



The Summer of France

Paulita Kincer

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When Fia Jennings loses her job at the local newspaper, she thinks she'll have the chance to bond with her teenage twins. As she realizes she may be too late to pull her family together, her husband Grayson pressures her to find another job so they can pay the increasing bills. Relief comes with a phone call from Fia's great Uncle Martin who runs a bed and breakfast in Provence. Uncle Martin wants Fia to venture to France to run the B&B so he and his wife Lucie can travel. He doesn't tell Fia about the secret he hid in the house when he married Lucie after fighting in World War II, and he doesn't mention the people who are tapping his phone and following him, hoping to find the secret.

After much cajoling, Fia whisks her family to France and is stunned when Uncle Martin and Aunt Lucie leave the same day for a Greek cruise. She's thrown into the minutiae of a running the B&B without the benefit of speaking the language. Her dreams of family bonding time fade as her teenagers make French friends. Kasie joins a local swim team, riding off to practice on the back of a scooter each morning, hips tucked next to the 18-year-old French boy who teaches her to smoke brown cigarettes and drink red wine. West accompanies a pouty French teenager around the city, playing his guitar in the town squares to earn spending money. Fia's husband Grayson begins touring the countryside with a pretty French woman, and Fia resists the distractions of Christophe, a handsome French man. Why the whirlwind of French welcome, Fia wonders after she comes home from a day at the beach in Nice to find someone has ransacked the B&B. Fia parses Uncle Martin's obscure phone calls, trying to figure out this WW II hero's secret. Can she assuage Uncle Martin's World War II guilt and build the family she's always dreamed of?

The Summer of France Details

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From Reader Review The Summer of France for online ebook

Kathleen says

In The Summer of France, author Paulita Kincer transports the reader to the lovely European countryside of Provence, in the south of France, where they follow the adventures of Fia Jennings, when she takes over the running of her uncle and aunt's B&B while they are on vacation. While running the B&B provides many challenges for Fia, she unexpectedly stumbles upon a mysterious dark secret from her uncle's past that could put her family in danger.

Author Paulita Kincer weaves a captivating women's fiction tale that has a wonderful mixture of romance, adventure, travel, mystery, and suspense, that easily draws the reader in with a richly descriptive storyline that takes the reader from the past during World War II to the present via the alternating perspectives of Fia and Uncle Martin.

The Summer Of France has a compelling storyline that engages the reader to follow Fia's adventures in France, while drawing them into the mystery and suspense of Uncle Martin's past. I really enjoyed reading this multi-layered story of romance and mystery. I thought that both Fia and Uncle Martin's stories flowed seamlessly, and the unexpected twists and turns easily kept me turning the pages. I would be remiss if I didn't mention the wonderful description of the setting, the author easily transported the reader to the tranquil south of France locale of Provence, it sounds like a lovely place to visit.

Disclaimer: I received a copy of the book from the author / publisher in exchange for my honest review and participation in a virtual book tour event hosted by Pump Up Your Book.

<http://jerseygirlbookreviews.blogspot...>

Patricia Sands says

Let me say, right up front, I am a true Francophile. Everything about France calls to me and the author has certainly delivered details I love to read with this novel. As a middle-aged American woman takes her two teenagers and husband along to Provence to help run an uncle's B&B for the summer, the reader is immediately engaged in the adventure that follows. Twists and turns abound and, although I felt some relationship issues were overly simplified, this is part of the gift of good fiction as the author's creativity keeps us eagerly turning the pages. I will be watching to see what Ms. Kincer publishes next!

Marguerite says

I have read this book, and thoroughly enjoyed. Living in France myself I thought I should relate to it quite easily, and I did. I loved the story line. I must read for this Summer...if not in France.

Lorinpinchgmail.com says

Under the Tuscan sun meets nancy drew. Entertaining beach read, not going to win a Pulitzer.

Emma says

The world of blogging opens up to great new connections and opportunities. I had read reviews of *The Summer of France* by other book bloggers, and then the author got in touch with me through my “I Love France” meme if I remember correctly, asking if I would like to read and review her book! How could I say no?

I had kind of forgotten about the reviews read when I started the book, so it was fun diving into it like into a blind adventure, actually quite like the heroine Fia as she arrives in Provence.

It starts on the quiet side as Fia hopes for a kind of new beginning thanks to the invitation of her uncle and aunt to go and run their B&B during the summer, so that they can take a break.

