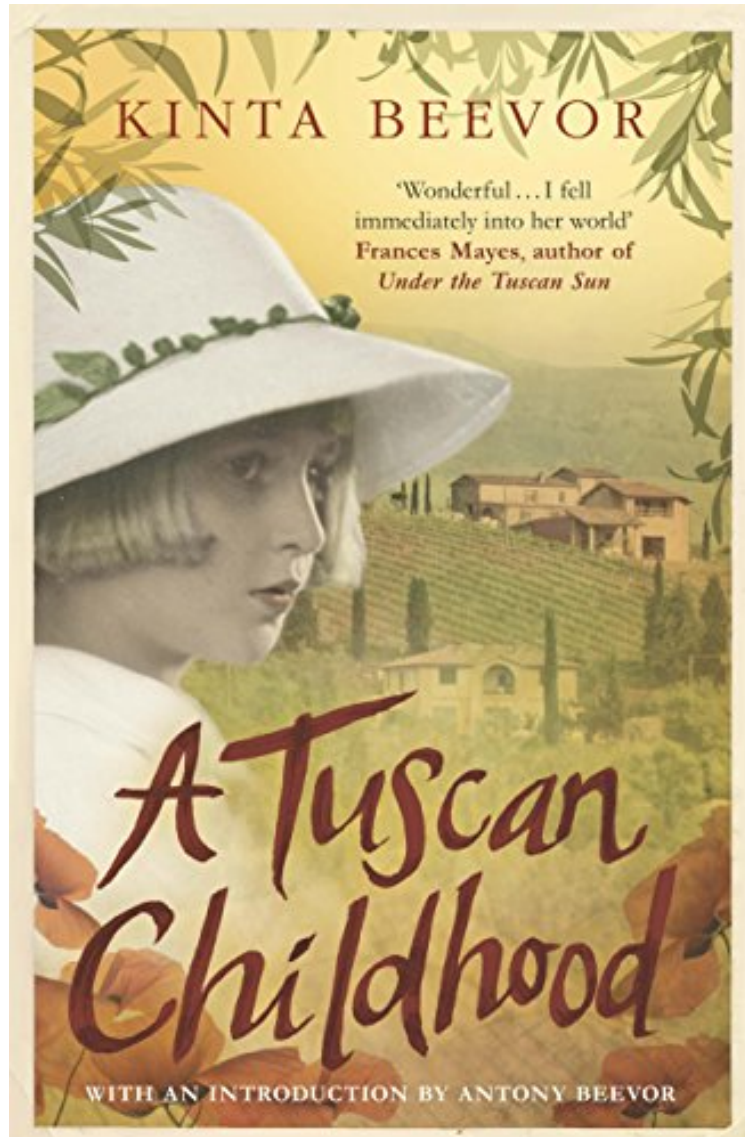


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A Tuscan Childhood (English Edition)

Von Kinta Beevor

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Von Kinta Beevor : A Tuscan Childhood (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Tuscan Childhood (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
MEMORIES OF A GARDEN IN THE SKYVon Ein KundeGIST: A high-society British family resides in a castle in Italy at the beginning of the twentieth century. Written by the late Kinta Beevor (whoever SHE was). HAMMOCK-TIME: You'll need several days' rest in your hammock, or beach chair to finish it. Some sections are sluggish. Yet the

