

The Last Happy Occasion is the coming-of-age story of an American Jew and aspiring writer in the sixties and seventies. In this memoir in six movements, Alan Shapiro recalls how poetry helped him make sense of his own and other peoples lives. Events unfold, including his sisters death, that make him reconsider the transformative power of art and accept the limitations of poetry in confronting the untransformable pain of mortal loss. A refreshingly honest, lovingly crafted work, The Last Happy Occasion is a treasure map for anyone interested in exploring the intersections of life and art. Nominated for the 1996 National Book Critics Circle Award. " [Shapiro] seeks what lies at the deepest level of the human heart to mitigate his "and our" separateness from others." Chase Collins, Chicago Tribune Books The Last Happy Occasion is touching and intelligent, emotionally satisfying and eloquent testimony to the power of poetry to instruct, heal and inspire." Emily Barton, New York Times Book Review Shapiro, not unlike Auden, doses his wordplay with a certain sly irony... . We come away from Shapiros book with an intimate appreciation of the little subversions that poetry can work in ones life." Jonathan Kirsch, Los Angeles Times He is an acute observer of moments, people, art and language. And he packs even seemingly simple stories with many layers of meaning... . He shows us the power and importance of transformative art in life." Publishers Weekly, starred review The literary criticism is sharp, but what enthalls the reader more is Shapiros humorous but honest perspective on his younger self, a perspective that is critical without being condescending." Heller McAlpin, Newsday

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The book The Last Happy Occasion, Alan Shapiro is published by University of Chicago Press.

The Last Happy Occasion has 23 ratings and 2 reviews. Rachel said: Characters: 3 The characters were well described because Alan Shapiro, the author, ta.

Many recent autobiographies trade on the author's celebrity, miserable childhood or personal problems. Shapiro, a middle-aged English professor and. The Last Happy Occasion. Alan Shapiro. THE MORNING of the day my first child, Nat, was born, I taught Elizabeth Bishop's poem, The Weed, to a group of. The Last Happy Occasion by Alan Shapiro, , available at Book Depository with free delivery worldwide. danceonpartyon.com: The Last Happy Occasion () by Alan Shapiro and a great selection of similar New, Used and Collectible Books available now at. The Last Happy Occasion is the coming-of-age story of an American Jew and aspiring writer in the sixties and seventies. It tells how poetry taught him to read his. Available in: Paperback. The Last Happy Occasion is the coming-of-age story of an American Jew and aspiring writer in the sixties and seventies. Buy The Last Happy Occasion from Dymocks online BookStore. Find latest reader reviews and much more at Dymocks.

The Last Happy Occasion. A coming-of-age story of an American Jew and aspiring writer in the '60s and '70s. In this memoir in six movements, Alan Shapiro .

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