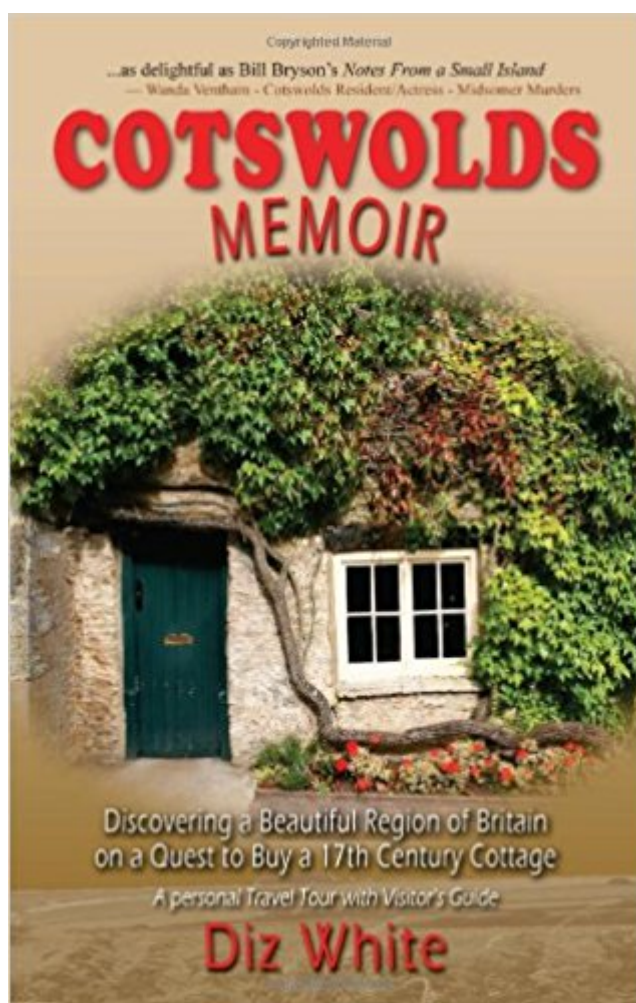


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Cotswolds Memoir: Discovering A Beautiful Region Of Britain On A Quest To Buy A 17th Century Cottage



Synopsis

The ultimate laugh-out-loud, good life, house-hunting, foodie, travel-tour, meet the eccentric locals, roller-coaster cliff hanger, fun memoir. A love note to the Cotswolds, one of the most beautiful regions of England. After British-born, comedy actress Diz White found herself craving Yorkshire Pudding at every meal she knew her roots were pulling her back from Hollywood to her homeland. It was time to buy a Cotswolds Cottage! Her roller-coaster, often laugh-out-loud, search doubles as a travel-tour (travel guide included) that takes in every delight of the Cotswolds: historic sites, hog roasts, hiking the Cotswolds Way and pub walks with her husband, often bagging the walk in favor of a slightly boozy lunch. There were highs, heartbreaks and cliff-hangers as she scrambled between Hollywood, taking every wacky acting job offered, and the Cotswolds, looking for a cottage bargain. On the way she was charged by a bull named Chasin' Mason, auditioned for the hind end of a horse and was trampled by thirty children while wearing a bear suit. But the fondness she developed for this region and its vivid inhabitants gave her a feeling of community missing from her busy urban existence. Will this author's dream become a reality? Find out in this witty love note to the Cotswolds.

'Extremely entertaining, funny and beautifully written.'

Katie Jarvis, Cotswold Life Magazine

'I fell about laughing at Diz White's book, her hilarious showbiz stories woven into her hunt for a cottage are a hoot.... her writing allows you to not only imagine you are there but to feel you have embraced the heart of the Cotswolds. A great holiday read or a great read anytime.'

Debbie McGee, BBC Radio Berkshire

'It's enchanting....very funny. Diz White paints a nostalgic and affectionate canvas.'

Steven Leigh Morris, Critic-at-Large, L.A. Weekly

'Cotswolds Memoir is a rip-roaring new book'

Tristan, Cork, Western Daily Press

'Wakes us up to the joys on our doorstep.'

Sue Bradley, Gloucestershire Echo

'More entertaining than Under the Tuscan Sun.'

William Greenleaf, Greenleaf Literary

'Cotswolds Memoir will hook you from the very first page. It's well researched with good information - it has a great travel guide at the end - but is also filled with entertaining anecdotes. If you haven't visited the Cotswolds - or even if you have - you'll want to pack your bags and go!'

Monica B. Morris, Goodnight Children Everywhere

'As enchanting as Bill Bryson's Notes From a Small

Island.' Wanda
Ventham Actress/Cotswold
resident, Midsomer Murders, Dr Who

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Customer Reviews

'I fell about laughing at Diz White's book' Debbie McGee BBC Radio Berkshire 'It's enchanting....very funny.
Steven Leigh Morris,
Critic-at-Large L.A. Weekly 'Extremely entertaining, funny and beautifully written.'
Katie Jarvis Cotswold Life Magazine

