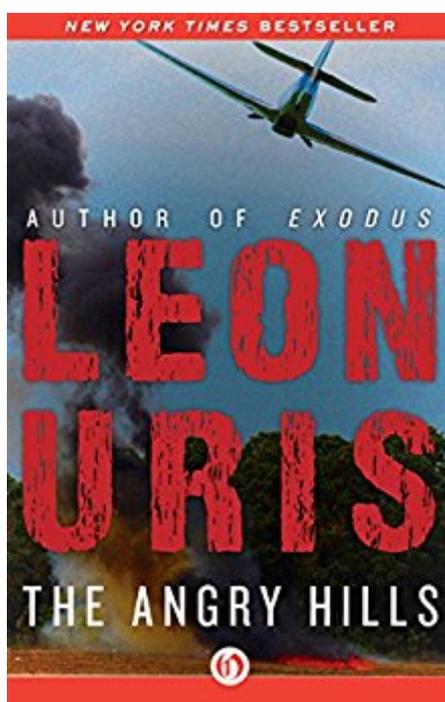


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# The Angry Hills



## Synopsis

A writer moves to Greece just as the Nazis invade, and he soon becomes a pawn in a dangerous game of espionage. After the death of his wife, Mike Morrison arrives in Greece simply to receive an inheritance and come to grips with his grief. But it's a bad time to nurse his sorrow—it's the beginning of World War II, and the German army storms the country before Morrison can leave. He's soon caught in a complicated cat-and-mouse game with Gestapo officers, British spies, and the Greek resistance movement. At the mercy of strangers, Morrison has to learn who to trust and who to love. Leon Uris's fast-paced second novel draws from the diaries of an uncle who served in Greece during World War II. It was made into a film in 1959 starring Robert Mitchum. This ebook features an illustrated biography of Leon Uris including rare photos from the author's estate.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have just finished *The Angry Hills* and I thought it was a fine (247 PGS.) little book. This is a departure from the standard Uris, whose use of heavy handed subject matter along with 600 plus pages makes his novels very though provoking and dramatic. This novel is a quick lite read that is a

nice adventure novel during the second World War. In this novel an American Widower is in Greece to settle his late wife's estate, on the eve of the Italian invasion. Just after the invasion he is entrusted to get a list of names out of the country for the British army, but immediately he is soon pursued by Nazis agents and Greek ex-patriots. This is was nice and lite for my tastes and I think if you go into it with this attitude you will not be disappointed.

Uris is one of America's treasures as a fiction author. In this novel he takes a break from the horrors that he usually records to such delicious detail (you know, the Holocaust, Jihads and sectarian violence). He covers the escapades of a clueless reporter in Greece just when the Allies are leaving it to the German army. Said reporter has a list of Greek partisans fall into his lap and it becomes his duty to hand over this list to the OSS or British intelligence or some such body so that support for the Greek underground can be developed. Yeah, sounds like a hackneed plot but, hey, it was written in the 1960's! These types of plots were commonplace then - and it was ok. The book is a joy to read if for no other reason than for the nostalgia of a quaint caper with the breathtaking backdrop of Greece at war. But Uris shows he's got growing room to do in this one. He tosses off characters - especially female ones - after a few chapters. Just when you think the protagonist is starting to develop a love interest he moves on. And the 'interest' is never mentioned again. Surely, we would have seen these people tied together better in other Uris works. I was a bit surprised. None the less, the book reads quick. And is fun. Questions? email me

I was a great fan of Leon Uris in the 80s, and remember devouring every one of his books that I could lay hands on. Somehow I missed out on "The Angry Hills", so it was with a great deal of nostalgia that I picked it out in our local library. The setting of WWII Greece is perfect for an action espionage story and Uris starts out well enough. However, as the story develops, the accidental hero moves rapidly from one locality and set of relationships to the next with the result that the plot's credibility wears pretty thin by the end. For a first effort by a young writer whose style and plotting matured in later offerings this is not a bad book, but for today's reader it is neither compelling nor convincing. This is one for sentimental fans only.

An American writer, visiting Athens for personal business, is asked by the lawyer helping him complete a financial transaction to deliver an envelope to an individual in London. As the German military invades, the Gestapo is very much interested in the envelope and prevent the writer (Mike Morrison) from leaving Athens as scheduled. Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape become

Morrison's lot as he is on the run across Greece. As usual, Leon Uris has written an engrossing story of fictional characters in a factual period of history. I found myself resisting the urge to read ahead to discover how he gets out of each dilemma he finds himself in. Because all his stories are meticulously researched, the people, places, and events in this book come alive as you read each page. I re-read this book just before sitting down to write this review, and found it more absorbing the second time. The characters in the story became so real that I found it difficult to remember they are fictional. I suspect I'll read this book again and again - something I rarely do. 5-star reading; highly recommended.

Michael Morrison is a midlist novelist, at a time when such writers can actually make a living. He and his wife, Ellie, always planned on a trip to Greece, someday when they could afford it, to collect a small inheritance that was due her. Just when that trip finally seemed possible, Ellie died; and Mike has been recuperating ever since. The only reason he's made the journey to Greece at last, as German troops threaten to invade that ancient country, is that otherwise war may prevent him from ever claiming Ellie's inheritance. With his children safe in the care of his own parents, here he is in Athens. Although the United States remains neutral, World War II has already begun; and the British - to Mike's horror - withdraw their forces on the very day he expects his local attorney to finish processing the paperwork the bank requires. Instead of leaving on his scheduled flight with Ellie's money in hand, Mike finds himself saddled with a list of people whose names British intelligence desperately wants to know. He's forced to masquerade as a New Zealand enlistee in the British army, captured by the Germans, and pursued by agents from both sides. Those agents know who he really is, what he's carrying, and what it's worth. Will Mike Morrison ever see San Francisco and his children again? This short (for Uris) novel was his second published book. The ordinary man thrown into a situation for which he has no preparation, forced to choose sides in a war not yet his, is a theme so familiar it could seem hackneyed. Uris handles it, though, with the genuine understanding of one who fought that war in real life. The characters are stock ones, mostly, but the book's length really doesn't allow them time to develop more depth. All in all, a quick, entertaining read that's nowhere near as dated as I thought it might be.

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