But things are never what they look, are they? And so this gentle book grabs you and pulls you into all kinds of...

To read my full review, go to:
<http://wordsandpeace.com/2012/12/05/i...>

Lianne says

I received a copy of this novel for review as part of the book blog tour hosted by France Book Tours.

The Summer of France is very much told from Fia's perspective and her experiences with living in a different country, the challenges in bringing her family closer together and solving the mystery surrounding her uncle from his war days.

I like how this novel is very much about Fia and the journey her character goes on during her time in France. I felt bad and at times frustrated about the character and the way things were going for her. Her uncle's story about his days as a soldier was also interesting though I wished it was more fleshed out. I'm not sure how plausible the resolution of the mystery was at the end but the elements surrounding the mystery were intriguing enough.

My complete review of the novel was originally posted at **caffeinatedlife.net**:
<http://www.caffeinatedlife.net/blog/2...>

Linda Kovic-Skow says

The Summer of France is an enjoyable, well-written story that takes place in rural France. When Fia's uncle Martin presents her with the sudden opportunity to run a B&B in Provence, Fia convinces her husband and teenage children to make the move. She has high hopes this will bring the family closer, but once they arrive, her dreams are quickly shattered. One-by-one they all find outside interests leaving Fia behind with more responsibilities than she bargained for. Shifting back and forth between her two main characters, the author,

Paulita Kincer, introduces an absorbing mystery. Will Fia be able to help her uncle find redemption for his misdeeds? And what about the handsome Frenchman, is he Fia's friend or foe? Readers will rush to the end of this book to find the answers to these questions.

Anne says

What can I say?? I was hooked from the line when ..."Fia got the phone call" .. When she THOUGHT that Uncle said him and Aunty were going to break up .. NO they needed a break .. can you come and run our B and B in France? ... I LOVED Fia's character .. how she knew she had to do it , make her husband see it was a good idea to leave US and move to France .. I am saying nothing else read it for yourself ... It is a fab book ... full of amazing twists ...!!!

I was with her every step of the way ..in fact , I actually felt like I was her .. or she was me ...:-)

Wendy says

I simply could not put this book down. Fast paced and exciting, Paulita Kincer has written a mystery and thriller at it's best. Set in France, the reader is taken on a ride that keeps them on the edge of their seat. I truly hope that Ms. Kincer continues writing because I can't to read what she comes up with next!

Ruth Shehigian says

I loved this book. Well written and entertaining it was a joy to read. I was sorry when I had finished it as I wanted it to go on. Ms. Mincer tells a great story. Highly recommended on a cold winter night in front of the fire or a warm summer day by the pool.

Rachel Valentine says

I got this book for free through Goodreads First Read.

Fia recently lost her job and since then things haven't been the same for her family. She is hoping that something will change, and then it does when her uncle calls and asks her to run his bed and breakfast in France for awhile. Fia eventually manages to convince her family to go with her there for the summer. However, she soon discovers running the bed and breakfast is not as easy as she thought it would be. She also soon finds out that her uncle might have kept a secret from her and the rest of the family. A secret that could put them all in danger.

I enjoyed this book more than I thought I would. I thought it would just be a chick lit novel where not much happened. I know the summary said her uncle was keeping World War II secrets, but I didn't think it would be what it was. I didn't think the family would ever be in any danger. I liked that there was more risk involved then I thought there would be.

I also liked how Fia changed throughout the novel. At first she just puts up with what her husband does, but eventually she stops doing that and takes matters into her own hands. She really develops as a character. I can't really say any of the other characters developed all that much, which is too bad. I would have liked if the husband had more of a role in the story. It seemed like all he did was run off and be rude to his wife. I would have liked to see another side of him. Surely there are some good qualities to him. Fia says that he is a reliable husband, but I never saw that in him. He just seemed like a jerk.

There really wasn't much wrong with the book, but I don't think it excelled either, which is why I'm giving it three stars. However, it is a good quick read, and I found it to be an enjoyable book. I'm glad I won it.

Sim Carter says

I just finished The Summer of France and really liked the breezy style Kincer writes in. I was engrossed from the moment I knew she was going to France to the very end. Kincer's main character Fia, is spunky with just a dash of insecurity to keep her human. Which may be part of why I found her very relatable - I think most women who have seen their children grow up and away will relate to her - and I was rooting for her the whole way. In my dream cast I would probably look at a Jennifer Garner to play her role. And in fact, I do think it would make a terrific film.

