

0. FRANCES MAYES - Story Preface
1. CORTONA
2. THE ETRUSCANS
3. UMBRIA and TUSCANY
- 4. FRANCES MAYES**
5. BRAMASOLE



Frances Mayes as she appeared during a book-signing tour (for *Under Magnolia*) in April of 2014.

Frances Mayes was "a Georgia girl" before she became a professor of creative writing at San Francisco State University.

She was a poet before she wrote her best-selling memoirs, *Under the Tuscan Sun* and *Bella Tuscany*.

And ... she was married (then divorced) to someone else before she and Ed Kleinschmidt, a fellow poet and future husband (they married in 1998), first laid eyes on Bramasole, a then-rundown Tuscan farmhouse with five acres of land.

After her twenty-year marriage to her first husband was over, Frances wanted to redefine her life. In love with Italy since her college days, she and Ed acted "out of the fullness of our ignorance" (a phrase she learned from her grandfather) when they decided to buy an abandoned three-story farmhouse overlooking a hill.

Surrounded by property terraced with grapes, fruit trees and olive groves, the house had been empty for thirty years - except for "thousands of scorpions" which had taken up residence. Although the place needed enormous work, it seemed timeless to Frances and Ed. Living on the road which leads to Cortona, Frances can walk to town from her home.

With a trace Southern accent, still discernable when she speaks, Frances describes how *she* changed as her new home changed. No longer a professor at San Francisco State, she writes full-time. Even her books are different now - written in prose instead of poetry.

She and Ed (who took his wife's last name and is now Director of the Creative Writing Center at Santa Clara University) divide their time between Cortona and San Francisco.

Their Tuscan home, Bramasole, is named for the area in which it is located. Its English translation is "yearning for the sun."

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/FRANCES-MAYES-Under-the-Tuscan-Sun)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/FRANCES-MAYES-Under-the-Tuscan-Sun>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/FRANCES-MAYES-Under-the-Tuscan-Sun)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/FRANCES-MAYES-Under-the-Tuscan-Sun>

Media Stream



Frances Mayes

This image depicts Frances Mayes—author of the bestselling book *Under the Tuscan Sun*—as she appeared during a book-signing tour, in Atlanta, during April of 2014.

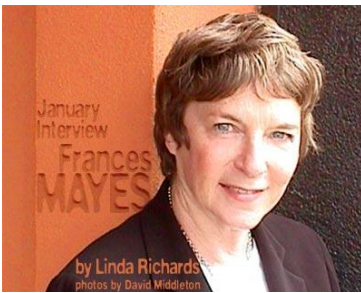
In addition to *Tuscan Sun*, Mayes has written numerous other books, including:

- *Bella Tuscany* (1999)
- *In Tuscany* (2000)
- *Swan* (2002)
- *Bringing Tuscany Home* (2004)
- *A Year in the World: Journeys of a Passionate Traveler* (2006)
- *Under Magnolia: A Southern Memoir* (2014)

Click on the image for a better view.

Photo of Frances Mayes, online via Arts Atlanta.

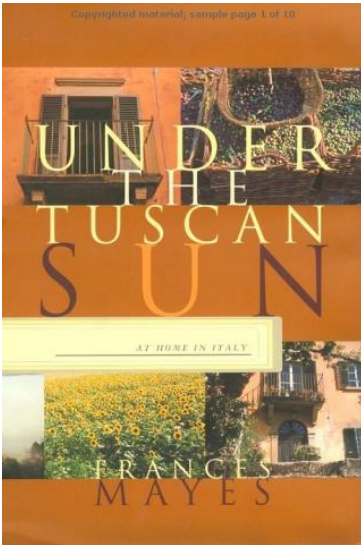
View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Frances-Mayes0>



Frances Mayes - Interview

Image, described above, online courtesy *January Magazine*.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Frances-Mayes-Interview>

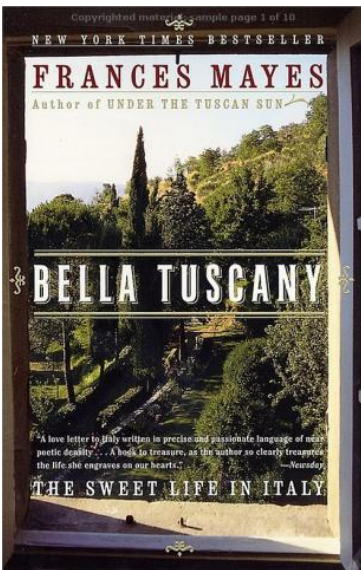


Under the Tuscan Sun - by Frances Mayes

Image online, courtesy amazon.com website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Under-the-Tuscan-Sun-by-Frances-Mayes>



Bella Tuscany - by Frances Mayes

Image online, courtesy amazon.com website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Bella-Tuscany-by-Frances-Mayes>



Ed Kleinschmidt

Image online, courtesy the University of Pennsylvania website.

