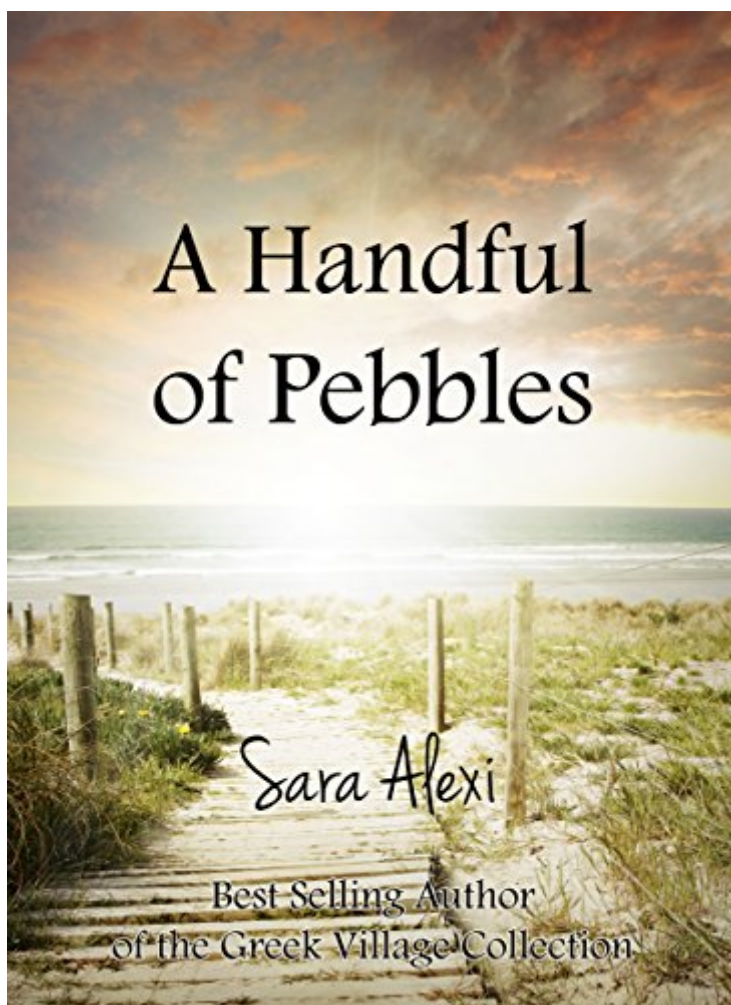




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A Handful Of Pebbles (The Greek Village Series Book 5)



Synopsis

From INTERNATIONAL BEST SELLING AUTHOR Sara Alexi, who ranks as one of .co.uk's TOP Literary Fiction authors
The seventh book in the Greek Village Collection
A Handful of Pebbles follows Sarah who travels to the village in Greece for the wedding of her youngest son. But Sarah's own marriage is strained, and now that her children have grown up and left home she finds herself questioning her role of wife and mother. Meeting up with her best friend Liz, who is also over for the wedding, and whom she has not seen for years, adds a further unsettling dimension. And why does Sarah feel so perturbed in the presence of Nicolaos, the shepherd who she seems to keep bumping into ..? If you enjoyed 'The Pact' or 'The Story Teller' by Jodi Picoult, 'Necessary Lies' by Diane Chamberlain, 'The Thread' or 'The Island' by Victoria Hislop or 'The Husband's Secret' by Liane Moriarty you'll love this book...

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Customer Reviews

As a true fan of the Greek Village series, I couldn't wait to begin reading the latest edition, A Handful

of Pebbles. And I wasn't disappointed! Sara Alexi has a way of creating characters that are very human and flawed but so appealing as they enter a period of metamorphosis when visiting the Greek Village. The Village has a magical quality - it brings out the best in good people and occasionally the worst in some, particularly those who are bound by rigid ideas of what is proper. I love revisiting favourite old characters with the knowledge of what they have been through. And the vivid descriptions of goats and cats, birds and even insects no doubt will be contributing to Greek tourism numbers for years to come. I loved being taken on the journey with main character Sarah as she confronts the hollowness of her married life, a marriage founded on very wrong reasons. A woman who has been living in a sleep-walking state, going through the motions of life, just may find the courage she needs once the spell of the Greek Village envelopes her.

