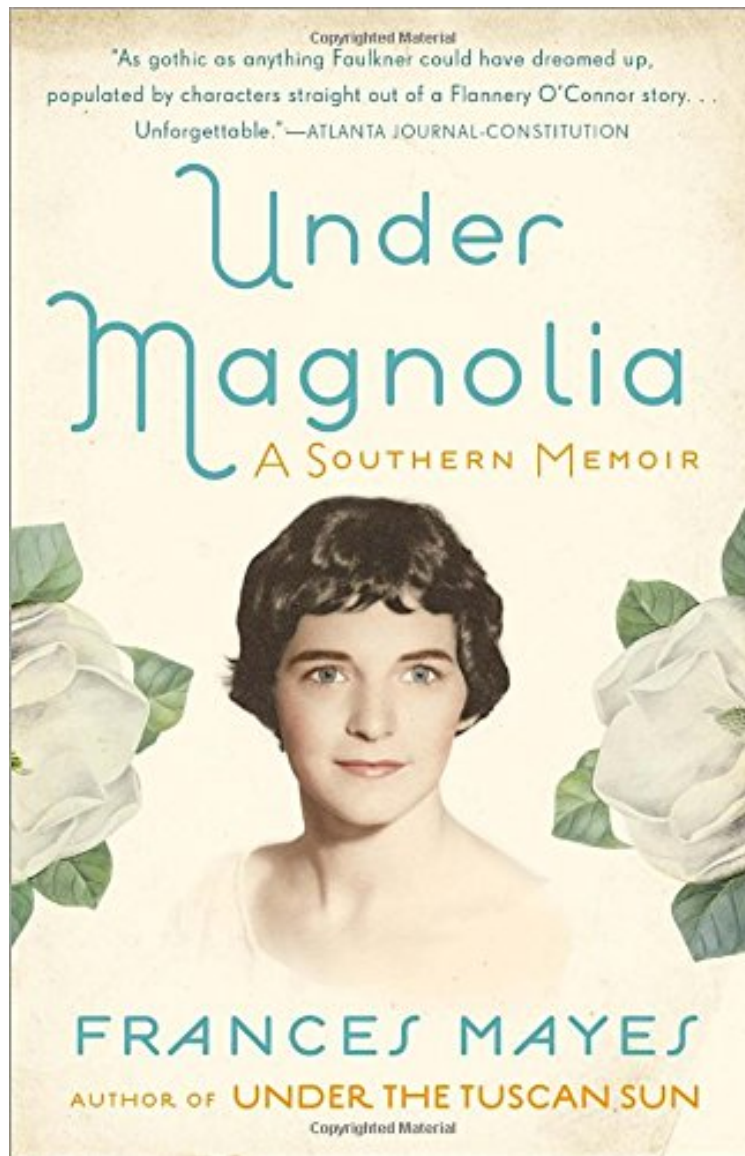


(Download free ebook) Under Magnolia: A Southern Memoir

Under Magnolia: A Southern Memoir

Frances Mayes

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#218895 in Books Frances Mayes 2015-03-31 2015-03-31 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.93 x .92 x 5.14l, .0 #File Name: 0307885925352 pages Under Magnolia A Southern Memoir | File size: 34.Mb

Frances Mayes : Under Magnolia: A Southern Memoir before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Under Magnolia: A Southern Memoir:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This is a great book by a truly gifted writer. By catch22 This book is so lyrically and descriptively written that you can hear, taste, smell, see, and feel the South. The words fit together so perfectly it is almost as if you can remember the things about which the author writes. As a Southerner who feels that the media sometimes asks us to feel ashamed of the area of my birth, I was thrilled to read the authors impressions

