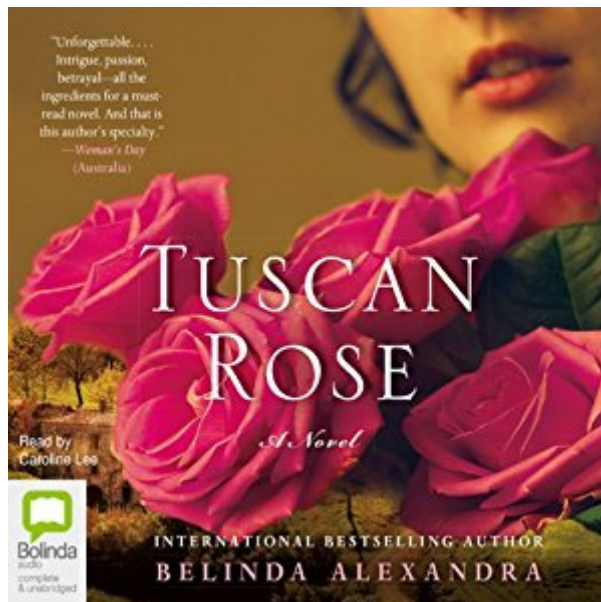


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Tuscan Rose



Synopsis

A mysterious stranger known as The Wolf leaves an infant with the sisters of Santo Spirito. A tiny silver key hidden in her wrappings is the only clue to the child's identity and so begins a story as intriguing and beautiful as the city of Florence itself. Belinda Alexandra's new novel, *Tuscan Rose*, is set in Italy during the time of Mussolini. This richly woven tale of passion, love, longing, witchcraft and magic promises to be everything her readers love, and more. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Version: Unabridged

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Customer Reviews

This was the third book I have read by Belinda Alexandra, and my favourite so far. Drawing on many dramatic themes, the story starts when a mysterious stranger leaves a newborn baby girl at a convent in Florence - the only clue to her identity is a silver key. The child is named Rosa and grows up in the convent, to be sent away as a governess when she is 15. Here she first encounters her life-long nemesis, the cold mysterious mistress of the villa, and Rosa soon learns that life is tough for a poor and friendless orphan, particularly a girl. Rosa must survive on her talents and her uncanny knack for friendship with people who are willing to give her a central place in their lives. Her life takes on numerous twists of fortune, and gradually becomes less about an orphan girl's quest for family and security, and more of a personal insight into Italy's struggle against Mussolini's destructive grip and the pervasive threat of Nazism. One of the things I loved about the book was that I couldn't predict where Rosa would end up next - she lived in a wide range of environments, both peaceful and violent, elegant and harsh - so I don't want to give too much away about the plot. Despite the extremely dramatic nature of the story, Rosa's character develops strongly and logically

as she comes to terms with the contradiction in her values when she is directly faced with the violence of war. One plot line follows her quest to find out her identity - my only criticism of the book is that there is one plot twist too many - the story made more sense when I decided the final twist was a lie by a desperate woman. Otherwise the story lost its logic and became too convoluted in retrospect. Apart from that, the extreme drama in the last quarter of the book seemed like a realistic depiction of a country falling apart during wartime. There is a satisfying love story, with Rosa torn between the two very different men who love her, and can offer her very different things. The book is meticulously researched and well-paced, as Rosa's life is gradually consumed by the war around her. I will definitely read this book

i really wanted to read this book as i was intrigued by the characters and ultimately it was an aspect of ww2 that i didn't know much about. and that is what this book did well; it told you with enough detail what was going on in Italy during ww2. HOWEVER the story line was all over the place, important plot moments were not highlighted or developed enough, ditto with the characters and some were totally undeveloped and overall i felt like at the end my net enjoyment had lowered. so if you are keen to read Belinda Alexandra i would suggest *White Gardenia* or *Wild Lavender* first as these novels are vastly better than this particular one.

This was my second book from Belinda and I very much enjoyed how she makes the reader become absorbed in the characters, what they look like, what they wear, how they move, and where they are. Belinda takes the readers to where the characters are, the details in how she sets the scenes enhance our imagination and make us travel with the characters. Her research in historical events make the reader learn or imagine what it would have been like during the times of the war. As a "young" reader, I am lucky to have only heard about the war and never have lived one. However, reading Belinda's accounts of historical facts, I find her story telling thought provoking and made me often question myself as to what I would have done had I been at the place of the characters during that time. All in all a great imagination booster, a time and place travel companion and a thought provoking novel. Looking forward to reading more of Belinda's novels.

This book is a good read, has great characters and draws you in to the story quickly. The mystery surrounding Rosa is intriguing and I couldn't put the book down to find out what it was. On a slightly different note however, is that there is SOOOOO much tragedy, that I got "over it" at one point and just wanted the book to end so that I didn't need to read any more about the hardships. The war is

just as much of a focus as the mystery surrounding Rosa. If you like books like *The Kite Runner* or *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, you will like this book. It's a good book, just a bit intense and has a lot of tough times in it.

I absolutely loved it, specially that I am French, lived in Paris and travel lots of times through the Provence region. I thought the country description was great and the history was accurate. If you are looking for a fiction book based on actual facts, you have just hit the jackpot. The only trouble is that I couldn't put it down.....I also read " *White Gardenia* " which was awesome and now I am reading her latest one. If you enjoy the above writer, could I suggest you also read all the Penny Vincenzi books, they are fantastic !Till next time,Au revoirDomi

an interesting though predictable story, in the reign of Mussolini fear prevailed, intrigue and the mystery of a young baby left at a Convent in Florence. if YOU KNOW FLORENCE ITALY, you will recognise a lot of the historic buildings mentioned. The heroine's 'superwoman' slightly incredible goes from one drama into another. As always Belinda Alexandra has researched her topic well

White Gardenia is my favourite book. So I guess when Belinda's other books aren't *White Gardenia* one can get a little disappointed. Having said that, I did enjoy *Tuscan Rose*. It was a wonderful history lesson on Italy during the war and the romance was actually quite nice. It just didn't give me the screaming emotions I was after. But don't be deterred. It is a lovely book.

I really enjoyed this book. In many parts it kept me riveted and wanting to read 'just a few more pages I have to go out or do some chore'. Though I did find some of the plot a little too 'stretched' and bordering on melodrama to be fully plausible, it was interesting to have contemporary history woven into the story.

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