



What Happens in Tuscany...

T.A. Williams

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From rainy England...

Katie never imagined her life was perfect. But when she finds herself on a rainy street, soaked to the bone and with only a cheating boyfriend and a dead-end job keeping her in town, she knows something has to change. Which is what leads her to Iddlescombe Manor, to be companion to Lady Victoria Chalker-Pyne – the only 25 year old Katie's ever met who hasn't heard of Twitter, thinks camisoles are de rigueur, and desperately needs an education in the 21st century!

...to the Tuscan sun!

But it wouldn't be an education without a summer holiday – and where better than Tuscany? Decamping to Victoria's family villa, it's soon clear that the valley really does have it all: sun, sea...and some seriously gorgeous neighbours. The only question is: when the weather's this hot, the wine is this smooth and the local men are this irresistible...will Katie ever want to make the journey home?

What Happens in Tuscany... Details

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From Reader Review What Happens in Tuscany... for online ebook

Fiona Wilson says

I am a fan of the authors work and was looking forward to reading this one. I wasn't disappointed. Once again he has managed to produce something which is funny, romantic, and a great read.

The main character Katie has decided she needs to do something to get away from her current life. She discovered her boyfriend cheating on her, and wants to get away from the reminders all around her. She decides, on a whim, to take up the position of companion to a lady, Victoria Chalker-Pyne.

Ms C-P has thus far lived an extremely sheltered life. It was only once I started reading about her that I realised quite how much of a sheltered life she had led! Imagine, if you can, being shut inside a house with no friends, no links to the outside world, no TV, Internet, mobile phone, computer! No way to know, or understand, what is happening outside your sheltered life. No experience of relationships with other people. Nothing! This is what Victoria's life was like before meeting Katie.

Victoria's father wanted to keep her safe, protect her, but went about it in such a way he totally restricted her from actually experiencing what life should be. Bring in Katie, who has led a life, has had relationships, has a job, and everything that leading a 'normal' life entails. Putting these two together leads to so many funny moments I laughed most of the way through.

When the pair find themselves in Tuscany things get even more interesting as secrets come out, misunderstandings ensue, and new friends are made. The girls' lives will most definitely change, but in what way and to what extent?

This was a great read from an author I have followed for a while, and will continue to follow in the future. A definite favourite of mine and a recommended read also.

Sophie says

Posted originally <http://www.reviewedthebook.co.uk/2015...>

What Happens in Tuscany is the second book I've read by T.A. Williams and he has that gorgeous way of writing a feel good story and something which will easily make you smile. This book sees Katie, who after dumping her cheating boyfriend, finds herself with a new job as companion to Lady Victoria Chalker-Pyne, who isn't actually as old as her name might suggest. Victoria is only 25 years old and has lived a sheltered life as they come. With no real life experience or knowledge, Katie is there to help and they soon develop a friendship, leading them to Tuscany, where the majority of this book is set. I really enjoyed the author's description of Italy, of Tuscany, as it was made easy to picture the area, from the beaches and the sun to the wine, and the people too. Katie and Victoria were mostly having fun in Tuscany and it sounded like an ideal place to go.

I loved the developing friendship between Katie and Victoria. Katie's approach to the situation Victoria had been in was quite charming in that she sympathised without being too pitying and was laid-back but also

allowed herself to stand up a bit to Victoria when she was acting like a teenager and repeating mistakes. Katie was kind and thoughtful and a true friend and I particularly enjoyed the moments in the book where their friendship stood out when they were having a good time in Tuscany. What I liked most about What Happens in Tuscany was seeing the learning curve Victoria went on, from learning to correct her outdated language to discovering new clothing and modern technology. It all felt so surreal how much she'd missed out on but as she started coming out of her shell, it brought the book a lot of humour and a more touching moment or two. With Katie's help, Victoria began to get out more and make the friendships she'd never had before, as well as attract the attention of a couple of men, in which she was about to be given the opportunity to make some of those mistakes she'd missed out on.

