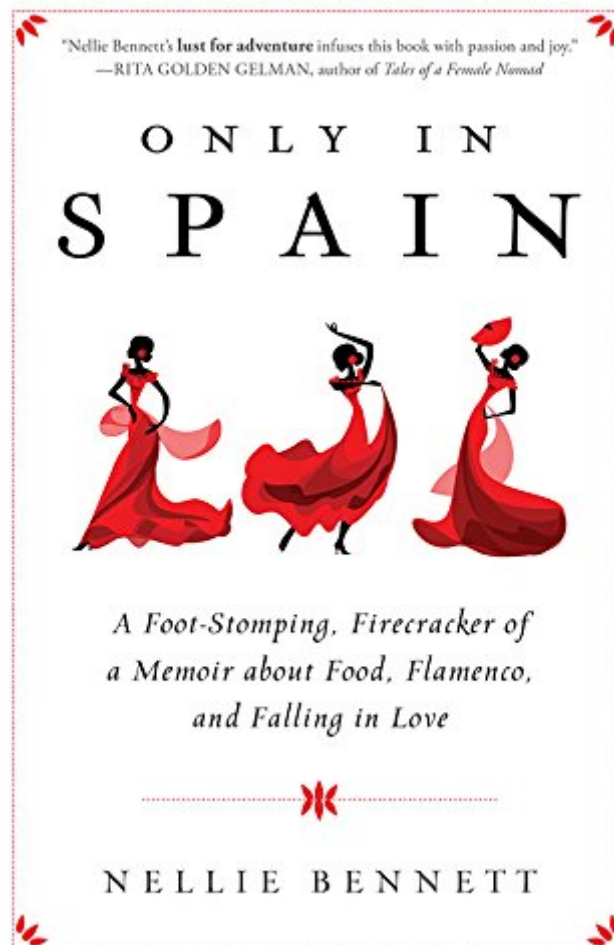


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Only In Spain: A Foot-Stomping, Firecracker Of A Memoir About Food, Flamenco, And Falling In Love



Synopsis

Why don't you...run away with the gypsies? Ten-hour shifts in a high-end department store and catering to snooty customers...Nellie Bennett's life wasn't supposed to turn out this way. But maybe all she needs to do is infuse a little passion into her routine—through flamenco dance lessons, for instance. What Nellie doesn't realize is that flamenco is not just a dance—it's a way of life that seems much more enticing than her depressing retail gig. So she packs her suede dance shoes and leaves everything she knows behind, flying halfway around the world to seek the authentic experience in Seville, where the dark-eyed gypsy boys and mouth-watering tapas are enough to make Nellie want to stay in Spain forever. And why shouldn't she? Only in Spain is a foot-stomping, full-on firecracker of a memoir—crackling with energy, food, dance, gypsies, and love—that will capture your heart with the first "¡Olé!"

A vivid, entertaining memoir...Bennett had me itching to pack my bag and join her."

—Ann Vanderhoof, author of *An Embarrassment of Mangoes* and *The Spice Necklace*

Book Information

File Size: 1103 KB

Print Length: 301 pages

Publisher: Sourcebooks (July 1, 2014)

Publication Date: July 1, 2014

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00J8QDJ50

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #574,840 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #176

in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Dancers #194 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National > Australian #249 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Travel > Europe > Spain & Portugal

Customer Reviews

I have to agree that while I enjoyed the book, some of the phrasing was far too primary, repetitive and

seemed forced. I enjoyed the dancing sequences and the street scenes the most. I found the end forced and abrupt like she ran out of things to say.

I agree with another reviewer- the phrasing and word choice in this book was overly basic and amateurish. The story was clunkish in its narrative and almost painful to read at times. I was almost more upset with the editor than the author as I couldn't believe this book even made it to print. I think the elements of the story had merit, but were told in such a pointless and strung along manner. The ending just flopped as it rushed and glossed over to details to come to a lack luster conclusion. Seriously, don't waste your time.

If you're a fan of dancing or 'Dancing With the Stars' or maybe you just harbor your own dreams of running away to tango through your dreams in Argentina or flamenco in Spain... then you'll love this book. Her discussion of dance might not be interesting for people not interested in the topic; I actually would've enjoyed a little more writing about it. The whole book is not romantic ideals of tapas and foot-stomping; no. Bennett also shows that sometimes you make choices in your journeys that can lead to dangerous situations, and she is lucky to have escaped unscathed from hers. Despite this, Bennett's Spanish memoir will have you eager to throw some clothes in a suitcase, grab your passport, and run away to Spain. She paints a picture of Spanish daily life, and a realistic view of what it takes to make it as a foreigner living abroad.

Nellie Bennett's writing sparkles! She brings Spain and it's senses alive! You can hear the rapid-fire gypsy guitars, the pounding flamenco dancers. You can see the ancient cobbled streets, smell the food (and lack of it)!. But most of all Nellie Bennett takes and keeps us with her as she writes about her experience of living in Spain. She writes of her loves, her sadnesses, her disappointments, her happiness, her fulfillments. I enjoyed this book so very much - a fabulous read! I have been recommending it to friends and family and hope there'll be more books from this author!

I wish that I could give this book 3 1/2 stars. It was a fun book to read, but I wanted to know more about Nellie. Although her goal to return to Spain after a short holiday was clear, I had the feeling that she was much less grounded by the end of the book. The sections on flamenco classes were fun to read, aside from a return trip to Sevilla for the Feria, she doesn't talk much about dancing or where she ended with it. She tells a good story, but I found the repetitious phrases "only in Spain" and "toma que toma" annoying.

Thought it would be a book about the very colourful Spanish life, but it turned out to be a diary-style confession of a stupid girl whose interest & obsession was to become a flamenco dancer. I regret spending the money to buy this totally mediocre book. If you want to enjoy a book about Spain, look elsewhere. Very poorly written! Sorry excuse for literature!

This book was totally charming and fun! I read it during a two-week trip to Spain and it inspired me to go see a Flamenco performance in Seville, which was marvelous. But even if you aren't planning a trip to Spain, if you are female and enjoy the "American living abroad" genre, you will love this. An added plus for me was that Ms. Bennett worked in retail, as do I, so a lot of her experiences there resonated with me.

I really enjoyed reading this book. I went to Spain last summer and I could really see the streets by the way Nellie described everything. I admired the passion she had for flamenco and the struggles she went through to afford it. The only problem I had with this book is that she said she was a vegan yet ate meat because she claims there was nothing else to eat. I've been a vegetarian for 22 years and have never met a vegan who could just flip a switch and eat meat the next day. Nellie didn't say how long she'd been a vegan, but I'd guess a very short time. When I went to Spain I researched beforehand where all the vegetarian restaurants were and went to them in every city I visited. In Seville I often ate paella, there were even places that serve single serve portions (I assume it was frozen). I still remember the best tapa I had in Seville, it was a huge plate of exotic mushrooms. Otherwise around Spain in tapas bars I ate tortilla de patata, patatas bravas, gazpacho, espinacas con garbanzos, pisto, and manchego with bread. I always went out of my way to find grocery stores in each city to buy cheap water. In some places there were fruit stands right on the street. In short it wasn't difficult at all to be a vegetarian in Spain, you just have to try harder to find the right places to eat, Nellie didn't. I just did a quick google search and found that Seville does have vegan restaurants. Nellie admitted that she starved herself to be thin, so I think being vegan was a trendy way for her to justify not eating white carbs because she wanted to be "healthy". I felt she gave vegans a bad name.

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