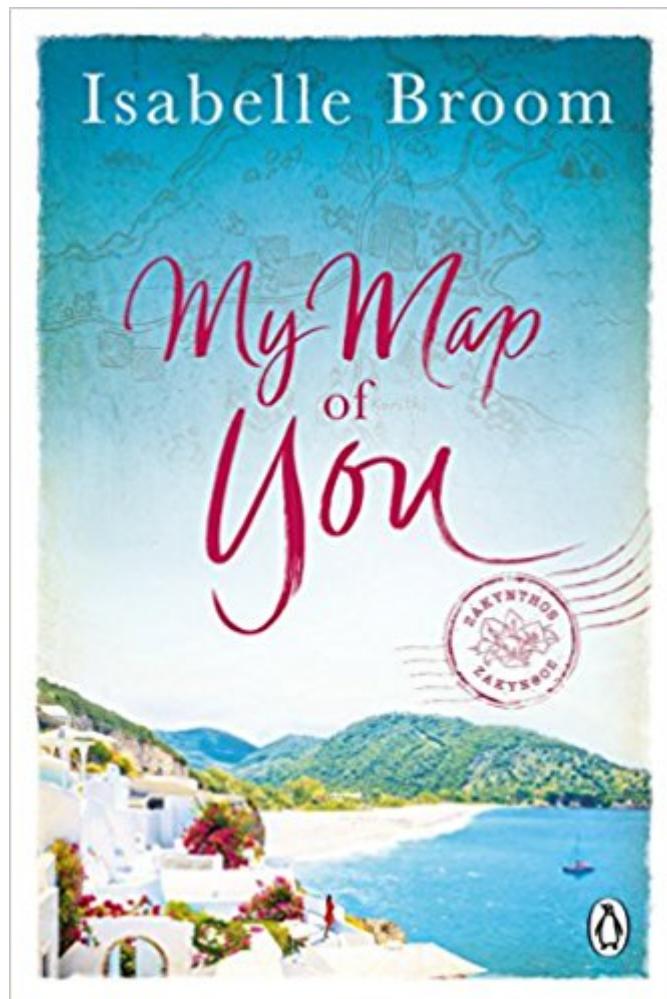


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My Map Of You



Synopsis

Holly Wright has had a difficult few years. After her mother's death, she's become expert at keeping people at a distance - including her boyfriend, Rupert. But when Holly receives an unexpected letter explaining that an aunt she never met has left her a house on the Greek island of Zakynthos, the walls she has built begin to crumble. Arriving on the island, Holly meets the handsome Aidan and slowly begins to uncover the truth about the secret which tore her family apart. But is the island where Holly really belongs? Or will her real life catch up with her first?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Well-written and perfect for a lazy afternoon on the sofa * Daily Mail * This gloriously escapist read is unashamedly romantic, witty and hugely enjoyable * Sunday Mirror * An outstanding debut novel * Bella * Lose yourself in this impressive debut set on the Greek island of Zakynthos. Hot stuff! * Fabulous magazine * Should be top of your holiday reading list * heat * A perfect way to spend a lazy afternoon * Closer * A perfect read for lazy sunny days * Hello * In need of escapism? This Greek island adventure is just the ticket * Stylist * This debut novel hits all the right spots * Metro * This book takes you on holiday * Adele Parks * A brilliantly evocative debut that's left me longing for a Greek holiday! * Paige Toon * I totally lost myself in this heart-warming, charming tale of love, family and gorgeous Greece. I adored it * Milly Johnson * A gorgeous story of heartbreak, forgiveness and self-discovery. I can't wait to read her future books! * Giovanna Fletcher * Combines a wonderful setting with the poignancy of self-discovery and a touching romance * Katie