This book had lots of other memorable characters too and the author gave them all a strong voice, developing their characters well. There were the genuine people Katie and Victoria met, to the jerks and it was interesting to see which was which. One of my favourite characters was Marco, who never failed to put a smile on my face with his care, advice and sense of fun. I of course also have to mention Dante, the dog, who was so loveable and had so much character. I loved how he became so attached to Katie and how he had such an innocent way of getting what he wanted. Everybody needs a companion like Dante... Katie had her own romance story in this book but if I'm honest, I didn't quite buy into her romance or see any real sparks or feelings there. I was also left a little confused with the way Victoria's love life turned out but the romance wasn't really a big part of this book for me because I loved this story for its take on friendship and learning to live. What Happens in Tuscany was a lovely read, a nice reminder to appreciate the things you take for granted and the friendships you make, whilst having the most fun all at the same time...

*Book received in exchange for an honest review.

s a t u r d a y r e a d says

2.5 stars.

It is a fun and easy read, I even laughed sometimes, especially with Victoria. She is an exceptional character with many qualities and what makes her so funny is that she is naive and has no idea of the modern world. I really liked the language and the words that the author used, like "acquiescence", something that you'll not easily find in women's fiction. Loved the style of writing, great dialogs and vivid descriptions. But kept me from giving this novel more stars was the fact that I didn't enjoyed the plot as I thought I would. There wasn't any twists or sth that could intrigue me. There wasnt any plot really, it was just a description of how the girls spend their days at Tuscany. It was natural for me to got bored in the middle of the novel. Furthermore, I found the ending very sudden and without depth.

Debbie says

I loved this little story. I so wanted to be Katie and help out Victoria in her mansions with all her money! Ha! A nice little romance story about a 30 year Katie who gets a job being an assistant to 25 year old Victoria (25 year old going on 15 years old). She had never been or done anything since her mother died at the age of 10. She spoke like someone out of a Jane Austen novel, wore clothing that was very out of date and didn't know underwear came in other colors than white.

Katie's job was to bring her into the 21st century and teach her about men, good and bad. The story was well written and kept me engaged this dreary winter afternoon. It definitely did its job, I don't feel so dreary.

I definitely recommend this book!

Thank you Carina and Net Galley for providing me an e-galley in exchange for a review.

Kim says

Katie is really disillusioned with her life and her job. After finding her boyfriend in a pub with a stripper she vows that she has to make changes. She finds a job in The Lady as a companion to Lady Victoria at Iddlescombe Manor. She's 25, but since losing her mum as a child she's been kept isolated from the modern world by her father. Since his death she needs to learn about all the things she's missed/ Katie's job is to educate her on modern life and they go to Victoria's family Villa in Tuscany. It's beyond beautiful. The locals are quite enticing as well! Tuscany sounds so wonderful.

This was a lovely, relaxing read- ideal for curling up with in the summer evenings, dreaming of escaping to Tuscany!

Many thanks to the Publisher and Net Galley for a copy of this book.

eyes.2c says

Tuscany and romance.

Sustained storyline of poor little rich girl being rescued by interesting young woman escaping a broken relationship. The fact that most of the action happens in Tuscany and that 'money's no object' supports the fantasy. Add to that sublime vintage vehicles, top end Italian sports cars and rugby this seems to have all the ingredients I could enjoy.

Victoria (25) has been brought up in an Edwardian time warp if not a plastic bubble and is so over protected that she really doesn't know how to go about fitting into normal everyday life, (let alone television, tablets and tweets) now that her rich, eccentric and over protective father is no longer around to prohibit her interaction with the world.

Katie, after seven long years dumps her dubious rugby playing partner, quits her teaching job and sets out to be the paid companion of Miss Victoria Chalker-Pyne.

Helping Victoria to come out of seclusion into today's world is fraught with all sorts of traps; from avoiding unscrupulous men and the paparazzi, through to how to use lingo more appropriate to the 21st century rather than a Jane Austen novel.

Unusual storyline, misunderstandings around relationships with men and occasional asides on how BF's should support each other add an interesting touch; the ethics of friendships if you like. Maybe a tad predictable. I really saw most of the situations coming. But Hey! This is a romance novel.

Personally the best parts were the descriptions of various places in Italy, the sun, the food and the wine. I really felt the heat of the sun. I am not big on contemporary romances but I am big on Tuscany. Definitely not Frances Mayes-worthy but enjoyable.

