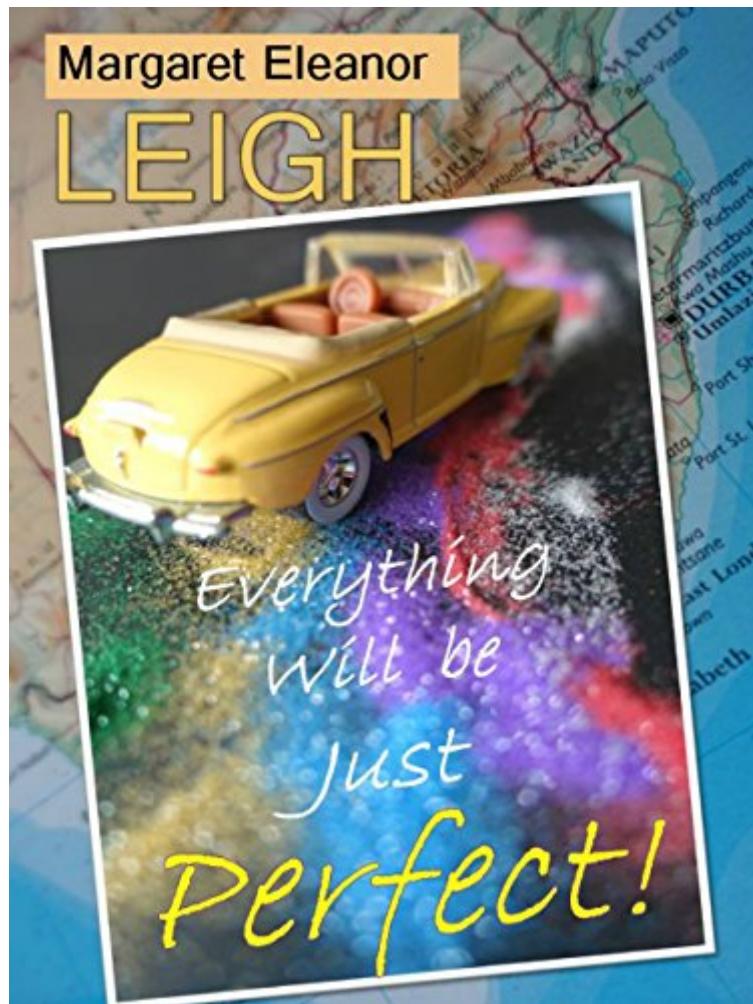


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# Everything Will Be Just Perfect!



## Synopsis

Margaret Eleanor Leigh is, if I dare say it, slightly crazy. But crazy in the nicest and cleverest way when it comes to entertaining her readers. Though she doesn't classify the book as such, *Everything Will Be Just Perfect!* is a memoir about nothing being perfect, no matter how hard one tries. It's also a humorous travel memoir, and what better way to travel from South Africa to New Zealand, from Greece to Wales than to move residences 92 times! Why would anyone move 92 times in a lifetime? Well, Margaret Eleanor Leigh and her mother, Polly, who ends up dying by the time all the moving's done, have perfectly good reasons for doing so. And those reasons find readers sometimes appalled, occasionally surprised, often confused but always amused. I really don't want to tell you too much about *Everything Will Be Just Perfect!* because if you enjoy humor, you need to experience Margaret Eleanor Leigh's crazy life, motivations, musings, fears and unfulfilled dreams for yourself. She spends much of that travel and moving time reading, observing people, writing about them, and submitting books to publishers. Then she watches her mail for rejection slips, gets them and moves on, because after all nothing is perfect even when Polly assures her everything will be. (from a review by Viga Boland for Readers' Favourite).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Very interesting book and life but PC is boring. Nobody will give stars for politeness and self-flagellation. Note for all authors: if you believe previous books .com comments concerning your opinions, you will lose your own, fresh voice. If you are witty complainer, we will love your work for that. And dogs are always barking. Counting all the places the writer and her mother had lived might have a meaning for the author and give some kind of backbone for the book, but after some pages it got a bit boring. Ok, it made me count how many times I've moved up to now: 23 (31, if you count coming backs as well) six countries. Parallel life in smaller scale.

Margaret Leigh's "Everything will be Just Perfect!" is a rewarding read. The content is entertaining throughout and the writing style is crystal clear. Above all, there is much in her story that is though provoking and moving. It is about living the right way, doing the right thing, not selling one's soul for wealth and success. Indeed, "Everything will be Just Perfect!" chronicles a succession of false starts and mishaps, minor and major. Perhaps the more significant major mishap is a divorce which leads to a nomadic lifestyle that sees the author and her mother moving repeatedly from place to place, country to country and continent to continent as they struggle to get by. No less than ninety moves in all. Much of the story takes place in South Africa during the apartheid era. Things are profoundly unpleasant. But it is home and repeatedly draws the author back. But there is also great natural beauty. The story is told in two strands, one in the here and now. The here and now takes the author to Depressing Welsh Valley No. 1. The insights into the poverty and barbarity of to be found remind me of some of George Orwell's insights into deprivation in the 1930s. That said there is also a certain bleak humour in "Everything will be Just Perfect!" Some of the people who wander through the story are acutely described. The author has a good eye for human qualities. We also grow fond of her faint-hearted rescue hound, whose sedate habits put her in some dangerous situations and causes her some acute pain. But these things are sent to test the author. However, there is a major test to be met deep in the dark night that is Depressing Welsh Valley No. 1. The author's personal courage and morality are put to the test in a raw way. Flipping back through time, the author has an entirely different experience of life in Auckland, New Zealand. She loves Auckland and it continues to exert a draw on her. There is great natural beauty. The author's nomadic life precludes the normal career path. Essentially she does not fit into any clear occupation. She writes, that is

what she does, all sorts of things, all the time. And when she is not writing, or editing, she sells books. Some of the most charming passages in *Everything will be Just Perfect!* flow from a failed business venture in Wellington, New Zealand. Yes, it was a difficult time, but it is beautifully related. There are two significant deaths in the read and one significant birth. While these are perfectly ordinary events, they are written in such a way to make them extraordinary. Perhaps that is a good measure of any writing. I certainly enjoyed the read and digested the whole book in about three courses. As well as Orwell, I was also put in mind of Laurie Lee's *As I Walked Out One Midsummer Morning.* High grade nourishment of the reading kind.

In many ways this is an extraordinary book. The writer chronicles both her own and her mother's lives which seem to lurch from one disaster to the next, and I found myself turning the pages, morbidly wanting to find out how the next catastrophe would end. It certainly keeps you reading - and it's quite an achievement for an author to get the reader so engaged in dysfunction and misjudgement. The writer and her mother find it hard to keep husbands, boyfriends, jobs, money (though the author comes over as both astute and humorous). We follow them as they lose their men, get religion, lose their jobs, embark on disastrous treks, and move incessantly (usually to the wrong houses), as they yo-yo around the world between countries, thinking the grass is greener somewhere else. Just reading about it is almost exhausting! The writing is crisp and clear, although not free of clichés at times, but that doesn't matter, as the narrative bowls along at such a pace that you get quite carried along.

Enjoyable read, well written. This girl's story of firstly being dragged from pillar to post, then dragging herself from one disaster to another, kept me engrossed throughout.

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