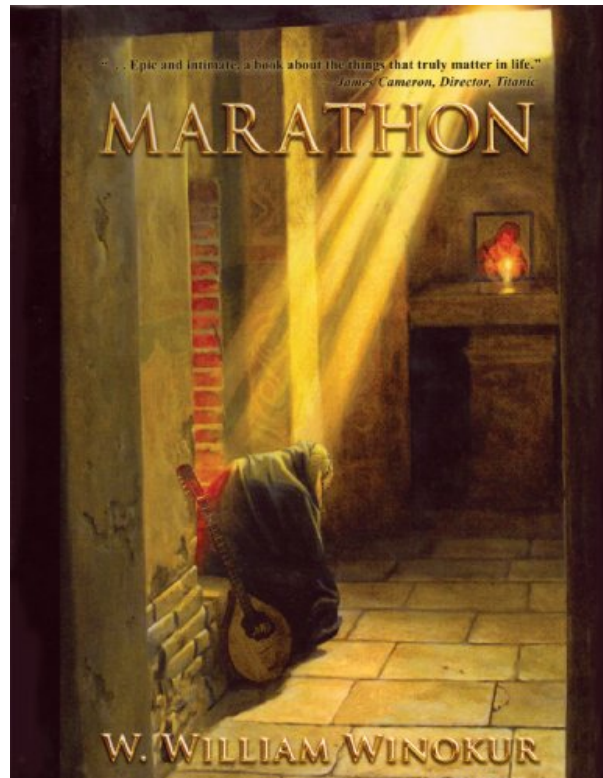
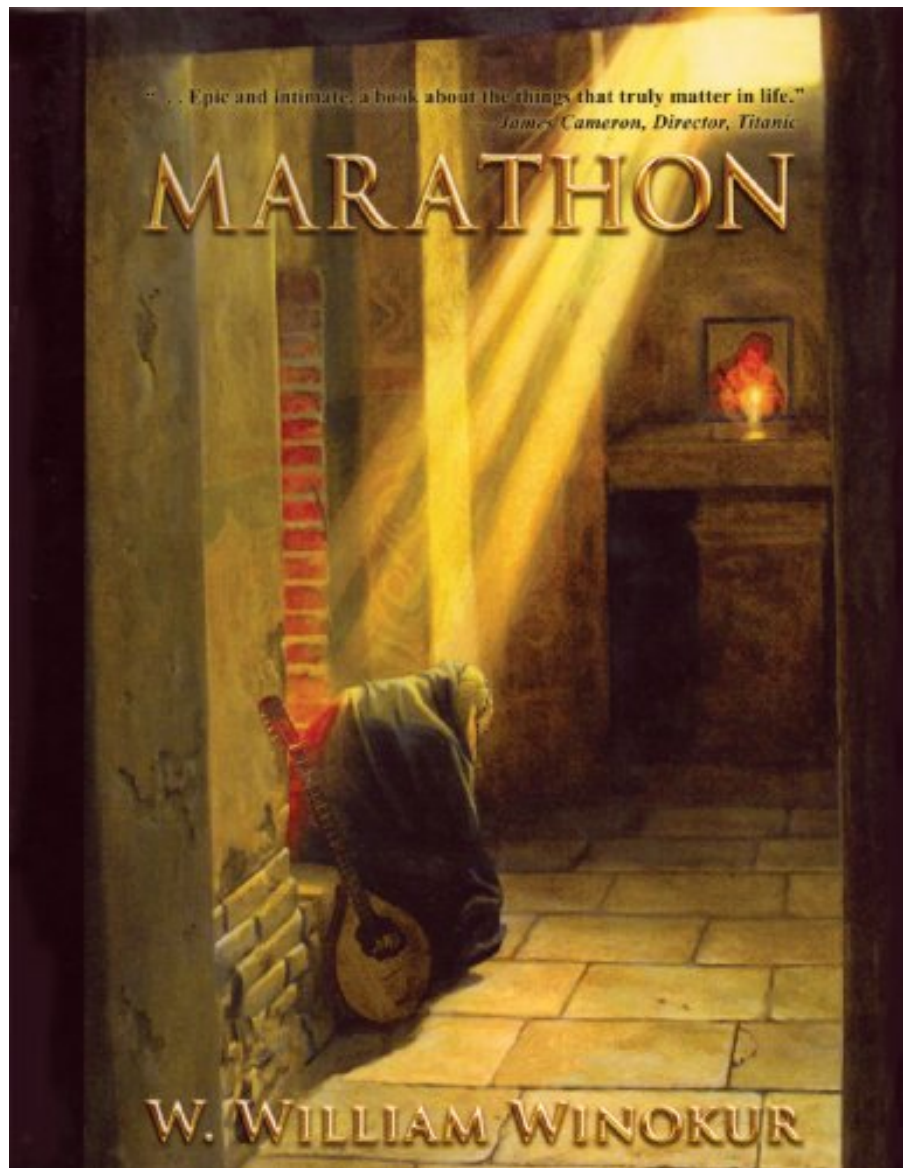


