



born under *an*  
assumed name

THE MEMOIR OF A COLD WAR SPY'S DAUGHTER



SARA MANSFIELD TABER



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*Intelligence has its price*

## **BORN UNDER AN ASSUMED NAME**

*The Memoir of a Cold War Spy's Daughter*

BY SARA MANSFIELD TABER

From literary journalist Sara Mansfield Taber comes a deep and wondrous memoir of her exotic childhood as the daughter of a covert CIA operative.

*Born Under an Assumed Name* portrays the thrilling and confusing life of a girl growing up abroad in a world of secrecy and diplomacy—and the heavy toll it takes on her and her father. As Taber leads us on a tour through the countries to which her father is assigned, we track two parallel stories—those of young Sara and her Cold War spy father. Sara struggles for normalcy as the family is relocated to cities in North America, Europe, and Asia, and the constant upheaval eventually exacts its price. Only after a psychiatric hospitalization at age sixteen in a U.S. Air Force hospital with shell-shocked Vietnam War veterans does she come to a clear sense of who she is. Meanwhile, Sara's sweet-natured, philosophical father becomes increasingly disillusioned with his work, his agency, and his country.

What does it mean to be an American? This is the question at the heart of this elegant and sophisticated work. In this fascinating, painful and ultimately exhilarating coming of age story, young Sara confronts generosity, greatness, and tragedy—all that America heaps on the world.

The author is available for interviews. If interested, please contact Laura Briggs at [laura.briggs@booksintl.com](mailto:laura.briggs@booksintl.com).

***Born Under an Assumed Name: The Memoir of a Cold War Spy's Daughter***

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## About the Author



### Sara Mansfield Taber

Sara Mansfield Taber is a writer of literary nonfiction. Raised in Asia and Europe as the daughter of a clandestine CIA officer, she has spent the last ten years sorting out her exotic, itinerant childhood, pondering espionage, and coming to grips with what it means to be an American in this world. Educated at Carleton College, the University of Washington, and Harvard University, she is the author of two books of literary journalism, *Dusk on the Campo: A Journey in Patagonia* and *Bread of Three Rivers: The Story of a French Loaf*. She has also published a writing guide, *Of Many Lands: Journal of a Traveling Childhood*. Her essays and memoirs have appeared in literary journals, newspapers including *The Washington Post*, and been produced for public radio. She currently teaches at the Writer's Center in Bethesda, Maryland.



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## Advance Praise for *Born Under an Assumed Name*

“*Born under an Assumed Name* is as delicately wrought as bone china . . . A beautiful, mysterious, and unexpectedly suspenseful story of the struggle to find a place in the world.”

— **WILLIAM O’SULLIVAN, editor, *Washingtonian***

“Taber has worked magic with this intoxicating memoir of her childhood. This vibrant family portrait of love and heartache also reveals much about America—our passion, confusion, contradictions, and especially the tragedy we bring upon the world despite our very best intentions.”

— **MARY STUCKY, reporter, Minnesota Public Radio**

“Lyrical and evocative prose . . . These tales of coming of age are filled with the exotic flavors of far-flung places but also touch on close-to-the-bone feelings about family and childhood relationships that befall all of us, no matter where we grow up.”

— **SANDRA DIBBLE, reporter, *San Diego Union-Tribune***

“With a poet’s sensibility, a seasoned journalist’s sense of where and when to probe, and a ravishing talent for conveying the exotic, Taber’s writing is on par with anything by M. F. K. Fisher, Jan Morris, or V. S. Naipaul. Everyone who wants to understand America should read this book.”

— **C. M. MAYO, author of *Miraculous Air: Journey of a Thousand Miles through Baja California, the Other Mexico***

“A gorgeous and shocking tale . . . Taber’s poetic, vivid language bathes us in cultural beauty and harsh realities, her psychological insights into the costs of a clandestine life are fascinating, and her ability to electrify history during the era of ‘red devils’ make this memoir a sizzling read.”

— **CAROLE GEITHNER, author of *If Only***