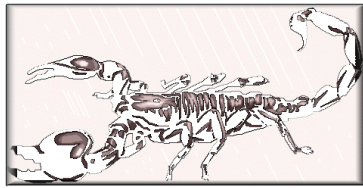
View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ed-Kleinschmidt>



Bramasole

Image online, courtesy letterspace.com website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Bramasole>



Scorpions - Illustration

image online, courtesy nuwaypestcontrol.com website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Scorpions-Illustration>

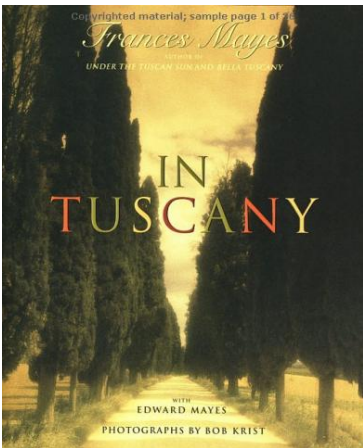


The Road to Town from Bramasole

Image online, courtesy the panoramio.com website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/The-Road-to-Town-from-Bramasole>

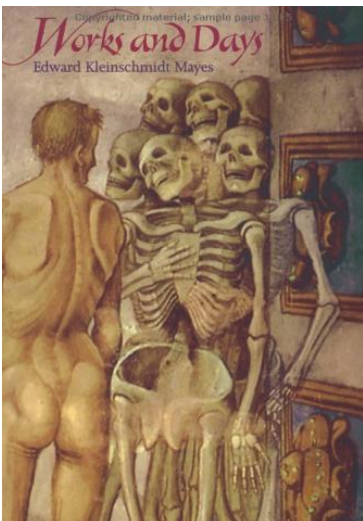


In Tuscany - by Frances Mayes

Image online, courtesy barnesandnoble.com website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/In-Tuscany-by-Frances-Mayes>

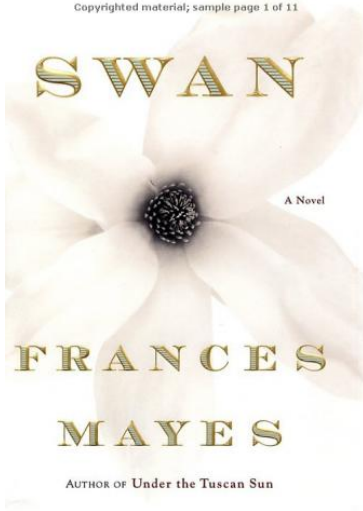


Works and Days - by Edward Kleinschmidt Mayes

Image online, courtesy barnesandnoble.com website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Works-and-Days-by-Edward-Kleinschmidt-Mayes>



Swan - by Frances Mayes

Image online, courtesy goodreads.com website.

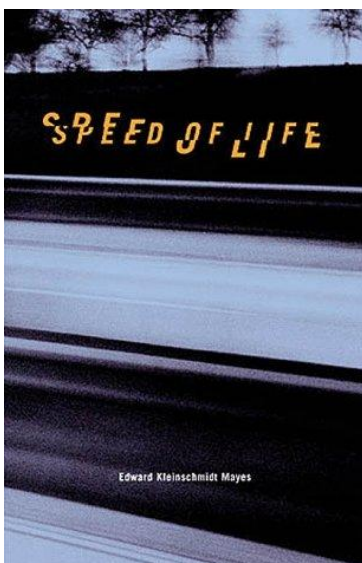
View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Swan-by-Frances-Mayes>



Bramasole - View of the Villa

Image online, courtesy the uwalumni.com website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Bramasole-View-of-the-Villa>



Speed of Life - by Edward Kleinschmidt Mayes

Image online, courtesy barnesandnoble.com website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Speed-of-Life-by-Edward-Kleinschmidt-Mayes>