

BOOK REVIEW

by Alice Griffin

A Place in My Country - In Search of The Rural Dream,

by Ian Walthew

I first saw this in a bookshop window in Autun, France and the rather nice display made me want to buy it, but it was Sunday and the shop was closed. I didn't think much more about it until surprisingly, not long after, the author left a comment on my blog stating that as I too am in search of a rural dream, his book might make quite an interesting read.

A media executive in meltdown, Ian finds himself questioning all that life is about, so when a chance drive through the Cotswolds with his Australian wife leads them to an idyllic cottage, they take a leap of faith. Resignation soon follows along with a time of facing deep personal losses, all the while observing and noting new beginnings of life within a rural community. Ian describes the Cotswolds countryside in all its poetic glory and the portrayal of his relationship with cranky next-door neighbour, Norman - who struggles to retain the farming traditions of a bygone era

all the time watching the influx of 'weekenders' and shadows of industrialisation threaten to devour the countryside he loves - is affectionate and moving.

This book is not just about escaping the rat-race to live the good life; it is a compassionate view of rural England today. It reminded me of the country I love, but also a country that is undeniably changing to one where I, like Ian and his family, am not sure I can live.

His graceful storytelling will make you laugh, cry, reminisce and look at everything around you with new eyes.

A Place in My Country - In Search of The Rural Dream,

by Ian Walthew

www.amazon.co.uk

Price: £4.99

Prodigal Summer,

by Barbara Kingsolver

This book was a delight to read from the beginning to the end of its 320 pages. Set in the Appalachian Mountains, Alabama, it follows the story of three different lives, all connected

by their surroundings. Sensual, romantic, mesmerising; I never knew how appealing small-town life set deep within life's flora and fauna could be.

I normally find books that jump from one story to another and back again slightly annoying or confusing; this was neither. Instead I found myself lost in a world rich with colour and imagery that Kingsolver has so gracefully portrayed and feeling a real sense of knowing, understanding and admiration for the wonderful array of characters.

Aside from the beautiful story I acquired a depth of knowledge on subjects such as preserving food, animal life and it did in fact inspire me to plant an orchard in the land I hope to have myself one day!

If you need to escape from life and feel energised, then I strongly suggest that you immerse yourself in this beautifully crafted book.

Prodigal Summer by Barbara Kingsolver is available on:

www.amazon.co.uk

Price: £6.99

An Eternal Christmas Gift

By Nell Glynn



This perfect Christmas present for the man in your life brings new meaning to the expression "put some class around your ass"! A bronze sculpture of one of your best (Or should we say breast!) assets is a gift that will last a life time and beyond.

Eugene Warren has now opened a studio in Benalmadena, where

he is available to make a beautiful cast of any part of your body.

Eugene has invited a member of the Spanish Sun team to his studio to have a life casting to let our readers know from start to finish what the experience is like. At the time of going to press we are just deciding who is going to take advantage of Eugene's offer, so make sure you don't miss next edition, it could be Tasha's tummy, Jan's Jugs, or Brenda's butt! Make sure you get your copy, and see the life cast of the lucky member of the Spanish Sun Team!

For full details of getting your body cast contact Eugene Telephone: 69 111 2470 Email: eugenewarrendesigns@hotmail.com

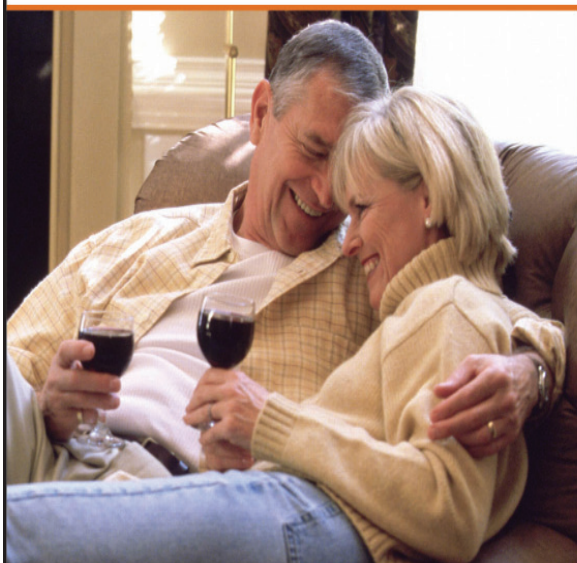


SUN SMILEY

An insurance salesman was trying to persuade Debbie to buy a life insurance policy. "Just imagine if Andy was to die tomorrow," he said. "What would you get?" "Oh, a Labrador dog, I think," replied Debbie. "They're so well-behaved."

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