Mystica says

If I see Tuscany or Provence in a title I am invariably drawn to check out what the book is about. This seemed a light novel which I thought would be ideal for me whilst travelling myself and it was.

Kate is in a dead end job. She is bored, frustrated at the way her life is turning out to be and her partner of seven years seems indifferent to say the least to any of her feelings. A complete break is needed and this is what she does. Taking up a job as a companion to a 25 year old is weird enough - but when she arrives at the Manor where she has to take up employment she realizes that there are much more weird things ahead.

There is her charge - Lady Victoria Chalker Pyne who seems to be in a time warp of 1910 - hasn't heard of Facebook or Twitter, talks in the language of Jane Austen and has to be introduced to the 21st century - gradually.

The education of Victoria in the manners (and morals) of the twenty first century bringing her gradually into everyday life is the goal of Kate. Her father has deliberately kept her hidden, never taken her overseas (despite having property overseas) as this was his view of keeping Victoria safe.

Ending up on their villa in Tuscany, life becomes different for the two girls who have to also face interests from young men in the vicinity and in Victoria's case how she should cope with both admiration, love and lust. How to differentiate the wood from the trees is rather difficult for Victoria who takes everyone at face value and does not know who is good, bad or indifferent!

As I said a light novel, pleasantly interesting which was a good wrap for a long bus ride!

Leah says

T.A. Williams will have released four novels once *What Happens In Tuscany* is released, but this is actually my first chance to read some of his work, although I do have *When Alice Met Danny* on my Kindle and I'll be reading it for sure at some point this year. I haven't read many novels set in Italy, so it means that when you do read one set there, it does set it apart, and it is a very special thing and I looked forward to diving in to Tuscany and learning more about the region.

Straight away, I knew I was going to really like reading *What Happens In Tuscany*, as Katie finds herself somewhat set adrift after breaking up with her idiot boyfriend, and leaving her job as a teacher. As soon as

the whole companion thing was revealed and Katie set off to meet Victoria, I was chuffed to pieces. I love books about companions and I love seeing posh, rich people brought in to the twenty-first century. I was surprised at how sheltered Victoria had been, mind, although we soon learn why her father kept her hidden away (not that it was right - it wasn't, at all). It was so much fun to see Katie bring Victoria out of her shell and stop her talking like a character from a Jane Austen book.

I loved when the book hopped over to Tuscany, too. What an absolutely beautiful sounding region! I loved the fact the book was mostly set over there and it had me hankering after my own Tuscan villa to live in, despite the fact I sit in Tenerife as I type this review. But, hey, where you live in never as exciting as where you could live, is it? Tuscany has definitely made my list of places I must visit at some point in the future and I loved seeing the girls have the time of their lives over there, meeting men, going to the beach, attending parties, it was lovely to read about although not so much when it came to the dreaded, sticky Count, ew.

I really, really enjoyed *What Happens In Tuscany*. I loved the characters - Katie and Victoria are the loveliest of people, people I would definitely want to be friends with! The setting was spot-on. Sigh. I sort of feel like if I flew over to Tuscany now, and headed to where Victoria's villa was, I'd see Dante waiting for breakfast. It was that evocative. I can't wait to go back and read more of Trevor's novels, he's a really great writer and *What Happens In Tuscany* is a great example of that. And I loved the plot, such a good plot. As I said, it's my favourite kind of plot when people need teaching the ways of the twenty-first century and it was so good to see Katie teaching Victoria! They made quite a pair! {Leah Loves} <http://leah-loves.com> <http://leah-loves.com/books-happens-t...>

Jill says

This book was just what I needed when it's so cold and grey outside. A book that's full of adventure, laughs and sunshine. I really enjoyed sitting down and spending time with the characters of the book.

Our leading lady is Katie. The book opens with her in her 'old' life, making a revelation about her boyfriend. This revelation is the catalyst to everything changing. She is sitting in the pub chatting to her friend and looking for a new work challenge when she stumbles across an advert in an old fashioned magazine to become a companion to Lady Victoria Chalker-Pyne. The advert mentions a house abroad which gets her interested and so she applies and gets the job.

