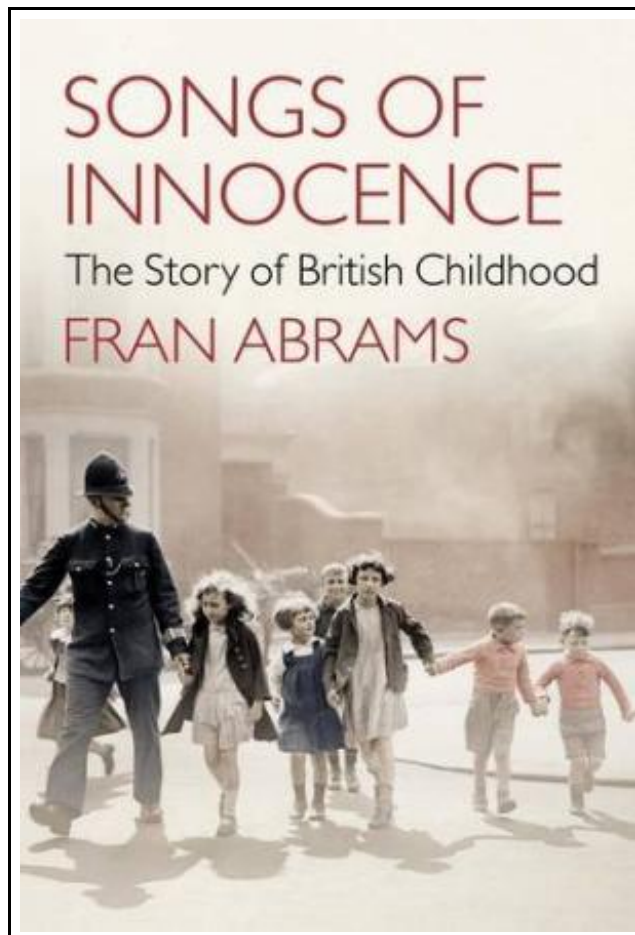


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Reviews

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(Prof. Maya Hand)

SONGS OF INNOCENCE: THE STORY OF BRITISH CHILDHOOD (HARDBACK)



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ATLANTIC BOOKS, United Kingdom, 2012. Hardback. Book Condition: New. Main. 236 x 164 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. As recently as one hundred years ago British children existed in ways now unthinkable; boys as young as eight worked gruelling hours in unlit factories; girls were sold into sexual slavery with dolls still in their grasp; and boys at schools like Rugby and Harrow were brutally trained for their future at the helm of Britain's vast red empire. In *Songs of Innocence* Fran Abrams charts the transformation of childhood in the UK from early Victorian disagreements about child-rearing to the Scouts very direct involvement in the First World War. Poignant first-hand accounts of poverty and deprivation as well as innocent pleasures carry the reader through a Dickensian landscape of urchins and Fauntleroyes, the cosseted lives of Edwardian children to the self-sufficient charges of Baden-Powell. Fran Abrams draws distinctions along class lines and divisions such as town and country, Romantic and conservative, to achieve a historical perspective shows the progression of the idea of childhood through a century of massive social change brought about by urbanization, war and medico-psychological advances. *Songs of Innocence* employs searing personal testimony and immaculate research to provide a fascinating exposition of the past and a mirror for the present.



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