The storyline was fresh and there was plenty of suspense and excitement around every bend - there is a mystery surrounding a painting that had me googling like crazy. What a fascinating piece of history! I also loved the setting - the French B&B as well as the other locales Fia visits as well. I don't want to spoil the story but I can absolutely see Fia racing around the European countryside on the back of Christophe's moto; I loved going along for the ride.

Alternating the story from Fia's point of view to Uncle Martin's was very effective- his story, his worry about Lucie's response - all of it was compelling. And again, in film terms, it would be so much fun to cast the young and old versions of this wonderful old expat as well as seeing him in the World War II setting. A side note about the way Kincer handled sex. She wrote beautifully about it - giving us a peak at the character's desire for each other without shoving it all in our faces ala 50 Shades. Very, very well done.

You can visit the author at her site PaulitaKincer.com

Jacqueline says

In this book we meet Fia, married to a safe and sensible husband and Mom to teenage twins, who feels the need for something to change following the loss of her job and wants to bring her family closer together. That something comes from a call from her Uncle who fought in France during the war, met a French girl, stayed and is now running a Provencal B&B in wife Lucie's family home. Now nearing retirement Lucie and Martin want a break and ask Fia to help. However, things don't go quite as planned and she soon finds herself alone and working hard while her family all go their separate ways exploring France and the French. It soon becomes apparent that there may be skeletons and secrets hidden in Uncle Martin's closet and a break in at the B&B makes Fia realise someone is looking for something. But who does she trust and who can help her to put things right?

Paulita's descriptions bring the colours of Provence to life in this fast moving book that got my pulse racing at some points. It is a book of two stories, Uncle Martin's and Fia's and despite sometimes finding books like this a little difficult to follow I thought the two stories running together worked very well. There is (bien sur) a hunky Frenchman, but I would have been disappointed if there hadn't been and there are lots of 'will they, won't they' moments between the characters. As the book draws to a close there is a good mad dash and

adrenalin-pumping chase that meant it was hard to put down.

Laurel-Rain says

Fia Jennings believes that, after the loss of her job, she will begin to find more bonding time with her teenaged twins. So when her Uncle Martin calls from Provence, asking her to take over his and Aunt Lucie's Bed & Breakfast while they take a vacation, she sees it as a perfect opportunity. Serendipity, even.

But her husband Grayson is adamant about not taking the trip. He is, in fact, stubbornly resistant. In the end, he does accompany Fia and the kids, but from the moment they set foot in the B & B, he is unavailable. Physically and emotionally. Soon he is traipsing off with a woman named Jeanne-Marie, and flaunting it in Fia's face.

Meanwhile, Uncle Martin and Aunt Lucie have departed so quickly that Fia is left wondering what is going on? Why has her uncle taken off without leaving instructions, almost as if he is trying to escape something?

In the weeks ahead, Fia becomes exhausted from overwork and the complete disappearance of her husband and children. She feels like a drudge. So when she goes to the beach one day, accompanied by a handsome Frenchman Christophe, whom she met in the early weeks, she feels relaxed for the first time. But they return to find the B & B has been broken into and tossed. What were the intruders looking for? And why, when her husband returns, does he seem to be searching for something, too?

Discovering the answers will keep Fia focused until she finally stumbles upon Uncle Martin's secret. But then she has to make a plan, take some risks, and decide who, if anyone, she can trust to help her.

The characters were vivid and real: so much so that I had strong feelings of disgust for Grayson, suspicion of many of the other characters, and annoyance with the teens. A strong reminder of real life and people we encounter along the way.

"THE SUMMER OF FRANCE" was like a mystery novel, a suspense tale, and a romantic departure to lovely settings. The journey takes the reader through France, Italy, Germany, Austria, and Poland. My heart was pounding as I followed Fia's adventurous voyage toward righting the wrongs of a time long ago. Narrated alternately from Uncle Martin's and Fia's perspectives, the story carried us from WWII, and a mistake a young man made, to a woman in the present who is trying to figure out a way to save her family. Captivating and wonderfully engaging, I could not put this book down. Five stars.

Andrew Welsh-Huggins says

Can't scrape together enough francs for that trip to Provence this July? Pick up "The Summer of France" for the next best thing.
