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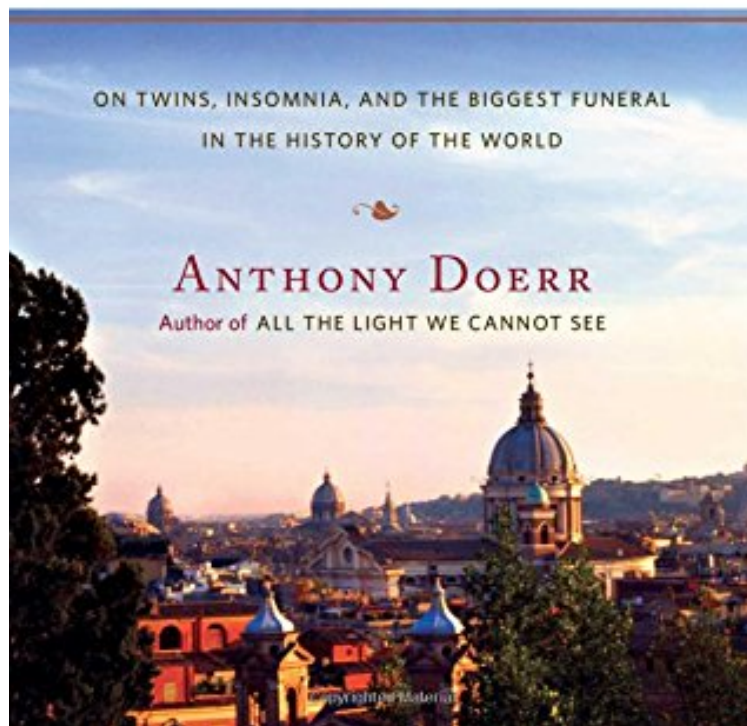
Four Seasons in Rome: On Twins, Insomnia, and the Biggest Funeral in the History of the World

Anthony Doerr

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FOUR SEASONS IN ROME



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#34966 in Books Anthony Doerr 2008-06-10 2008-06-10 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .50 x 5.251, .40 #File Name: 141657316X224 pages Four Seasons in Rome On Twins Insomnia and the Biggest Funeral in the History of the World | File size: 74.Mb

Anthony Doerr : Four Seasons in Rome: On Twins, Insomnia, and the Biggest Funeral in the History of the World before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Four Seasons

in Rome: On Twins, Insomnia, and the Biggest Funeral in the History of the World:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Beautifully evocative and nostalgicBy Chellie CampbellBeautifully written, this is an evocative memoir of the glories of both modern day and ancient Rome while navigating new fatherhood of twin boys. Oh, yes, and the hard work of writing, too. Doerr makes you laugh, wince and cry throughout, while you deepen your understanding of our bittersweet human condition. Outstanding.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An honest and intimate memoirBy GrifelMr. Doerr is a wonderful writer, as everyone who has read *All the Light We Cannot See* must know. This very personal story of his young family living in Rome for a year is elegantly told. He was very open about life with two babies, a writer's struggle to put words on paper, and his enjoyment of the ancient city.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. "Must read" for lovers of travel essay/life experiences genre.By Jim P.Books recounting personal travel experiences are on my list of favorite genres. I found this particular book to be very authentic and moving. The author's experience of living in Rome for a year with his wife and twin boys had me entranced from the outset. The way the couple struggles with the demands of being new parents, along with living in an ancient exotic city like Rome, where the culture is new and they don't speak the language, made for a very interesting read. I like Doerr's writing style. It is personal but also reflective of larger issues. His life philosophies are extremely thoughtful and sophisticated for such a young man. I anticipate great works from him in the future.

