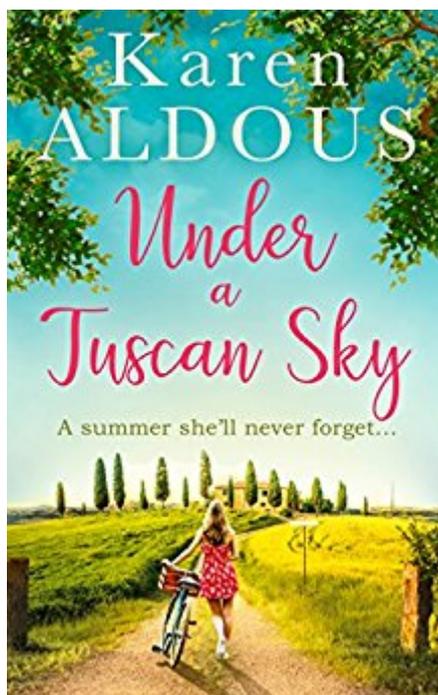


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Under A Tuscan Sky



Synopsis

Escape to Tuscany this summer with Karen Aldous's Random Reads (top 500 reviewer) Escape to Tuscany this summer with Karen Aldous's brilliantly uplifting read. A summer she'll never forget! When Olivia Montague's grandmother passes away, she decides it's finally time to make some changes in her own life. So she breaks up with her going nowhere boyfriend and embarks on a journey to her Nonna's home in Tuscany. Until now, Olivia has always believed that she's incapable of love, after being abandoned by her parents as a baby. But with each day spent at the gorgeous villa nestled in the rolling Italian hills, she feels her heart begin to flutter. And when handsome antiques dealer Hugh St. James arrives on the scene, she realises things might be about to change forever! Perfect for fans of Jules Wake, Erica James and Cathy Kelly. Praise for Karen Aldous: "A sumptuous story" "what I love about fiction, being able to travel from my armchair!" "Rachel's Random Reads (top 500 reviewer)" "An uplifting story of hope, self-discovery and love, set amid the stunning Italian vineyards." "Got Books, Babe?" "A perfect summer read" "set in the beautiful Tuscan countryside." "Rosemary Smith (NetGalley reviewer)" "Stunning" "perfect for reading while on your own Mediterranean break!" "Pretty Purple Polkadots" "Gloriously escapist, wonderfully entertaining and absolutely impossible to put down! Sure to appeal to fans of Cathy Kelly and Erica James." "Bookish Jottings" "Fascinating, heartwarming, engaging, romantic and utterly compelling." "Sparkly Words"

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Romance

Customer Reviews

Olivia has broken up with her long term boyfriend. She is taking a short trip to Tuscany in order to clear out and sell her late grandmother's home. She is a very self contained 40 year old woman who makes notes about everything. She envisions her future as a woman alone in the world and she is making peace with that future. Which meant I was surprised when she gets on the plane to fly to Italy, and suddenly is having a lustful thoughts about a handsome man. When he describes their future together and their children, she simply goes along with it. Later there is another man who wants to buy her Nonna's home and the minute she sees him, she is immediately enamored. All of this seems to me to be rather out of character for the woman who has been described to us. For me, this complete turn around was jarring. A great deal of this story is a journey for Olivia as she seeks to find out her family's history. There are surprises and things she thought she understood are not as they appeared. People were not exactly who they seemed. The book is well written. The plot seems to bog down at times, but the basic plot is interesting. The character development seems to go in fits and starts. I think I would have been more comfortable with the story if Olivia had gradually changed her attitude. I am not sure it is human nature for someone who is so cautious in life to suddenly decide to jump into relationships. I received this book from the publisher through NetGalley. I am voluntarily writing this review and all opinions are my own.

An addictive page-turner that is simply perfect for the summer season, *Under a Tuscan Sky* is the latest first rate tale from the hugely talented Karen Aldous. Olivia Montague realises that the time has come for her to make some much-needed changes to her life. After the death of her Nonna, Olivia decides that she wants to inject some excitement into her mundane existence, so she breaks up with her boyfriend after their relationship had stalled and decides to embark on a journey to Tuscany to Nonna's beautiful house. Romance is certainly not on the cards for Olivia. Having been abandoned as a baby by her parents, Olivia has always believed that love is not something she is capable of nor is it something that she particularly needs in her

life. But will her sojourn in the rolling Italian hills end up changing her mind? With handsome antiques dealer Hugh St James and charismatic Italian Alberto vying for attention, Olivia begins to wonder whether she had been too hasty in erecting walls around her heart. Will Olivia succeed in finding the happiness and contentment which she has been searching for all her life? Is true love finally within reach? Or will Olivia continue to spend her life merely settling for second best? Karen Aldous writes wonderfully lyrical, escapist and atmospheric contemporary novels that sweep readers off to exotic locations and keep them entertained and engrossed from the first page till the very last. A terrific tale about self-discovery, redemption and unexpected twists of fate, *Under a Tuscan Sky* is a gorgeous contemporary tale that effortlessly and deftly combines vivid descriptions of Italy with superb characterization, believable and moving pathos and heart-warming romance. Karen Aldous can always be relied upon to deliver an engaging and enthralling read and *Under a Tuscan Sky* is certainly no exception! Wonderfully written, hugely enjoyable and moving, *Under a Tuscan Sky* should not be missed!

Book provided by the publisher on NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

The title of this book just screamed out to me! I'm 3/8 Italian and I used to spend two weeks in wonderful Tuscany every year when I was a child. Naturally, I was really excited about this book. When Olivia Montague steps off the plane in Tuscany, I felt at home from the start. Of course that's also thanks to Karen Aldous and her lovely description of the scenery, I fell in love with the area all over again. Let go back to the start though: When Olivia's grandmother dies she is devastated. She wants to change something in her life, so she breaks up with her current boyfriend and goes to see her Nonna's home in Tuscany. She spends time at her grandmother's house and discovers a lot about her family. She believes, she was abandoned by her parents as a child and now learns the truth, it's a big shock to her! She actually has more family in beautiful Tuscany. On the flight down she meets Alberto and the like each other from the start. However, there is also the antiques dealer Hugh St. James. Both men are really handsome and Olivia is very confused. That's actually the part of the book I didn't really like. I felt like her feelings developed way too quickly, in a non authentic way and also her relationship with both men didn't develop in the right pace. That disturbed me a bit, because I actually really liked Olivia as a character. She is full of passion and love and I loved following her around. She was finally able to discover the truth about her past and her family and that was very fascinating and interesting. Karen Aldous captured that tension beautifully, I was hooked! The book has great

messages about second chances, family and love and they were all wonderfully integrated in this storyline. This is a great summer book and I enjoyed every second of this story! Rating: 4.5/5

A terribly inaccurate book about Tuscany. Full of errors on language food and customs. If the author isn't willing to do research, the results are awful.

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