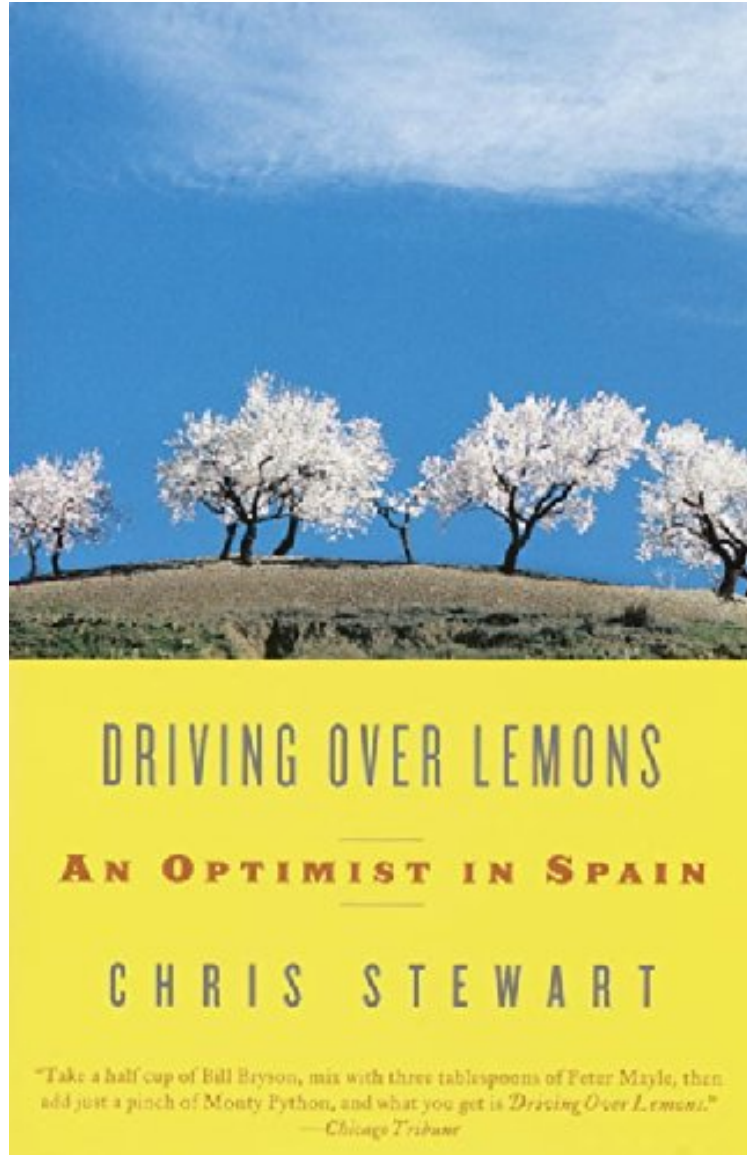


(Download free pdf) Driving Over Lemons: An Optimist in Spain

## Driving Over Lemons: An Optimist in Spain

Chris Stewart

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**Chris Stewart : Driving Over Lemons: An Optimist in Spain** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Driving Over Lemons: An Optimist in Spain:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. very good sense of humorBy catFunniest book I've read in a while! I mean, there were several points in the book when I was screaming with laughter and had tears running down my face! The book makes me just want to shop around for a foreign experience myself in a few years! Foreign travel and living, can be very eye opening, educational and needs to be approached with a very, very good sense of humor! Chris

Stewart's book was a blast! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. like a delicious meal By P. Kennelly Witty, self-deprecating, insightful. This is more than the formulaic move-to-a-foreign-country-rebuild-a-farmhouse-and-deal-with-wacky-local-tradesmen book. It contains a bracing dose of humor, of course (ever contemplated taking a shower in a shower stall shared by a dead goat?) but also poignant glimpses of farm life as it is lived in the Spanish hinterlands. Gritty...hard-scrabble...rustic. Also lyrical, contemplative and compassionate. I would recount passages to my wife as I was reading the book, and a day or two later, she would ask me "So what happens next with that English couple that moved to the farm in Spain?" The fact that my wife wanted to know "what happens next?" is a compliment to the book: like a delicious meal, it's nourishing by itself...but even more enjoyable when shared with someone you love. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Different Life By Peter Corrigan Highly readable and absorbing account of life in (very) rural Andalucia. Have to really admire this guy and his wife. It will make you wonder about the choices in your own life (after 30+ years in front of a computer) yet this was no easy road for their family and you get the feeling he understates the difficulties they encountered. A wonderful read about a place and life I will never know, but hey that's what books are for, right? I would love to visit the Sierra Nevada of Spain though!