Turning up she expects a doddering old lady who will be a nightmare. However she is amazed, and delighted to meet Lady Victoria who is infact only 25. Her father has passed away and she has absolutely zero life skills, or knowledge of the 21st century as her father has kept her a shit away recluse over the years.

And so begins the fun.....from the way she dresses, the way she talks, her lack of travel or interaction with the real world, Victoria has alot to learn. The house has no phone signal, no computer or internet connection, or even a TV. Luckily Katie is on hand to show Victoria (or as we get to know her, Vicky) the ropes. I could see straight away just how much of a breath of fresh air Katie was going to be to the house.

Money is no object so before long the girls have been out shopping, bought a smart phone, got wi-fi installed and are getting to know other locals. They get invited to a party at the house of an old school friend Tom. Whilst there they get talking about her fathers home in Tuscany. When Tom says that he will be going over they decide to join him.

The rest of the book is based there and carries on the transformation of Vicky from the wallflower to a little socialite with some great flirting skills. She soon has more than one man chasing after her. But she isn't alone. Katie also gets a fair amount of attention.

The local characters are wonderful and the setting had a real homely feel to it. The descriptions of the villa and local area made it easy for me to visualise and I quickly found myself able to imagine being out there myself. There are a few men though out the story. One that I really liked was Marco. He isn't a romantic interest, but is a great guy. A good looking man who knows good food and cares about others....wonderful!!

There is of course the obligatory love triangle. This involves Katie who has a clear mutual attraction with one of the local guys. However, as you will find out it becomes a bit more complicated. When a bloke, Martin, from the UK flies over could potential romance blossom between them? They had a little thing in England, but with her questioning her future will Martin feature?

I love Dante the dog. He pops up early on and is there throughout. I loved the idea of a companion who just appears and wants love. I loved the idea of long rambles with him exploring the local countryside in all it's beauty. He is funny at how he can wrap them all round his little finger to scrounge food and attention. But he is very loveable.

Their visit to Tuscany has twists and turns and not just involving romance. There is more to the story than that which makes it more engrossing and riveting. I really loved the girls and enjoyed seeing how Vicky evolved as she entered the real world. I also loved watching Katie's story. I have always dreamed of moving to an exotic location and enjoying the different way of life compared to London. I felt like I was doing this while reading about Katie.

The book is really well written. Very descriptive and some great humour too. I have read others of the authors books and have loved them equally. I wanted to jet off to join them and I bet you will too.....

Great characters, a fun and enjoyable read that will leave you with a big smile on your face.

Elaine says

After discovering her boyfriend in a pub with his mates and a stripper, Katie has had enough. Add to that her discontentment with teaching and she's well and truly ready for a big change in her life. She buys a copy of 'The Lady' and starts looking at the situations vacant . . . that's how she ends up working as a companion to 25 year old Lady Victoria at Iddlescombe Manor. Now Victoria may be 25 years old but she's been basically imprisoned by her father since her Mother died when she was just ten years old. She's never seen a colour television, computer, mobile phone . . . didn't know that underwear is available in colours other than white . . . never visited anyone or anywhere away from their country estate and never been visited, either. Katie's job is basically to help Victoria learn to live in the twenty-first century following the death of her father.

Fairly obviously, from the title, the two go to stay in Tuscany and you'll really need to read the book to find out what happens there! Watch out for the sleazy, despicable . . . the outrageous . . . the desirable . . . the supportive range of characters, they all have their roles to play!

A different sort of story in a fantastically beautiful area with intriguing events all combine to make this an

enjoyable read.

Thanks to the author, publishers and NetGalley, too, for letting me read this book in exchange for an honest review.

Rachel Gilbey says

Thank you to Net Galley and Carina UK for a review copy of this book. This is my honest review.

Katie, after discovering her boyfriend had been cheating on her, quits her job and wants a change of career. She answers an advert in *Lady*, for a companion, to someone at Iddlescombe Manor. After passing the interview she is on her way unaware as to what will await her.