were somewhat akin to mine. The South is a wonderful place that is widely misunderstood. Yes, we do have our problems as do the other areas of the country. The author ran from her dysfunctional family, not the South. She proved this when she came back to her roots. The South celebrates the family ties that span the generations, even if some of those ties are unhealthy. The author has painted a word portrait so vivid that the reader feels as if he/she has had an extended visit to the places she describes. Mayes has a sense of place that is rivaled only by Lee Smith. Lee Smith makes the reader "know Appalachia while Mayes lets the reader know the South. 41 of 41 people found the following review helpful. New Mayes' memoir is a derivative tale of girlhood in the gothic south By Penumbra Speaking as someone who adored Frances Mayes' Tuscan memoirs, I was very disappointed in her new book, "Under Magnolia." While on a book tour stopover in Oxford, Mississippi (home of the University of Mississippi, William Faulkner, and ground zero for the Southern Gothic literary genre), Ms. Mayes takes a stroll through the grounds of the unoccupied Faulkner home and becomes inspired to leave her Tuscan and California lives behind and return to her roots in the southeastern US. Ms. Mayes grew up in Fitzgerald, GA, which gives her an opportunity to revel in all the typical southern literary conventions. I, too, grew up in Georgia and I find Mayes' account of her childhood comes across less like a believable personal story and more like a mash-up of stereotypes. If you've ever read a book in which the protagonist is a young girl growing up in the South, this is more of the same. Young Frances appears to be some combination of Frankie ("Member of the Wedding"), Scout ("To Kill a Mockingbird") with a side order of Flannery O'Connor. Even Mayes' mastery of descriptive prose, so fascinating in Tuscany, just comes across as a florid rehash of things said before (and better) by Carson McCullers and Harper Lee. In other words, the southern aspects are simply derivative. The personal aspects, notably her interactions with her parents, sisters and housekeeper actually make her seem cynical, selfish and simply unlikeable in the bargain. To sum up, not only did I feel I had read better versions of this story before, it actually made me like the author significantly less than I had previously. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. With Frances Mayes as your tour guide you are sure to enjoy the journey By Evelyn Rogers If you read Under the Tuscan Sun, and who did not ?, you will want to know more about Frances Mayes. If you missed Under the Tuscan Sun, stop now and find a copy and read it. If you did read it, now is the time to follow Frances Mayes from California back to the south. First stop her Georgia home town and her years growing up Southern style. Next making a brief stop at her southern college life, next her exit from the south for a long stay in California (and Italy), and then her return to living again in the south. With Frances Mayes as your tour guide you are sure to enjoy the journey, as well as the peek into the life that formed Frances Mayes the educator, the poet, the novelist, the writer, and the ultimate travel guide,. Now, while you are reading Under Magnolia and learning all the secrets about her real southern life, and why she was so anxious to leave it, I think I will go with her on a trip to Italy by re-reading Under the Tuscan Sun. Sometimes memoir reads like good fiction, enjoy.

A lyrical and evocative memoir from Frances Mayes, the Bard of Tuscany, about coming of age in the Deep South and the regions powerful influence on her life. The author of three beloved books about her life in Italy, including Under the Tuscan Sun and Every Day in Tuscany, Frances Mayes revisits the turning points that defined her early years in Fitzgerald, Georgia. With her signature style and grace, Mayes explores the power of landscape, the idea of home, and the lasting force of a chaotic and loving family. From her years as a spirited, secretive child, through her university studies a period of exquisite freedom that imbued her with a profound appreciation of friendship and a love of travel to her escape to a new life in California, Mayes exuberantly recreates the intense relationships of her past, recounting the bitter and sweet stories of her complicated family: her beautiful yet fragile mother, Frankye; her unpredictable father, Garbert; Daddy Jack, whose life Garbert saved; grandmother Mother Mayes; and the family maid, Frances confidant Willie Bell. Under Magnolia is a searingly honest, humorous, and moving ode to family and place, and a thoughtful meditation on the ways they define us, or cause us to define ourselves. With acute sensory language, Mayes relishes the sweetness of the South, the smells and tastes at her family table, the fragrance of her hometown trees, and writes an unforgettable story of a girl whose perspicacity and dawning self-knowledge lead her out of the South and into the rest of the world, and then to a profound return home. From the Hardcover edition.

From Booklist Mayes, adored for her famed Tuscany books (Under the Tuscan Sun, 1996; Every Day in Tuscany, 2010), mined the murky depths of her family's history for her first novel, Swan (2002). She now returns to the scene of the crimes in both literal and figurative senses. Her southern memoir is a tale straight out of Faulkner, rife with episodes of dissipation and disillusion, parents who loved and fought with equally wild abandon, and ancestors with names like Big Mama and Daddy Jack. While on a book tour in Oxford, Mississippi, Mayes realized her southern roots ran deeper than she believed or would have liked. But she and her husband were sufficiently compelled to relocate from Northern California to North Carolina, settling in a university town with a far enough remove to allow her an objective distance from which to analyze the signature episodes of her childhood. With her trademark skill for capturing the essence of place and time, Mayes candidly reveals a youth riddled with psychological abuse and parental neglect that, nevertheless, ignited a fiery passion for adventure and self-discovery. HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: A best-selling sensation worldwide, Mayes will galvanize readers with this vigorously promoted coming-of-age tale

