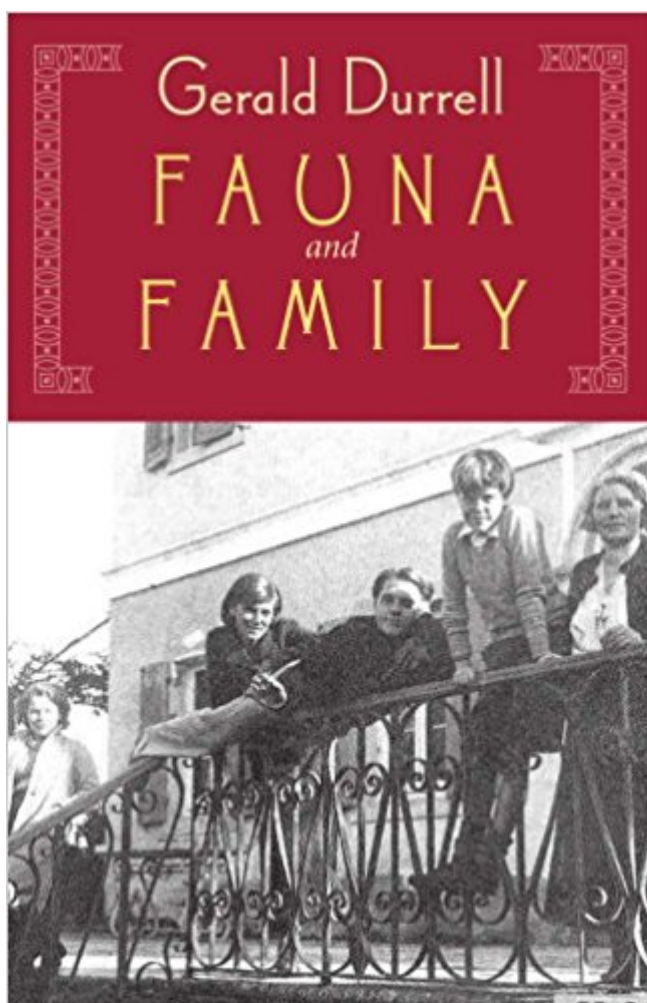


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Fauna & Family: More Adventures Of The Durrell Family Of Corfu (Nonpareil Books)



Synopsis

Watch The Durrells in Corfu on PBS Masterpiece Theater, premiering Sunday, October 16th! Fauna and Family, also known as The Garden of the Gods, is the third in Durrell's Corfu trilogy that begins with his beloved classic, My Family and Other Animals and continues with Birds, Beasts and Relatives. In his foreword to Fauna and Family, Durrell confessed that in the first two books, "I had left out a number of incidents and characters that I would have liked to have described, and I have attempted to repair this omission in this book . . . I hope that it might give the same pleasure to its readers as apparently its predecessors have done, as for me it portrays a very important part of my life . . . which is a truly happy and sunlit childhood."

Book Information

Series: Nonpareil Books

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: David R Godine; First edition (August 13, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1567924417

ISBN-13: 978-1567924411

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.9 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 25 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #326,132 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #270 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Professionals & Academics > Environmentalists & Naturalists #1873 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Travelers & Explorers #9888 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Memoirs

Customer Reviews

[Durrell's] writing is nimble, witty and irreverent, warm but not remotely sentimental. --Los Angeles Times

Fauna and Family, also known as The Garden of the Gods, is the third in Durrell's Corfu trilogy that begins with his beloved classic, My Family and Other Animals and continues with Birds, Beasts and Relatives. In his foreword to Fauna and Family, Durrell confessed that in the first two books, "I had left out a number of incidents and characters that I would have liked to have described, and I have attempted to repair this omission in this book . . . I hope that it might give the same pleasure to its

readers as apparently its predecessors have done, as for me it portrays a very important part of my life . . . which is a truly happy and sunlit childhood." Also available from Godine: Fillets of Plaice

I will probably never tire of the wit and charm of the Durrell family as chronicled by Gerald, the youngest child of said family, in these lovely three books about his childhood and his family's misadventures on the exquisitely beautiful island of Corfu in Greece. I promise you that even though this last piece of the "trilogy" is honestly just more of the same, I was still quite pleased with it because, after all, sometimes one WANTS more the of same. I have already ordered the first of another series he wrote about a little zoo or preserve or something he sets up in the beginnings of his young married life. These books are still popular after all these years because they are, well, interesting (he really does know an awful lot about all the living creatures he studies on the island and makes even stick insects fascinating for the rest of us and funny. They are funny in a nice kind of way; the laugh is never at anyone's expense, really. The family really does love each other and that's nice these days when we are surrounded by books and tv that seem to celebrate dysfunctional families as the norm, and therefore normal. But don't you go thinking they don't disagree and argue, they certainly do, and their arguments make up a hefty percentage of the laughs. Be prepared to laugh. Out loud. You will, I promise.

My all time favorite author is Gerald Durrell. The first book in this series, *My Family and Other Animals*, made me laugh harder than any other book I have ever read. This book continues the story of the Durrell family while Gerry was growing up. I am thankful that allows me to make purchases of books that may no longer be in print and get them at good prices. I recommend!

Fillets of Plaice is a delightful memoir by Gerald Durrell consisting of five tales from various times of his life. The first is from his childhood on Corfu concerning a birthday celebration for his mother that, like everything else his family did, goes a bit wrong with unpredictable results. The next piece takes place shortly after Durrell and his family returned to London from Corfu. The author got a job working in a pet shop and met some interesting and very memorable people as a consequence. In the next story, Gerald Durrell has grown up and is collecting animals in East Africa. The story takes place when the British has a colonial empire in Africa and the Foreign Service was running the affairs of the natives. The story is concerted with a Foreign Service Office named Martin who is expecting a visit from his superior and is desperate to create a good impression so he can be promoted to a higher (and better) position. In an earlier visit made by his superior, Martin had an

embarrassing situation and had been sent to the Devil's Island of postings in Africa and he is desperate to avoid any problems this time. The final two stories are later in time but how soon after Gerald Durrell left East Africa is not mentioned. In the fourth story Mr. Durrell is front and center as his doctor puts him in a rest home as he is at the point of exhaustion. The story centers around a medical problem Mr. Durrell is having - his nose keeps bleeding. The final story is about a woman to whom Mr. Durrell is attracted and repelled. Her name is Ursula and by his account she is very beautiful but also extremely maddening. She drops many malapropisms and has a character that is disruptive in the extreme. If you have ever been to a concert or movie where someone talks in a normal voice, you will have an idea what Ursula is like. Gerald Durrell is a great story teller and fleshes out his characters and situations with concise and direct language. He is perhaps at his most amusing in the birthday party story where he picks up from his earlier books about his childhood in Corfu. I think it would be best to read *My Family and Other Animals* (and *Birds, Beasts and Relatives*, if you like) prior to this book so a clear idea of the people in the story is reached. *Fillets of Plaice* is the kind of book that you will recommend to your relatives and friends to read for the sheer pleasure of the humor and Mr. Durrell's excellent writing.

Bought this at a bargain price and read it with my husband. Worth every penny! These are five stories that Gerry Durrell didn't use in other books. We laughed very hard at some of the stories, others were just ok (the reason for only 4 stars).

A+

This is part of the Corfu trilogy and is one of my favorite books to read again and again. The story of Gerald Durrell's early years as a naturalist and animal collector is absorbing and his stories about his family and friends will keep you laughing. Recommended for anyone interested in nature, travel to other countries, and wonderful family stories.

very funny

Fabulous descriptions and amusing- a great book to read aloud!

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