The woman she is to be a companion to, is Victoria Chalker-Pyne, a multi millionaire, 25 years old but has been secluded at Iddlescombe Manor her whole life as a result of her eccentric father. Victoria was brought up to speak and act like an Austen heroine, and know real knowledge of the 21st Century. It is Katie's job to bring Victoria completely into the modern world.

After some modernization has occurred, they decide to go to Tuscany where Victoria's father had a villa, to try and continue her education in the sun. This introduces us to all manner of gorgeous Italian characters and a wonderfully summery feel to the book.

I love books that are set in other countries, so the amount of this based in Tuscany, was a delight to me. The storyline with Victoria although most probably unrealistic, was lovely to read, and it's hard to think that someone could have so little knowledge of small things that most of us take for granted on a daily basis.

Fantastically fun read, that left me with a smile on my face throughout. and is a wonderful story about love, and friendship.

Diane Bocci says

A Hot Summer in Tuscany

Hot here meaning the Tuscan weather not excessive sex. I learned about this book from an Internet posting and immediately ordered the e-book and I'm happy that I did. The main characters are so well described that I feel I know them personally as long-time neighbors. I mainly enjoyed the book because it is the story of a nearly burned out school teacher who accepts the challenge of bringing a cloistered 25-year old woman into the 21st century. Here's finally a fresh premise for a chicklit book! I look forward to reading more from T. A. Williams. HEA, of course.

Bethany Clark says

What an amazing, heart felt read.

TA Williams has crafted an amazing story and I can't wait to read more from this amazing author!

Katie was having problems with her love life in England and she decided she needed to get away...So she applied to be a mentor of sorts to a young lady named Victoria. Victoria had quite the sheltered upbringing and needed to learn the way of the world and hired Katie to teach her just that.

Katie is Victoria's guide to all things 21st century - from boys to twitter to how she communicates on a daily basis.

From the latest electronics to an amazing car...then they take the most amazing trip to Victoria's villa in Tuscany...

What an amazing journey for both women in totally different ways...Will Katie want to return home after this life-changing experience?

Read it and find out!

Lori Palmer (Palmer's Page Turners) says

Read my review on my blog at <http://palmerspageturners.blogspot.co...>

What drew me to this book was the setting--lately I've been obsessed with everything Italy. so this was the perfect book to lift my spirits in the dreary, rainy winter we've been having. I was also wanting a lighthearted, fun read, and that's just what I got from this book. I also loved the dog on the cover (of course!). It was such a fun read because Katie, the main character was getting to have so much fun--shopping with Victoria, a road trip from England to Italy, staying at a fancy villa without worry about the cost. I could almost picture myself there, eating yummy food with her Italian friends and Dante (the Labrador).

The only thing that bothered me in this whole book was how every time Paul's character was mentioned, his first and last name was used. Every other character was just their first name, but Paul was always Paul Taylor, except for in quotes (for example "What is Paul doing today?". Every other time, it was Paul Taylor. I tried to overanalyze it and thought it might mean something, but I couldn't come up with anything definitive.

Overall, this was a fun read that's perfect for a relaxing weekend. You don't have to think too much and just relax and enjoy the story.

Jo Hughes says

I would like to thank Carina and the author for approving me to read this on NetGalley in exchange for a fair and honest review.

When Kate catches her boyfriend cheating she decides she needs a change of career and sees an advert in the paper for an unusual job of being a companion to Lady Victoria Chalker-Pyne. Victoria is very much like a child having been protected from the world by her over protective father.

The book is set mainly at Victoria's holiday home in Tuscany and the scenery is described beautifully but Trevor. I love how Kate helps Victoria adjust to the life in the 21 century and also Kate finds out things from Victoria to. It's a really lovely and beautiful friendship between the pair. I love how Victoria blossoms out of her shell and becomes a really lovely character that I hope we will see again in the future. I love how Trevor describes Tuscany and it really made me want to go and visit for a holiday or even get a holiday home there.

Kate has two hot men to make a decision over but she wavers after what has happened with her ex. The book is interspersed with humour and fun, all the characters are wonderfully written and I couldn't help but like them all.

In short this is a lovely summer read and perfect for reading while sat by a pool with a cocktail in hand. I read this book in one sitting as I found that I couldn't put it down.