It's enchanting... very funny... Diz White has written a book that is part memoir, part travelogue and part stand-up comedy, summoning trips back and forth between Los Angeles and a bucolic sliver of England... She paints a nostalgic and affectionate canvas. Steven Leigh Morris Critic-at-Large, LA Weekly This book is captivating and enchanting... the writing is fluid, warm, and friendly. Diz draws the reader into her heart from the moment the book opens. She uses all the senses, like taste, scents and sight to get the reader involved in the drama. There are many physical images of her excursions and her quest. Although it doesn't seem like buying a cottage would make for an exciting story, Diz has made it into a delightful and fun-filled adventure. It will be easy for the reader to relate to her problems and sympathize. Wisdom about life and human foibles filter through the anecdotes and struggles. --William Greenleaf William Greenleaf Literary Diz White vividly

brings to life these charming Costwolds characters. Very funny stuff. --Mary Lou Belli
Directors Tell the Story: Master the Craft of Television and Film
Directing (Focal Press)

Like most avid readers, I'm a sucker for a great book cover and this is one of the most appealing I've ever seen. Because I read a lot of travel books, this has shown up as a "recommended for you" but I'm so cheap I couldn't bring myself to spend the three bucks. When it appeared as a freebie, I was on it like a duck on a June Bug. This author threw herself into the difficult task of finding and buying a cottage in the trendy, expensive Cotswolds with the same ruthless determination that has enabled her to survive in show business. However, even an actress who has suffered the ultimate indignity of wearing a bear costume at a rich kid's party is hard-pressed to hold her own in the cut-throat hell-on-earth that is the modern British real estate industry. Think you have it bad in L.A. or New York or Peoria? Try having a bid accepted (and shelling out for legal advice and a property inspection) only to find yourself "gazumped." That's Brit for losing to a higher bidder when YOU thought the bidding was closed! (We would say, "Royally screwed," but in England that's a one-night-stand with Prince Harry.) They finally found a beautiful place and (after many trials and tribulations) happily settled in. God knows they deserve it. The story is a good one and this author is a pip at humorous writing. Her off-the-wall tales of her strange family, bizarre show-biz experiences, and the befuddlement of dealing with the Cotswold locals are entertaining and frequently hilarious. I'm not planning a trip to the Cotswolds and there was a bit too much detail in the travel descriptions to suit me. I'm also not a foodie and there was WAY too much about their meals. And if you're a vegetarian, I'd give it a pass. When this woman sees lambs frolicking in the field, she thinks about what part she'd eat first! So I did a little skimming in parts, but most of it was a fine read. And if you ARE going to the Cotswolds or if you ARE a foodie, I don't think you could do better than this lively, intelligent, likable author.

I am a sucker for books about finding vacation homes abroad, especially in England, France or Ireland. I've literally read dozens of such books about France, so this story was a welcome change. Here's what I liked: The author tells us how she and her husband raised money to finance their venture. We rarely learn about this aspect of house buying abroad. Most of us can only dream about buying a home in a foreign country, so hearing about the author's financial challenges was inspiring. I also found the author's style very appealing, although it was a bit too breezy at times. I would have enjoyed hearing more about what the author and her husband did with their cottage after

acquiring it. The book seemed to end a bit abruptly for me. "OK, we found the cottage. We're done!"

You have to give this book some time because until I read past the 40% mark I was not interested. Finally, there is a very funny conversation with their elderly Cotswold landlords that put me in a far better mood. And then there are frequent silly quotes from the British newspapers. The Cotswolds sound beautiful and definitely an area I would love to visit. However, the frequent descriptions of walks and food were slightly tedious. The author, Diz, and her husband were looking for a Cotswold cottage which, apparently, is a very difficult thing to find for even a low outrageous price. I liked her stories about cottage hunting and was sorry for their disappointments. Cotswold Memoirs is a very short, but mostly entertaining book. One thing that did surprise me is the author thinking that the cliché "bear with me" is an unusual phrase in the U.S. While it may have originated in the UK it is actually a very common North American phrase. Shakespeare did use the phrase fairly often in his works, but I don't know where it originated.

In recounting her attempts to find a Cotswold cottage Diz White, an American actress, introduces North American readers to the delights of this particular AONB (Area of Natural Beauty) as well as to the horrors of being "gazumped". (Whatever happened to the idea that "an Englishman's word is his bond"?) Regular visitors to the Cotswolds may grumble that their favorite pub, walk or garden doesn't appear, but by and large this is a good introduction to the area. She's right to try to avoid the tourist-thronged villages, but my suggestion for them is to go very early on a weekday. It would be a shame to miss the beauty of Chipping Campden's High Street - you just want to see it without cars. If her descriptions whet your appetite for travel, she's also included an appendix of suggestions and further information. This is a solid three star effort.

I have not enjoyed a travelogue more. Beautifully written spelling out the problems, pitfalls and successes in the purchase of a cottage in one of the most beautiful parts of England, the Cotswolds, by a married team who had a dream and made sure it came to reality. The stories within the story, mainly told with a humorous slant, keep one's interest all of the time, irrespective of whether they are about the theatrical lives of the couple, the many riotous incidents that occurred, or the characters they meet during their search. The descriptions of the Cotswolds and its towns, villages and surrounding countryside will make you want to visit this beautiful part of the world. This is a real travelogue that does not preach but surely excites. I loved it. Jim Yeomans, now living near Cape Town, but originally from that part of the world.

I love the British countryside and I find this book boring. I wanted to read about Cotswolds and this book isn't for me. Author talked more about french food than the countryside. It is so boring and unappealing. It doesn't have this charisma I was looking for. The title is deceiving. I always put it down as much as I tried to finish it. Ended up deleting it. Boring. Self centered. Deceiving title.

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