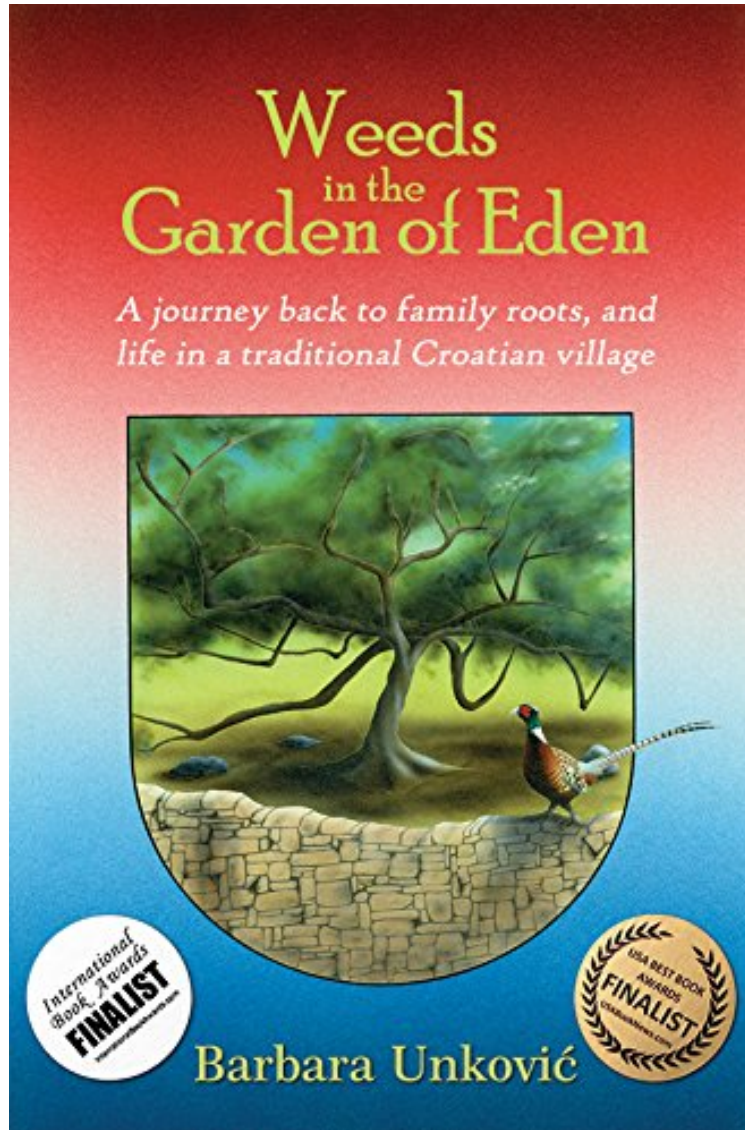


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## Weeds in The Garden Of Eden

Barbara Unkovic

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**Barbara Unkovic : Weeds in The Garden Of Eden** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Weeds in The Garden Of Eden:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I enjoyed every page of this bookBy Nenad TomasI enjoyed every page of this book. I will be recommending it to all my friends that love to read. I couldn't put it down.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Very perceptiveBy readerThe author has come up with a piece of relocation/lifestyle/travel literature which is not only entertaining but also informative and extremely perceptive.The

story is about the author and her husband, clearly two outgoing and friendly folk, who try their damndest to set up home and make a fist of fitting into the local community on the island of Korcula. There are a lot of laughs and entertaining incidents as they renovate an ancient house and make friends with their new neighbours, but they find that outsiders are not easily absorbed into a tight-knit community, and while they do make some good friends, their projects are thwarted at every step by poisonous officials or other surly neighbours. Full of insightful observation, the author sheds light on the Croatian mentality as she highlights the strange ways in which the society operates. Clearly and crisply written - and written with great humour throughout - she describes the beauties of the place and the kindnesses they are given by some of their new neighbours, so it is a well-balanced account, told with great sympathy and understanding. Her author's clear-eyed view of the past political goings on in the area is also very instructive. Highly readable, the book should be required reading for anyone thinking of relocating to any part of the world.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Good Followup

By pirate30

Being an expat from the US living on Korcula Island, I could relate to a lot of the stories in *Weeds in the Garden of Eden*. I also have friends in Rascice, so I could recognize the characters, even though the names have been changed to protect the innocent. Barbara did a great job in describing the life style, people and above all, the beauty of the Adriatic. The situations that she and Denis get into are typical of foreigners moving to another country, especially one where one's family emigrated. In my case, my grandparents came from a town near Zagreb rather than Dalmatia. Barbara and another acquaintance of mine came back to the home from which their families emigrated and the experiences Barbara documented are definitely true. She described tackling her renovation project and having a competent local to assist them. She accurately describes the locals' "what the hell are they doing?" reaction very well. The only disappointment was that some of the chapters were lifted almost verbatim from Barbara's first book *Adriatic Blue*, for example, *Hospital in Adriatic Blue* can be found in Chapter 17, *Village Life and The Notary in Adriatic Blue* is one of the "...Other Horribles" in Chapter 11. I did not enjoy *Adriatic Blue* as much as *Weeds*, so seeing portions of it resurfacing was objectionable. I have read several relocation books (*A Year in Provence*, *Under the Tuscan Sun*, etc.) and this one is different in that it is not as relaxed about the cultural differences. This makes it more realistic, but if one is looking for a light hearted book about expats, they should take a clue from the title. Korcula is a beautiful place, but there are definitely challenges for expats that can be exasperating or frustrating. This book is about those challenges.

*Behind the Illusion - the Lie*. Barbara Unkovi, a proud New Zealand-born writer of Croatian and English descent, travels to the village that was her grandfather's birthplace to begin a new life. There, amidst the timeless beauty of this idyllic Adriatic island, things are not quite as they seem... "I saw what I thought was paradise, literally and figuratively the Garden of Eden.' That was my first impression, before I started to find the weeds in the garden: some of them centuries old, some of them twisted and blood-stained. Paradise was definitely not what I found."

About the Author Barbara Unkovi is of Croatian and English descent and was born in New Zealand. She is the author of four published books and has achieved considerable success in the Frank O'Connor and International Book Awards as well as the Fish Publishing One Page Prize and Writer's Bill Board.