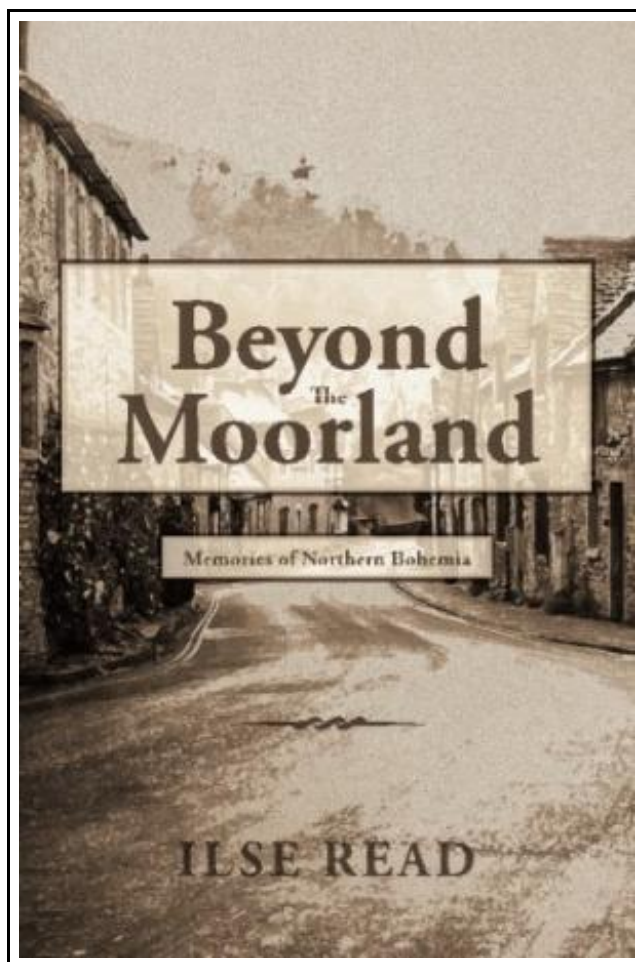


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Createspace, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 203 x 133 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.Beyond the Moorland The Bittersweet Remembrance of Life in a Czechoslovakian Village before the First World War One by one leaves fall to the earth. leaves from the tree of my life! Pick them up! Turn them over! They can tell you a story of bygone days Thus begins Ilse Read in these beautifully written memoirs. The most vivid memories derive from the village of Habstein in northern Bohemia. The family moved to this little Czechoslovakian town in 1913 when the author was eight years old. It was in Habstein that her father, a Protestant minister, established the Sonnenhof, the Home for the Homeless the social outcast. The family, too, knew what it meant to be an outsider, for as Protestants, as city-bred, they were not wholly embraced by the villagers, but instead made to observe from a distance the ceremonial goings-on of village life. Interlaced with the author s memories is the turbulent history of Czechoslovakia, the crossroads of the continent, with its varied culture comprised of Bohemian, Moravian, Czech and German strains. With each invasion leaving its stamp, Czechoslovakia is rich in blending pagan and Christian tradition. The days of the year are ticked off according to the Catholic calendar, with feast days and holy days heavily larded with vestiges of pagan custom. The family was poor and life was hard, but the leaves of those youthful days are happy and carefree. Our world writes Ilse, was small, but, oh, so satisfying. We had freedom in wholesome surroundings, freedom from money problems, and of current affairs we knew nothing.It seemed that every day now was sunny. The sunny days, however, were destined to darken with the...



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