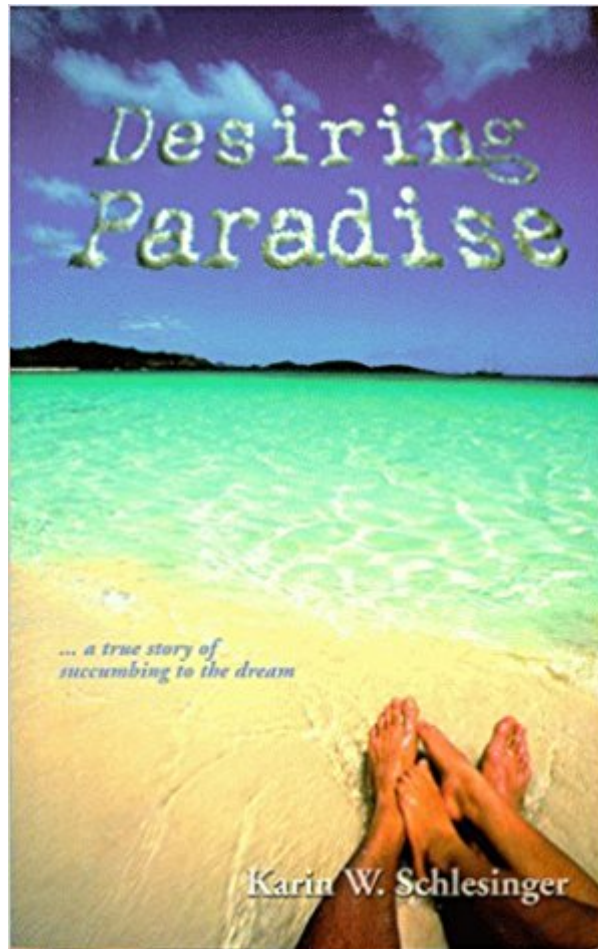




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Desiring Paradise... A True Story Of Succumbing To The Dream



Synopsis

Many people toy with the idea of packing up their lives and moving to a remote island in the tropics. This book relates the hilarious tale of two middle-class New Englanders who succumbed to that dream. The Paradise they desired is the beautiful and sometimes whacky island of St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Life's misadventures caused havoc, but these folks persevered. How they got to Paradise will inspire the most jaded reader to believe that any dream is possible. The realities of living on a small Caribbean island where donkeys and goats may be more plentiful than people is an eye-opener for everyone! On St. John, folks drive on the left side of the road and hitchhike by pointing their index finger in the direction they're going. It's a place where tree frogs give nightly concerts that compete with the sounds of reggae music floating up the hillside from tiny town of Cruz Bay. The only way to leave is by boat... and sometimes that's easier said than done. Loaded with island trivia, this new book uncovers the unique rhythms of daily life in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Learning 'island-time' and having a sense of humor counts in Paradise, as these two transplants from New England found. Their first-year adventures on-island will make you chuckle as you come to realize - Paradise is a state of mind.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"In Desiring Paradise, first time author Karin has packaged their trials and tribulations in a book that is proving as popular as 'Don't Stop The Carnival' [Herman Wouk] for St. John visitors and residents alike." "This is a must-read for anyone who loves the tropics and anyone and everyone who dreams of paradise." -- St. John Tradewinds, November 29-Dec 5th, 1999

Desiring Paradise captures a slice of life in the islands and explores the realities of making a drastic change in lifestyle. The beauty of the islands comes through along with the special things that make St. John a paradise for many. I'm sure there will be a sequel someday.

I really liked this book. I felt that most of the beginning being filled with the authors personal steps taken to get to the island and having to sell off items not needed and employing the help of neighbors was interesting and gave some insight to what it might take to accomplish this goal. Also some insightful tips along the way for those thinking of doing the same was a nice nugget. I guess I really hoped for more details of the island life which she starts to get into towards the end. Perhaps she will put out an update. I went to St. Thomas and St. John after reading the book and found a lot of what she said was true. St. Thomas is very crowded and the streets need work and traffic is nuts. I was pleasantly surprised at how easy it was to get on the car ferry at Red Hook. The operation is a smooth one. She was right about St. John and how beautiful it is. Everything is so clean and pristine on St. John. My Favorite spot in St. John was Leinster Bay and snorkeling Waterlemon Cay. We saw everything from baby trunk fish to green sea turtles, and the best part was that there was hardly anyone there. We also went to Coral bay and she was right on that too. The wild donkeys and goats are neat. I really wanted to know how the author and her husband are these days so I would love to ready a follow up story.