insightful characterization of people, countryside, and events is a potent incentive to finish the book. **SKIMMING QUOTIENT:** You might easily skip a section towards the end, an overemphasized recollection of the author's jaded coming-of-age society years. **STYLE:** Interesting blend of the stiff British upper-lip attitude and subtle, dry humor, with a more down-to-earth vulnerability gained, as if by osmosis, from the Italian staff members whom Ms. Beevor befriended. **SUBSTANCE:** Intriguing, at times, humorous exploration of a childhood in Italy, as part of an expatriate British family. My favorite passages center on a roof-garden, that became an idyllic retreat for the family and their guests. **QUIBBLES:** Is there anyone the author or her relatives didn't know, in high society during those early eras of the century? The name-dropping gets a bit much, but does not really affect the overall charm of the book. **BROWNIE POINTS:** I was happy to see that Ms. Beevor engages only rarely in patronizing behaviour towards Italians. She seems to enjoy learning from them, absorbing their knowledge of the land. It's a surprising feat, viewed against the aloofness that the rest of her family, and the rigid social class in which she is reared, displays. As an Italian-American, I find her attitudes refreshing. Sometimes I worry about Italy: all these rich foreigners settling, usually in Tuscany, where they are squeamish about the food, the art, the social structure, the Italianness (horrors!) of natives of Italy. Haven't we read enough books by that sort? **COMPLEMENTARY BOOKS:** There's a current barrel of books on Tuscany. Perhaps you might approach the region from a different angle. Try exploring one book entitled, *Tuscany: The Beautiful Cookbook*, which displays memorable photos and recipes. Logistically, it's a huge book, reminiscent of how delightfully big our books seemed to us as children, in managing the pages. The dishes outlined are intriguing - every one I tried turned out delicious so far, although it's a chore stuffing those closed-petal squash blossoms (yes, stuffing them). # # #0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. For Die Hard Tuscan Fans Only Von douglas k ritter Let's face it, would we be reading this book, or would it be published if the author grew up in Belgrade or Prague? Probably not. But Everything Tuscan is hot right now. Even the Seinfeld show has made fun of the latter, with their episode, and line: You can't go to Tuscany, it's booked up! I can't really recommend this book before you read all the other books on Tuscany by you know who (Frances Mayes), or Tim Parks, or even William Hoffman (his was on Umbria). In fact read Peter Mayles books on Provence first. He can write. Seek out Eric Newby's book on hiding out in Italy during WWII. It's a gem. Kinta's memoirs are too full of "And then we did that...". I will give her credit for finding a written "voice" of a child as she writes. It does not read like a book written by a woman in her 80's -- which she was when she wrote this. There is little attempt to develop people as real characters, although some truly real characters spent time with her family. Her beloved brother dies in WWII in but one sentence. You never really get a any sense at all about Kinta, who she was, etc. Read anything by Primo Levi, Carlo Levi or Natalia Ginzburg first. They can write about real life in Italy. I'm afraid Kinta's book is merely family oral history which may have sounded better as told to her children. She seemed to have lived an interesting life. That doesn't make it a great read.1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Addendum to Kinta Beevor review Von Ein Kunde Eric Newby, an excellent travel writer wrote two books on the Tuscan region, one where he was a virtual prisoner of war during WWII in Tuscany, "Love and War in the Apennines", and a follow up book where he comes back to Tuscany in 1967 with his wife to renovate a farmhouse. While these are out of print in the USA they are available on the .co.uk site.

Kurzbeschreibung 'Wonderful ... I fell immediately into her world' Frances Mayes, author of *Under the Tuscan Sun* Kinta Beevor was five years old when she fell in love with her parents' castle facing the Carrara mountains. She and her brother ran barefoot, exploring an enchanted world. They searched for wild mushrooms in the hills with Fiore the stonemason, and learned how to tickle trout. The freedom and beauty of life at the castle attracted poets, writers and painters, including D.H. Lawrence and Rex Whistler. The other side to Kinta's childhood was very different, for it was spent with her formidable great aunt, Janet Ross, in a grand villa outside Florence. But soon the old way of life and Kinta's idyllic world were threatened by war. Nostalgic, yet unsentimental and funny, *A TUSCAN CHILDHOOD* is a book which transports the reader to bohemian, aristocratic Italy and the sound of bells from a distant campanile. de What could be more romantic than living in an ancient fortress, dining in its rooftop garden, and sleeping under the stars? English artists and intellectuals like the author's parents (painter Aubrey Waterfield and journalist Lina Duff Gordon) have traditionally adored the Italian countryside, and their daughter's enchanting memoir describes the happy haven they found near the Tuscan town of Aulla. Kinta was only 5 in 1916 when she made her first trip by pony trap up the steep road to their hilltop abode, and neither exile to English boarding school nor the Second World War could keep her away for long. Famous friends like Bernard Berenson and D.H. Lawrence make cameo appearances, but the real stars are the earthy, dignified Tuscan peasants who worked for her family. Through them, the author immersed herself in the timeless rhythms of rural existence. The text's highlights include a vivid account of vendemmia, the grape harvest, and the glories of Italian cuisine. Anyone who can read her descriptions of the local polenta, zuppa di verdura, and other meticulously prepared dishes without feeling a rumble in the stomach truly has no interest in food. Though Beevor's final chapters note the changes that have come to Tuscany in the postwar era, her recollections pay loving tribute to a way of life that truly seems eternal. --Wendy Smith Pressestimmen "Wonderful...I

fell immediately into her world, and was sorry when I reached the end." --Frances Mayes, author of *Under the Tuscan Sun*"Packed with sumptuous descriptions of seasons and their rites--. A portrait of a vanished Tuscany and a tantalizing glimpse of exceptional people who loved Italy very well."--*Elle*"A loving and intimate portrait of Tuscany's many faces--. One can hear the buzzing of the cicadas, smell the wild thyme, and feel the crunching of pine needles underfoot--. A beautifully written book."--*The Sunday Times (London)*"Captivating--sharp-eyed, intelligent and abundant in its riches."--*Los Angeles Times*