

Amazon.com Review by Richard R. Blake
Marathon by W. William Winokur

Destined to Become a Classic

Marianna Gardner has just become a partner in a successful law firm in Manhattan. Marianna chose to complete an important work assignment rather than attending her estranged father's funeral. As a result she faced inner conflict, turmoil, and unrest.

Reuniting with an elderly uncle, Ion Theodore, Marianna begins a search for truth and self discovery. Winokur uses the first person voice of Maria Anastasia's to relate Marianna's journey. The story also is built around Ion Theodore's life story and of his celebrated run from Marathon to Athens.

The writing is sensitive and artfully constructed. The characters are believable and genuine.

Winokur has developed a good balance of conflict and intrigue to move the plot forward. The author's word pictures and descriptions of ancient Athens gave me a strong urge to take a step back in history to visit historic Greece. His use of dialog to establish settings, both geographical and historical, gave an additional dimension to the beauty of the story. The use of broken English in the dialog with the Greek characters added to the flavor of the story

The graphic descriptions of battlefields, death and decay, in the midst of the devastation of war were so realistic it was as though the author himself had been there. He creates, in the reader, a feeling of being in the trenches with him anticipating enemy fire and certain death.

The story is a unique blending of history, mythology, philosophy, theology, and psychology. Winokur has an uncanny sensitivity to the inner feelings of individuals. He made me feel a wide spectrum of human feelings and emotions. This created an interesting balance and rewarding experience.

Winokur is so steeped in the classical writings of Greek mythology and the gods that it was sometimes difficult to know when he had moved from a quote from the classic writers to the voice of one of his central characters.

I thoroughly enjoyed this memorable novel and am looking forward to the next work of this inspiring author.

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