



A fast-moving novel
in a Cretan village—
kidnaps and killings,
prayers and healing,
ethics and ritual,

...and a darned good tale!



The Pale Surface of Things

Hopeace Press

www.palesurfaceofthings.com

Fiction 6 x 9 337 pages

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Archaeology, goats and dogs, honor, ethics, lies and betrayals are part and parcel of all that happens when two cultures abrade.

When a young American archaeologist runs from his impending marriage and secure future, and finds himself in the traditional world of a Cretan village, he is forced to confront the feelings he's avoided all his life: rage, fear, envy, and shame, as he becomes the central pawn in a vicious family vendetta.

During World War II, the village suffered terrible reprisals at the hands of the Nazis. The present day priest is the grandson of the priest at that time. He works to heal the deep wounds remaining from the war. Love, loyalty, power, and death all pass through the days of the story as it unfolds across the face of western Crete.



“Superb imagination. Wonderful interweaving. High moral principles. Good reading for everyone.”
—Metropolitan Archbishop Sotirios, *Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Toronto*

“I really liked the narratives involving a number of characters. Indeed, I was happy to ‘meet’ such an interesting cast. . . . Although foreigners talk about the so-called ‘simple life’ of villages, The Pale Surface of Things makes it clear that village life is anything but simple.”

—Lucia Nixon, *archaeologist, co-director of The Sphakia Survey, Crete.*



Author Janey Bennett's research for this novel led her into the study of classical Greek, Byzantine icon painting, the sociology of Greek villages, Minoan culture and art, the science of archaeology, World War II on Crete, and criminal law in Greece. She has been writing fiction for eight years. Her additional writings on architecture have been published in the United States and Finland, where she held a Fulbright research fellowship.

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