As always, from the very beginning I get lost in Sarah's story. I fell in love with Greece with her first book. I love that when you are reading along that all of a sudden a character from one of the other books pops in like an old friend. I will not tell you about the story for fear of spoiling it for you. I wondered if this time the author took some of the story line from my life. That is how good she is at relating to and being sensitive to how people feel. You will grow to love and not love these people who we find here and in our own lives. Look forward to the next book as I always do. As soon as the hard copy comes out I will be sending it to my granddaughter as I always do. That is another plus. It is a story for all ages. P.S. Reading them in order is not necessary but if you can then do so.

The story of Sarah's awakening to the truth of her life says so much about how we manage to live with disappointments in our own lives. And then something happens. She meets a shepherd whose simple wisdom intrigues her, and Sarah realizes that she is not living a full and meaningful life. What should she do? Sarah faces some difficult choices. Make huge changes in her life that allow her to move forward, or leave things as they are? Sara Alexi is a master at making us see and feel what her characters are all about. This is another wonderful story about the Greek village we have come to love. I highly recommend this book!

I had to force myself to finish this book. Even though I knew where it was going, I wanted to see if, perhaps, it had some redeeming quality in the ending. It's absolutely fine if you are interested in minute details and ongoing descriptions of scenery. But the bottom line was, I didn't really like the main character. We deal with a suicide attempt that's more or less glossed over and not mentioned again. A best friend, who is not in any way a best friend. And, no matter how much you might truly

come to dislike someone, the thoughts of actually taking a shotgun and blowing his head off!?? And those dark thoughts are just passed right by. C'mon....she's a shallow woman, and apparently, has always been one! I won't be reading any sequel in the future.

This review is of *A Handful of Pebbles*, book 7 in the "Greek Village" series by Sara Alexi. The Story: So far, a couple, Sarah Quayle, a homemaker and her husband, Laurence, a commercial pilot, have come to Greece for the wedding of one of their sons, Finn, to his fiancée, Helena Plusiopoulous; their other son, Joss, is married to a woman, Pru, who Sarah derisively refers to as "Pruella De Ville". Sarah and Laurence are staying with his cousin, Neville, and his wife and Sarah's friend, Liz. Sarah isn't happy with Laurence, and that fact comes into more stark focus now that her sons are adults and distancing themselves from her. As the book continues, Sarah starts to face the facts about her marriage that she didn't want to acknowledge, and it's not pretty. Among the things she finds is a shocking revelation about the death of her former boyfriend, Torin, who died in a motorcycle accident. The book ends with Sarah making decisions that will change her life. For the better? We don't get the answer to that as the book ends somewhat on a cliffhanger. Upside: The book's center is Sarah Quayle, who is in every scene. She is a strong, complex woman dealing with a variety of feelings and issues, most of which she has kept buried for decades that are coming to light with her trip to Greece. Sarah is a woman hurt by her past, unsure of her present and conflicted about her future. Her growth is the subject of the book. I never felt as though I was reading a book; Ms. Alexi's writing made me feel as though I was watching the lives of Sarah and the other characters in the book. Ms. Alexi's writing style is vivid and evocative, making her readers feel that they are in Greece and experiencing everything the characters are. Downside: Sarah is the only fully formed character in the book. I understand this is women's fiction, and the story is about Sarah, but given that her actions affect other people and theirs affect her, it would have been nice to hear the characters in their own thoughts and voices away from her. Sex: None. There is only one kissing scene in the entire book. This is nearly a "clean" book. Violence: As mentioned earlier, Sarah's former boyfriend, Torin, dies in a motorcycle accident. His injuries are described rather graphically by Sarah toward the end of the book. At one point, Sarah debates whether or not to shoot Laurence; she doesn't do so. Bottom Line: *A Handful of Pebbles* is not a flawless book.

What is does, however, it does very well.

Alexi has done it again, creating (in my opinion) her best yet novel of self discovery, confronting our demons, and realizing our strengths. Her novels are always informative and inspiring, but A Handful of Pebbles is over the top. While not many can relate to the main character on the level of having an existence of material security, many can identify with the insecurities and fears of recognizing and making needed changes in their lives. There are as many plot twists and revelations as there are chapters, each leading the reader towards a new depth of perception. Hat's off to a terrific author!

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