Fforde * This gorgeous story has it all: a stunning setting, a secret that will break your heart and a romance that'll leave you weak at the knees. The perfect summer read * Lucy Robinson * A mysterious legacy, family secrets and slow-burning romance - My Map of You's the next best thing to a one-way ticket to Zakynthos, the Greek island that makes a perfect setting * Fanny Blake, Author and Books Editor for Woman & Home * That's it - I'm moving to Zakynthos immediately! A perfect summer read of intrigue and escapism. I absolutely loved every minute * Lisa Dickenson, author of The Twelve Dates of Christmas * I've just finished reading My Map of You. I loved it. I'm an emotional wreck! Such an evocative book. An emotional rollercoaster of a ride with breathtaking scenery along the way. A real taste of Greece * Jo Thomas, author of The Oyster Catcher * An incredible debut novel, with a beautifully woven story about loss, hope, love, and finding where you belong. It is honestly one of the best books I have read in a long, long time - everything about it was captivating * Cressida McLaughlin, author of the Primrose Terrace novels * A romantic and fulfilling story, beautifully told. Isabelle writes with a humorous eye, and the evocative poignancy of her writing brought Holly's story vividly to life. I was hooked from first word until final page and was left with tears on my face and an urgent need for a holiday! * Katie Marsh, author of My Everything * I feel like I've had an amazing holiday on a Greek island with sun, sea, secrets and hot men. In real life, I've just read the ace My Map of You * Claire Frost, Books Editor Fabulous magazine *

Isabelle Broom was born in Cambridge nine days before the 1980s began and studied Media Arts at the University of West London before starting a career first in local newspapers and then as a junior sub-editor at Heat magazine. She travelled through Europe during her gap year and went to live on the Greek island of Zakynthos for an unforgettable and life-shaping six months after completing her degree. Since then, she has travelled to Canada, Sri Lanka, Sicily, New York, LA, the Canary Islands, Spain and lots more of Greece, but her wanderlust was reined in when she met Max, a fluffy little Bolognese puppy desperate for a home. When she's not writing novels set in far-flung locations, Isabelle spends her time being the Book Reviews Editor at Heat magazine and walking her beloved dog round the parks of north London.

I loved the cover of this book, the blurb and what I'd read about it so I was keen to read this myself. Essentially it is the story of Holly and how a surprise letter from an Aunt she never knew she had, leads her on a journey to Zakynthos to hopefully discover the truth about her mother and her Aunt. As well as uncovering the secrets of the past, it also helps Holly to re-assess her life and what she really wants for her future. Throw in a handsome sexy Irishman to stir things up and it all made

for an interesting mix. I enjoyed this book and especially the descriptions of Zakynthos, which should have the Greek Tourist Board rubbing their hands in glee. It was a perfect little tour of the island that would enchant anyone. As my first adult holiday was to a Greek Island, it certainly brought back happy memories and reminded me of just how beautiful and relaxed island life can be, away from the tourist hot spots. I also enjoyed meeting some of the island's inhabitants, both animal and human, but especially Irish vet, Aidan, (a certain namesake Mr Turner sprang to mind, which helped feed the imagination). If I had any qualms about the book, it was the English characters that left a little to be desired. I initially took a dislike to Rupert, his lifestyle and his friends, though I suspect that might have been a deliberate ploy. However there were also times that I didn't particularly like Holly and her failure to be fair and honest. By the end of the book I'd almost done an about turn re Rupert, who while still not my cup of tea, was loyal and supportive. Misgivings aside, and as is always the case, these are purely personal reflections, it tells an interesting and engaging story, that bodes well for the future given that this is a debut novel. I received a review copy via NetGalley in return for an honest review.

