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Manana Manana: One Mallorcan Summer

Peter Kerr

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Peter Kerr : Manana Manana: One Mallorcan Summer before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Manana Manana: One Mallorcan Summer:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Mallorca encoreBy LALAIf you enjoyed his first book you will enjoy this one too...I did. A good read about expat life on Mallorca. Well written and entertaining.1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. TriteBy E. HeintzI was initially excited to receive this book and complete another

armchair adventure. However, I was deceived. This book was rather trite and cliché and I didn't even finish it. It was a typical "we pronounced the words wrong and offended a lot of people" type of travel essay. I want to learn about the ambiance of a place; not how another westerner embarrassed his/herself in a foreign country by not respecting the people, their culture or language. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Travelers of SpainBy memoirs loverI thought that this was a good book. I put myself in the places that I read about. I think that Mallorca would be a wonderful place to visit and meet all of the colorful personalities.

Having battled and succumbed to the *mañana* pace of rural Mallorca in his best-selling *Snowball Oranges: A Winter's Tale on a Spanish Isle*, spring sees Peter Kerr and family relaxing into a supposedly simpler way of life, growing oranges on their little valley farm, Ca's Mayoral. However, even after their tragicomic initiation, Spain has not yet finished with them. Embarrassing subtleties of the language, brushes with the local police, the unfortunate outcome of a drinking session . . . there are surprises aplenty to test the resolve, stamina, and, perhaps more importantly, the sense of humor of this venturesome (the author would say "foolhardy") émigré family. Their eccentric and colorful new friends are always on hand to help out—for better or worse—and add spice to this engaging account of *tranquilo* life. Here is the charm of Mallorca: where you seldom do today what can be put off 'til *mañana*.

From Publishers Weekly Kerr's memoir begins where *Snowball Oranges: A Winter's Tale on a Spanish Isle* left off. Spring is approaching; the neighboring rooster, General Franco, is crowing earlier and louder; and the author, a Scottish farmer who, with his family, has left his homeland to grow fruit in Mallorca, is up to greet the gorgeous island dawn. Thus begins this series of vignettes about the difficulties and satisfactions of trying to slow down and learn the ways of a charming but often mystifying Mediterranean isle. As Kerr and his family try to adjust their Scottish farming experience to the Mallorcan climate, they are on a steep learning curve, both cultural and agricultural. Offered advice and assistance from all kinds of charming, irritating and eccentric locals and expatriates, many of whom assume that the Kerrs, like most transplants to Mallorca, have money to burn, the family manages, eventually, to learn how to make a living with their fruit trees and enjoy local customs on their own terms. Whether they are confronted with demonic folklore in a local restaurant, navigating the politics of dealing with the police after a devastating burglary or standing up for themselves as they practice diplomacy with their sometimes difficult neighbors, the family remains lighthearted and resilient. More a series of episodes than a continuous narrative, the book lacks dramatic drive. But Kerr's writing is mildly humorous and evokes a spirit of place that will appeal to both armchair travelers and vacationers who'd like to know the best eating establishments on the island, as well as anyone considering emigrating to a foreign land. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Kerr, a Scottish transplant to Mallorca, continues the diverting story of his family's adjustment to tranquil island life that he began in *Snowball Oranges* (2002). Their first summer on the island brings more adventures and more customs to learn, along with the hard physical labor of semimechanized farming. Kerr manages well enough with Spanish, although the local dialect is still a mystery to him, while his wife's pronunciation leads to comic confusion of food items with male body parts. For all the history and beauty of the landscape and the wonderful growing conditions, the true treasure of the island is its people, whose warmth and generosity are tempered with shrewdness and humor that keep those trying to fit in both amused and confused. A break-in and theft and continuing "negotiations" with the previous owner keep the Kerrs grounded as they prove, to their neighbors' surprise, that they are real farmers, not wealthy dilettantes, building what they hope will be a real life. Danise Hoover Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved "People are already making comparisons between *A Year in Provence* and *MANANA MANANA*. But at the risk of committing travel writing heresy, some readers may like *MANANA MANANA* better. It's often funnier, grittier and more textured than Mayle's best-selling book." --Bookpage "Kerr's writing . . . evokes a spirit of place that will appeal to both armchair travelers and vacationers who'd like to know the best eating establishments on the island, as well as anyone considering emigrating to a foreign land." --Publishers Weekly "Although this genre has grown thin, given the plethora of books that have appeared since Frances Mayes's *Under the Tuscan Sun* and Peter Mayles's *A Year in Provence*, Kerr manages to give us a lively spin on the difficulties and successes he and his family experience after they purchase a run-down orange grove on Majorca. This charming, cheerful book will appeal to anyone looking for a different take on Spain and Majorca. For large travel collections." --Library Journal