set on her home terrain. --Carol Haggas ABookPageBest Book of the YearSouthern Independent Booksellers Association Spring 2014 Okra PickThe strength ofUnder Magnolia lies in the very claustrophobia Mayes aches to flee as a childIn certain heightened moments of this memoir, Mayes breathes the same air as [Carson] McCullers. New York Times Book As gothic as anything Faulkner could have dreamed up, populated by characters straight out of a Flannery O'Connor story a thorny memoir that strips away the polite Southern masks, sweet magnolias be damned.Unforgettable. Atlanta Journal ConstitutionWith perfect-pitch language, Mayes unblinkingly describes her growing-up years One can almost taste the mushiness of a pot of once-green beans falling apart in salt pork; one can almost smell the cloying scent of honeysuckle, gardenias and overripe peaches that infuse the always-too-humid air. USA Today.comJust the right balance of humor, irony and tragedy. And no tourist guide or coffee table book will offer a more sensually pleasing portrait of the culture, food, language, and landscape of the place she now calls home.Roanoke TimesUnder Magnolia is a vibrant example of Mayes literary artistry. Her memoir teems with beautiful, pellucid vignettes, described with a painter's eye for detail, [about a young girl maturing to adulthood amidst domestic tumult]. Arts AtlantaYou better believe we devoured every page of this delicious read. SouthernLiving.comA memoir of luminous language and sensory memory that explores the concept of home, the growth of a woman and the pull of the South on all those who have experienced the scent of magnolias on a summer's night or a tall, frosty glass of sweet tea on the porch. Live Happy magazineWith powerful, compact language and an uncanny skill with imagery, American writer Frances Mayes has raised the bar on writing memoirs. Winnipeg Free PressMayes has the gift of transporting the reader to other worlds and vividly renders this visit to the South of a few decades ago.Palm Beach Daily NewsA wonderful memoir, searingly honest, beautifully descriptive and totally compelling. M/C sA landmark event.Wellington City LibrariesThe prose is dazzling throughoutreaders will not tire of Mayes splendid imagery. Publishers WeeklyOne of those books you want to devour but realize it's more satisfying to savor for as long as possible. Kirkus s (starred)A best-selling sensation worldwide,Mayes will galvanize readers with this...coming-of-age tale set on her home terrain. BooklistUnder Magnolia is a gorgeous, dreamy remembrance of hot Southern afternoons, mothers in red lipstick and Shalimar, Elvis turned up loud to cover up the family troubles that ran deep. An unflinching love song to her simultaneously rich and troubled childhood, it is Mayes most generous work yet. BookPage[The] writing is so sensory and poetic you're likely to find yourself, as I did, re-reading sentences over twice, three times, to catch the nuances, the meaning, the beauty... From the opening line, you're hooked. Enchanted ProseLike the rest of America, I fell in love with Tuscany and Italy when I read Frances Mayes's wondrous memoir, Under the Tuscan Sun. She followed her Tuscan books with a beautiful novel called Swan, which alerted me to her southern heritage. In her new southern memoir, Under Magnolia, Frances Mayes describes the birth of her extraordinary sensibility, the deep-pooled clarity of her writing, her giddy love of nature, and her sharp and satirical eye for those who brought her up to honorable womanhood in the tortured South of her girlhood. Her prose style is seamless to me and she writes in a royal style. Pat Conroy, New York Times bestselling author of The Prince of Tides and The Death of SantiniNo other writer today breathes life into place like Frances Mayes. In Under Magnolia, she turns her prolific gift of language and description to the South and her childhood there. This memoir recalls bygone days filled with neighborhood characters, sultry weather, Sears Roebuck catalogues, smothered quailall the trappings of a Southern childhood.Under Magnolia is a love song, a rich and beautiful book. Ann Hood, author of The Knitting Circle and Comfort: A Journey Through GriefNo one could have invented a more combustible, joy-starved pair of glam and oblivious parents or a more incandescent child to dive into the blue ruins, explore the sealed-off passages, blacked-out dreams and neglected outlets by the beams of her own incredulous eyes; then break the surface a smart-mouthed, truth-seeing sensualist, fully in attendance to the vibratory moment. The deft framing, the exacting word picks, apposite references, high speed wit, singled out synecdoches of a life; the cadence, phrasing, and pulse of a muted Georgian accent are all signature to the prose and poetry, stove-tops and passport stamps of Frances Mayes. In her memoir Under Magnolia they are second skin. When she comes clean, you feel, can I say it, cleansed. Freer. Floatable. What an offering. C.D. Wright, author of One with OthersUnder Magnolia is much more than an entrancing memoir: it is a work of art that defies the distinction between prose and poetry or novels and autobiographies. It is also much more than a personal narrative: it is an unflinching meditation on the relation between self and culture, and, more specifically, on the gravitational pull of memory. This is a book to be savored, a feast for both mind and soul. Carlos Eire, author of Waiting for Snow in HavanaMayes has written a brash and delightful, cringe-worthy and uproariously funny memoir. As I read, I wished Mayes had been my teenage neighbor. Witas well as misery loves company. Margaret Sartor, author of Miss American PieUnder Magnolia is one of the most brilliant memoirs ever written, shedding new light on a certain mysterious South and offering a memorable portrait of the artist as a young girl. Frances Mayes, a petite, brainy beauty from what we used to call politely 'a troubled home' has written an unnervingly honest and refreshingly open account of how a child can be neglected even amid privilege and a large family...Reader, artist, scholar, poetFrances Mayes gradually became the aesthete and writer she is today, a passionate lover of the world and the word. Lee Smith, author of Guests on EarthFrom the Hardcover edition.About the AuthorIn addition to her worldwide bestselling Tuscany memoirs Under the Tuscan Sun, Bella Tuscany, and Every Day in Tuscany, FRANCES MAYES is the author of the travel memoir, A Year in the World, illustrated books In Tuscany

and *Bringing Tuscany Home* (with Edward Mayes), and *The Tuscan Sun Cookbook* (also with Edward Mayes). She has published a novel, *Swan*, set in the South, *The Discovery of Poetry: A Guide for Readers and Writers*, and five books of poetry. Her books have been translated into more than fifty languages. She divides her time between Tuscany and North Carolina. Visit her at www.francesmayesbooks.com.