I was drawn to this book before I even started reading, first because of the stunning cover and secondly because I love the Greek island of Zakynthos. When I was offered a free copy in return for an honest review, I jumped at the chance hoping to recapture some of the beauty of this island. As it turned out, the writing exceeded my expectations tremendously on this score. Reading this book actually felt like I was back in Zakynthos and I could see and feel it all down to the last enchanting detail. The heroine went through an incredible journey of growth and healing. Out of the blue, she finds herself in an unknown place in a foreign country where she winds up finding her roots, new love and even deliverance from resentment and pain that had been blocking her advancement in life, denying her happiness. The awkward situations between the two main characters felt real and down to earth, and the romance was utterly sweet and delightful. Actually, this book offers a number of delights: a wonderful romance, a host of lovely, lifelike characters, and a well-structured family story that added drama in the right measure, just enough to enrich the plot. More than anything else though, I enjoyed the wonderful way in which Greece and its people are portrayed in this book. Being Greek, this is always a delight and a huge compliment. The love of this author for Zakynthos, its people and the way of life there shines through. I highly recommend this book to anyone who shares similar passions for any place in Greece. And I'll definitely read more from this author.

It has been weeks since I first finished reading this book, and days since I finished it for the second

time and still, I am trying to pull myself together and write the review that will make you see how much I love and appreciate this story. I don't have the recipe for the perfect novel (if I did, I'd become a best-selling novelist myself, or any kind of novelist in that matter), but I do know what kind of ingredients I like in my books. And guess what? This book has all of them. I will try not to go into too many details because I don't want for this review to have a length of a novella, but I will try to explain what I liked in the best way that I know. First, and the best part of this book is the writer's ability to describe the place in such a beautiful way. Her writing style amazed me and the way she used words to express the beauty of Greece, landscape and all those little things that we see in our every-day life, was like she had the ability to transport us there, on those pages, or at least she awakened the desire of a reader to be there, in that story, and see the beauty for himself. When Holly and Aiden were on the boat, looking at the stars, I wanted to be there with them, and see those stars with my own eyes, because I don't believe the stars were ever that beautiful as they were in that moment. Second, Broom described the chemistry between the two characters in very realistic and yet very passionate way. The tension was almost touchable and those swoon-worthy scenes were, in some way, compelling. Third, the characters were gray. And when I say, I mean they are as gray as they can be. They have many flaws, they make mistakes that they are aware of, they do feel guilty, they do get lost, but they also have dozens of good qualities and everything boiled together in one pot make them realistic. In one particular scene, our main character finds herself judging and deprecating the other character, but then it hits her she did even worse thing and the guilt washes over her and stops her from saying anything. That is just one scene, but the book is full of similar situations that show us the nature of characters. Also (really not key attribute but to me, personally, pretty important) Aiden, one of the main characters and love interest in some way, has ginger hair, which is so rare in books I read that I welcomed that little component whole-heartedly. I feel like women's fiction genre is full of dark macho men and every

ÃƒÂ¢Ã¢â€žÂ¬Ã¢â€žÂ“ diversityÃƒÂ¢Ã¢â€žÂ¬Ã¢â€žÂ“ in that aspect I salute! There's one more thing I have to stress out: My Map of You is full of secondary characters that I couldn't help but fall in love with (her boyfriend Rupert especially). Fourth (and now we come to the hardest part of expressing my feelings), this book covers some really important issues, and one in particular that caused all the emotions to arouse and come over me. I am not sure how much can I tell without spoiling the story, so I will say that this story doesn't follow only our main character, but also her deceased mother who's story we learn, in some parts from Holly herself, and in some parts together with Holly. Fifth, the way the story is written is amusing. In third person focussing on Holly's POV, we follow chronological approach with the glimpse of past, but we also get to read letters that were

written by Holly's mother, aimed for Holly's aunt. Overall, *My Map of You* is the best book I have read this year and I know I will be coming back to it many times in my life. It is a realistic story presented in a beautiful way. This book is an example of how a great novel should be done and, in my opinion, it wouldn't hurt for aspiring authors to check it out. Stephen King once said that every good (or maybe great) book demands to be read twice: first time to satisfy your curiosity and to enjoy the story, and the second time to analyse everything and see what you missed the first time you read it. Now, after finishing this book for the second time, I can give it nothing but pure five stars rating because it deserves all the stars (any when I say stars, I refer to those beautiful stars Holly and Aiden were looking at).

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