MARATHON BY WILLIAM WINOKUR



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Review

"In this Grecophile's delight, a photograph leads [Marianna] to Ion Theodore and eventually to Greece...to unravel the past." -- Library Journal

"Marathon has all the flavor and scope of a true epic." -- Malibu Times

From the Back Cover

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About the Author

W. WILLIAM WINOKUR, who was a student of Ion Theodore's at the Horace Mann School, retraced his mentor's footsteps to the Greek village of Marathon on a quest for enlightenment. The essence of his odyssey has been infused into the heart of his first novel. Bill now lives in Malibu with his wife and three children, and is currently writing his next novel, The Third Miracle.

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MARATHON BY WILLIAM WINOKUR PDF

An Odyssey of Self-Discovery

Winner USA BookNews.com's National "Best Books 2006 Award"

Based on a true story, *MARATHON*, tells the tale of Marianna Gardner, a successful corporate attorney, whose pursuit of money and power has led her far from her childhood ideals. Fate reunites her with an old friend of her deceased parents—Ion Theodore—a former Greek slave, sculptor and Marathon runner. Together they journey to his ancient homeland where she not only discovers his past, but also her future and the inescapable destiny that each holds the key to the other's salvation.

From the concrete canyons of lower Manhattan to the ruins of Ancient Greece, *MARATHON* is a deeply personal tour-de-force of a woman who turns her back on the modern world in order to unravel the secrets of her past.

Meet Marianna Gardner—intelligent, beautiful, successful, yet empty, sad and searching. Marianna is a partner in a prominent Manhattan law firm, but her rise to the top has come at a price: She has become so hardened that she has missed her own father's funeral.

Enter Ion Theodore, a charming yet lonely old Greek man who has known Marianna since she was a child. A teacher, artist and marathon runner, Ion is a man of uncommon experience and wisdom. When Marianna reaches out for Ion after decades of absence, visiting him in a dilapidated Queens' nursing home., she is quickly entranced by "Uncle" Ion's quiet life force.

Soon after their meeting, Marianna finds herself compelled to accompany Ion on a pilgrimage back to his homeland of Greece. There she stumbles upon Ion's hidden journals, with their tantalizing allusions to a lost obol, once possessed by Ion. It was the very obol worn by Pheidippides, the legendary hero who ran from Marathon to Athens to bring the news of the history-changing Greek victory over the Persians.

Framed by the story of Pheidippides' celebrated run, the novel is steeped in mythology and mystery. With a deft and certain hand, author W. William Winokur ponders the essential questions of life and death, the intersection of past and present, the struggle of duty versus passion, all while exploring one woman's discovery of herself through ancient myths, lost journals, impossible loves and timeless souls.

Marathon is a richly imagined work that sets the conflict and intrigue of the ancient world against the reality of contemporary life. Compelling, thought provoking and thoroughly engaging, *MARATHON* is a powerful statement about the choices we make in life and how to make a life worth living.

Critics praise *MARATHON*:

"The shadow of ancient Greece gives uncommon power to this story of a modern woman's search for purpose. The result is a book which is both epic and intimate, a book about the things that really matter in

life.” —James Cameron, Director, Titanic, Avatar

“MARATHON defies description in many ways because it just isn’t the usual kind of story one encounters... It is a remarkable novel about a remarkable man.” —Bookviews.com

“The story is layered by a master craftsman, as the past touches the present smoothly and skillfully. A ribbon of timeless love is woven throughout the tale, joining the lives of these characters in a tapestry of epic proportions. The theme of a marathon flows effortlessly, highlighting Marianna's quest for self-understanding and providing a quiet sense of urgency. A myriad of emotions will cause these pages to quiver, capturing readers' hearts and drawing them deeper into this novel. When the book is slowly closed, there will be a sense of having run this race vicariously and hopefully, victoriously with these marvelous people.” —In The Library Reviews

“This is a novel of deep faith and conviction, all the more so because Ion Theodore was a real person. This is a book to be read, re-read and treasured.” —Roundtable Reviews

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children, and is currently writing his next novel, *The Third Miracle*.