I seriously wanted to love this book since my family is in the process of making the big decision of weather or not to take the giant 'leap of faith' as well. There is just WAY too much background material before getting into the actual moving sequences. I know the characters are real people but the way it is written they seem like robots. By this I mean that everything seems to be told that 'we did this, then this, then that' in rapid fire succession and most times in the same paragraph. Don't get me wrong, anybody in the same situation as me will definitely get info and tips out of this book but it seems more of an instruction manual than an entertaining read. That being said, I still got enough ideas out of the book that it was a worthwhile purchase.

This was an absolute treasure! :) I ordered 4 books with an island theme and this one was the last, and truly the best! The 'story' of relocation was really captivating and so real. The enthusiasm felt contagious and I could hardly wait to see if I, too, would join the ranks of those to succumb to the island lure. Definitely a good purchase.

Great book - I was sad when it was over. Although my husband did not love that I read it....he's tired of hearing me tell him about how I want to sell everything and move like the "people in the book I just read!" Having traveled to St. John myself, it was fun to think back to the restaurants, bars and beaches as the author described her experiences there. Good read!

Having been to St. John several times I found this book quite entertaining. We have a dream of retiring to St. John and I found this book very enlightening. I could not put the book down, read it in a day. It's funny, smart, a little disorganized but nonetheless a great read!

We had just returned from our first trip to St. John. I scoured the internet for books on this incredible island just wanting more, more, more! I was intrigued by the title (feeling much the same!) and ordered. It wasn't too far in that I realized Ms. Schlesinger is a very self-absorbed woman - I didn't count the number of references to "I" but "I" got sick of reading about inconveniences - she seemed more to want us to feel sorry for her, having to move to St. John! Get over it! The number of people she inconvenienced along her way to paradise far outnumbered her own inconveniences - I felt sorry for her poor husband. The few references to St. John, the island, the beaches, lifestyle etc. were wonderfully refreshing - it was reliving the pure pleasure we experienced on our first short visit. We just returned from our 2nd trip and I decided to re-read the book to again relive our trip. I was struck again, even harder this time, that this book is more about the author than St. John. Who cares? Skimming through the book to find the few times we are actually introduced to the life on St. John, I read every word and enjoyed it all. If someone is interested in learning about St. John this is NOT the book to buy. I gave it 2 stars only because of the references to the island, not her writing skills. I would have enjoyed reading this much more perhaps, had it been written by Mr. Schlesinger, who seems far more down to earth and less selfish!

I have to admit that I skipped entire sections of this book because I just kept waiting and waiting for it to get better. I desperately wanted it to capture the true essence of life in the Virgin Islands. Instead, I labored through prolonged descriptions of the completely mundane aspects of Ms. Schlesinger's daily life, like going to the post office. I live in St. Thomas and having moved here from the United States with less than \$3,000 in my bank account and only having five WEEKS to move, I cannot understand why Ms. Schlesinger might think her long range plans of moving and packing might even be remotely exciting. The book should have described more of the actual daily

life here in the Virgin Islands rather than how difficult and scary it is for her to drive her car onto the barge (give me a break!). I'm surprised she even managed to move down here at all! I give Ms. Schlesinger credit for writing the book, I just think that she could have done so much better. What about the Bomba parties on Tortola where five hundred people cram themselves into a 300 square foot wooden surf shack on the beach on every full moon night? What about renting a car from a leading rental car company and being given a shot of Jagermeister by the agent before being given the keys to the rental car?? That's just part of ONE day in the islands. Well, maybe my life is just more exciting than Ms. Schlesingers'! Perhaps I will just have to write my own book.....Stay tuned!

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