No sooner had Chris Stewart set eyes on El Valero than he handed over a check. Now all he had to do was explain to Ana, his wife that they were the proud owners of an isolated sheep farm in the Alpujarra Mountains in Southern Spain. That was the easy part. Lush with olive, lemon, and almond groves, the farm lacks a few essentials running water, electricity, an access road. And then there's the problem of rapacious Pedro Romero, the previous owner who refuses to leave. A perpetual optimist, whose skill as a sheepshearer provides an ideal entre into his new community, Stewart also possesses an unflappable spirit that, we soon learn, nothing can diminish. Wholly enchanted by the rugged terrain of the hillside and the people they meet along the way among them farmers, including the ever-resourceful Domingo, other expatriates and artists Chris and Ana Stewart build an enviable life, complete with a child and dogs, in a country far from home.

.com When English sheep shearer Chris Stewart (once a drummer for Genesis) bought an isolated farmhouse in the mountains outside of Granada, Spain, he was fully aware that it didn't have electricity, running water, or access to roads. But he had little idea of the headaches and hilarity that would follow (including scorpions, runaway sheep, and the former owner who won't budge). He also had no idea that his memoir about southern Spain would set a standard for literary travel writing. This rip-roaringly funny book about seeking a place in an earthy community of peasants and shepherds gives a realistic sense of the hassles and rewards of foreign relocation. Part of its allure stems from the absence of rose-colored glasses, mainly Stewart's refusal to merely coo about the piece of heaven he's found or to portray all residents as angels. Stewart's hilarious and beautifully written passages are deep in their honest perceptions of the place and the sometimes xenophobic natives, whose reception of the newcomers ranges from warm to gruff. After reading about struggles with dialects, animal husbandry, droughts, flooding, and such local rituals as pig slaughters and the rebuilding of bridges, you may not wish to live Chris Stewart's life. But you can't help but admire him and his wife, Ana, for digging out a niche in these far-flung mountains, for successfully befriending the denizens, and for so eloquently and comically telling the truth. The rich, vibrant, and unromanticized candor of *Driving over Lemons* makes it a laudable standout in a genre too often typified by laughable naiveté. --Melissa Rossi From Publishers Weekly Stewart, a former drummer in Genesis, middle-aged travel writer and professional sheepshearer, never quite explains why he and his wife, Ana, decided to quit England 11 years ago for a dilapidated farm without electricity, water or even a road in Andalucia, Spain. Perhaps the olives, almonds and rosemary had something to do with it. Stewart clearly has found contentment in his good place among a lovingly described collection of local farmers, New Age travelers, artists and the occasional Buddhist. His hilly farm is a harsher place than Peter Mayle's Provence or Frances Mayes's Tuscany, and the local cuisine far less appetizing, yet his unflinching good humor and invincible optimism carry him past obstacles that would send most readers scurrying for home. More than a travel book, this is a record of Stewart's slowly flourishing friendship with his neighbor, Domingo, and of how Stewart gradually sank roots deep into his beautiful Andalucian hillside. A bestseller in England, this enchanting memoir is likely to prove popular in North America with both armchair travelers and readers who, while curious about the odd life choices others make, would just as soon give scorpions and clouds of flies a miss. (May) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal More of a travel memoir than a guide, this is the story of one family's life in an extremely remote and primitive area of southern Spain. Author and narrator Stewart, one of the founders and the first drummer of the rock band Genesis (who was replaced by none other than Phil Collins), sets out for Spain from England. He buys a sheep farm in the Alpujarra Mountains in Andalucia, and, accompanied by wife Ana and his young daughter, learns to survive without running water, electricity, or roads. Along the way, Stewart forges some solid friendships with neighboring peasants and farmers, travelers, and expatriates as each day brings a new adventure or disaster. His descriptions of the land, animals, and human relationships are awe-inspiring and make the reader want to set off immediately for southern Spain. Recommended for all public libraries, especially those with larger travel collections.---