Most helpful customer reviews

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

An Epic of the Journeys of the Soul

By Evelyn Sears

The Ice Woman. That's what her partners at Schroeder, Wilkes and Barron call Marianna Gardner. It is an appropriate sobriquet for a woman who was too busy practicing law to attend her father's funeral.

While sifting through her father's belongings, Marianna comes across a reminder of a once cherished but long-forgotten family friend. Determined to re-establish some connection with her past, she finds "Uncle Ion" in a shabby nursing home. As they rekindle their relationship, Marianna examines her life and slowly realizes that she is not fond of the person she has become. Her journey of self-discovery accelerates when she and Uncle Ion travel to Greece so that he may conclude some personal business.

Marianna's Grecian sojourn is far from peaceful. As her respect for the people around her grows, so does her disdain for her own life. Moreover, upon unearthing several old journals, Marianna uncovers startling truths about Uncle Ion's life and her own origins. Shortly before he dies, Uncle Ion unravels the mysteries of the journals and his complicated connection to Marianna. The story concludes as, armed with new insights, Marianna gathers the courage to make peace with herself, break free from the chains that bind her and build a new life.

A recounting of Pheidippides' mythic journeys frames the stories of Marianna and Ion. The parallel accounts of these varied journeys complement each other well. In order to remain free, Pheidippides and his countrymen must defeat the Persian invaders who threaten to enslave them. His journey shapes a nation. In order to die free, Ion must reveal his ties with Marianna. His journey shapes Marianna's future. In order to become free, Marianna must relinquish the life that corrupts her. Her journey depicts the universal quest for meaning.

Readers who like epic tales of struggle and triumph will enjoy *Marathon*. This lengthy (nearly 500 pages), engrossing novel is a touching tribute to a teacher, Ion Theodore, who influenced the author's life in an extraordinary way. W. William Winokur weaves fact, fiction, poetry, biography, history and mythology into a beautiful story that sensitively explores eternal questions about life's meanings. A first-time novelist, Winokur has established a high standard for himself. His prose is graceful and poetic, his images are vivid and his characters are interesting. Imagine sitting at Ion's feet as he teaches history, philosophy and art as a seamless whole. Feel Pheidippides' exhaustion as he runs over mountains, his lips filled with messages that will determine the fate of a nation. Suffer Marianna's grief as she examines a life filled with much regret and little honor. And most importantly, rejoice as Marianna travels from desolation through resurrection to redemption, for her triumph gives hope to all who are compelled to traverse the dark places of their souls.

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Multi-faceted Story Lines

By Carol Lieto

Marathon is one of those rare novels that becomes infused within the being of the person reading the story. It is a novel that I was unable to put down, one that I wanted to continue reading for a very long time.

Maria Anastasia's story is quite incredible; her "resurrection" is a journey filled with wisdom, and it becomes a tribute to the power of love to transform lives in mysterious and poignant ways.

While reading the novel, I found myself relishing the multi-faceted story lines that are weaved throughout the pages. The ancient past, the living past, the present, and the hopeful future are all facets of Marianna's resurrection. The stories of Pheidippides, interspersed between Ion's journals, words from The Illiad, and the story of Marianna's and Ion's lives are like the Russian matryoshka nesting dolls, with one story fitting inside of another one and so on.

Parts of the major story unfold in Greece and they read like a mystery tale; I did not anticipate the path the story would take once Marianna and Ion arrived in Ion's homeland. It is a beautiful ending for the resurrected protagonist.

Ion Theodore is a wise man, and W. William Winokur surely has the blessings of his former teacher and mentor in the words that appear on the pages in this brilliant novel. I loved every moment of this reading experience, and I will pass this book on to those I know and love.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

A diamond discovery: a definite winner

By E. Parkinson

William Winokur's epic adventure, "MARATHON" is a page turner that stays with you like a cherished memory. Brilliant plotting, prose and execution, with descriptive imagery that gives the read the feel of watching an Oscar-caliber movie. And speaking of Oscar-caliber movies... I see that JAMES CAMERON, director of "Titanic" has given this book a glowing endorsement on it's front cover jacket. Perhaps "MARATHON" is just the property for Cameron to follow-up his epic "TITANIC"?? Buy this book now, and hang onto the remaining FIRST EDITIONS still available before this baby takes off!!!

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