

So begins the tale of our young man, an aspiring archivist determined to begin a “serious” life after an undistinguished undergraduate career notable mainly for poor choices in love. Taking up residence in the Italian countryside, he becomes the all-purpose assistant to the Baronessa, known to her friends as Coco, a defiantly youthful and naturally flamboyant woman of ninety-two. Amid a chaotic and colorful milieu of gin-swilling princesses, incomprehensible handymen, roaming boar hunters, nuns, and other local wildlife, our young man does his best to catalog the villa’s extensive collection of art and antiques—although he notices that things seem to go missing from right under his nose.

Despite himself, he tumbles into an affair with a married man, complicating his future plans considerably. And when the Baronessa loses someone close to her, he becomes an unwitting accomplice in the acceleration of Coco’s great and final plan: to locate the love of her life and be reunited before it’s too late.

Told with the signature wit, charm, and humanity that made *Less* an international phenomenon, *Villa Coco* is a dazzling, sun-soaked ode to life itself, a meditation on how seriously we ought to take ourselves, and a bawdy Mediterranean ballad about becoming who we’ve always wanted to be.

ANDREW SEAN GREER is the bestselling author of seven previous works of fiction, including the Pulitzer Prize winner *Less* and its companion, *Less Is Lost*. He lives in San Francisco and Venice, Italy.

READ BY EDOARDO BALLERINI

RANDOM HOUSE
AUDIO

Runtime: 8h. 36m. • Unabridged

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31999 Aurora Road, Solon, OH 44139 USA
Designed in Ohio. Made in China.
www.playaway.com

The Playaway format is recommended for children ages 5 and up.

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ISBN 979-8-3317-1430-7



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