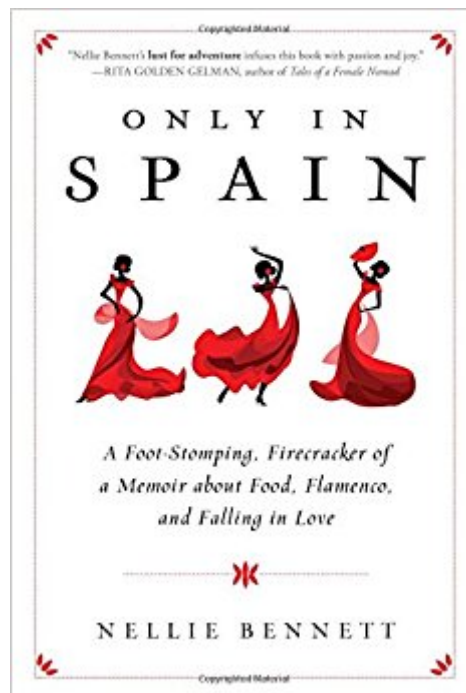




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Only In Spain: A Foot-Stomping, Firecracker Of A Memoir About Food, Flamenco, And Falling In Love



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

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: Sourcebooks (July 1, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1402293852

ISBN-13: 978-1402293856

Product Dimensions: 1 x 5.5 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 31 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #441,059 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #59 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Dancers #67 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National > Australian #332 in Books > Travel > Europe > Spain > General

Customer Reviews

Why don't you...? This simple question took Nellie Bennett to a new life halfway around the world, as recounted in her frothy and fun memoir. A shopgirl at an Australian department store, Bennett is seduced by the charms of Spain as she studies flamenco dancing in Seville. But when she moves to Madrid for more dance classes, alone and broke, she finds life isn't all orange blossoms and late-night dancing. Bennett is endearingly forthright about her foibles and shortcomings. Her sincere love for the enthusiastic Spanish culture embodied in the expression

toma que toma (roughly "take it, take it") overrides the sometimes clichéd aspects of her storytelling, such as her focus on the liquid dark eyes of the handsome Spanish men. Although she has her flirtations and finds romance, at its core this is a love story about a dance, a country, and an approach to life. Similar to Eat, Pray, Love, but on a less ambitious scale, Only in Spain celebrates the possibilities that arise when, instead of "Why?" one asks, "Why not?" --Bridget Thoreson

"Nellie Bennett's lust for adventure infuses this book with passion and joy." - Rita Golden Gelman, author of Tales of a Female Nomad "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 "A peripatetic Australian's account of how a flamenco dancing hobby led to high adventures in music, food and love in Spain... Lightweight, footloose good fun." - Kirkus

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.

Well the author sure gives a window into what it takes to learn Flamenco as a Westerner. She never succeeds--the story ends too abruptly. Felt sorry for the men who fell for her, especially the last one she left high and dry (her fiance!). Very selfish girl.

What a fun book! It. Made me want to dance also. I will be taking it, in my mind, with me to Spain when I go. I think it will make my trip more fun.

A very young lady looking for adventures and finding the fun and "different" society that is found here in Spain, as many others have. Fun to read, lots of information about local customs, we wonder about the naïveté she risks she took, and happy things turned out well. In the end, she

leaves it all to go somewhere else to continue her path of new societies and fun adventure, leaving a broken hearted boyfriend. It seems frivolous, but at least she follows her heart. Light reading for young people.

Okay but not great. I stopped at about 4 chapters in. The subject matter is very interesting but the writing is a little flat. I may pick it up again at some point in the future.

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.

Really fun reading. The main character is a hoot!

Great chick flick of a book. I thoroughly enjoyed Nellie's attempt to learn flamenco and immerse herself in the flamenco world of Madrid and Seville.

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