From the author of the acclaimed Pulitzer Prize-winning #1 New York Times bestseller *All the Light We Cannot See*, a "dazzling" (Azar Nafisi, author of *Reading Lolita in Tehran*) memoir about art and adventures in Rome. Anthony Doerr has received many awards from the New York Public Library, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the American Library Association. Then came the Rome Prize, one of the most prestigious awards from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and with it a stipend and a writing studio in Rome for a year. Doerr learned of the award the day he and his wife returned from the hospital with newborn twins. Exquisitely observed, *Four Seasons in Rome* describes Doerr's varied adventures in one of the most enchanting cities in the world. He reads Pliny, Dante, and Keats -- the chroniclers of Rome who came before him and visits the piazzas, temples, and ancient cisterns they describe. He attends the vigil of a dying Pope John Paul II and takes his twins to the Pantheon in December to wait for snow to fall through the oculus. He and his family are embraced by the butchers, grocers, and bakers of the neighborhood, whose clamor of stories and idiosyncratic child-rearing advice is as compelling as the city itself. This intimate and revelatory book is a celebration of Rome, a wondrous look at new parenthood, and a fascinating story of a writer's craft the process by which he transforms what he sees and experiences into sentences.

From Publishers Weekly Acclaimed novelist and short story writer Doerr turns out a well-observed chronicle of his family's year in Rome, when he was a fellow at the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Doerr is a precise, lyrical writer who, dividing his book into seasons, captures in equal measures the wonder of the Italian countryside, the mind-boggling history of the Eternal City and the measured joys and trials of parenting twin baby boys. Upon their autumn arrival, it is the boys who most connect Doerr and his wife to their new city: "Grown men in suits stop and crouch over the stroller and croon. Older men in particular. Che carini. Che belli. What cuties. What beauties." In Spring, Doerr captures well the color and emotion of the vigil for the dying Pope John Paul II, providing insight into the man and his death: "More than three miles of artwork hang in the Vatican Museum and the pope could have any of it brought in front of him...Instead, he wants only to hear something read from the Bible in Polish." The memoir is full of other such rewarding passages, and anyone with fond memories of Rome will want to savor it slowly. Illustrations. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist The recipient of an American Academy fellowship, Doerr, his wife, and their twin newborns are on their way to Rome for a year. Cultural isolation, the death of John Paul II, struggles to complete a novel, and the tales of first-time parenthood uniquely blend together as Doerr meanders his way through a one-year Roman holiday. Along the way, he meets Romans quick to praise his twins, Romans quick to prejudge an American, and Romans happy to share the secrets of their city with him. Set against this backdrop, Doerr finds it difficult to focus on the novel he plans on writing; instead, like so many other visitors, he falls for the Eternal City. For readers who have been to Rome, Doerr's reflections will leave them longing for a return trip. For those who have not, Doerr's stories of piazzas and pizzas will have them checking travel arrangements. Either way, this memoir is a wonderful combination of a writer's two dominant struggles: cultural identity and family. Blair Parsons Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Anthony Doerr is dazzling in this book, in the way he celebrates the joys as well as the pain of being a parent and in love, being a writer and being in Rome, reminding us that certain experiences never grow stale when they are expressed through the fresh eyes of a real writer." -- Azar Nafisi, author of *Reading Lolita in Tehran* "Doerr's journal is a love letter written with the ear of a musician, the sensibility of a Buddha, the heart of an innamorato. Rome is the chosen beloved, but Doerr's true subject is writing." -- Sandra Cisneros, author of *Caramelo* "I loved this book which, in turn, made me laugh and weep at the relentless twins, Owen and Henry, who never sleep, the descriptions of Rome, the clouds, the light --

especially the light -- the people Doerr meets on the street, again the light, Pliny, Jonah's feet dangling from the Sistine Chapel ceiling, Shauna's steadfastness, Doerr's generous and intelligent spirit, his discerning eye and his perfect prose. Complimenti!" -- Lily Tuck, author of *Interviewing Matisse*"Anthony Doerr found himself in the perfect Eternal City with the eternal Paternal Problem: how to care for two beautiful newborn twins while still doing his work as a writer and student and observer. The result is a funny, precise, touching account of cultural barricades crossed and fatherly exhaustions overcome; a story of the universalities of parenting and the specificities of Roman life that will lift the heart of every parent and delight the mind of every lover of Italy." -- Adam Gopnik, author of *Through the Children's Gate* and *From Paris to the Moon*