



# Living Well Is the Best Revenge (Modern Library)

*Calvin Tomkins*

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## **Living Well Is the Best Revenge (Modern Library)** Calvin Tomkins

In this enchanting memoir, New Yorker writer Calvin Tomkins re-creates the privileged world of Gerald and Sara Murphy, two American originals who found themselves at the center of a charmed circle of artists and expatriate writers in France in the 1920s. Their home in Antibes, Villa America, served as a gathering place for Picasso and Léger as well as Hemingway and Fitzgerald, who used the glamorous couple as models for Dick and Nicole Diver in

*Tender Is the Night*. A bestseller when it first appeared in 1971, *Living Well Is the Best Revenge* features sixty-nine intimate photographs collected from the Murphys' family album, along with reproductions of several of Gerald Murphy's remarkable paintings--canvases that predate Pop Art by forty years.

"*Living Well Is the Best Revenge* is a superb little study, alive with an elegance very much the Murphys'," said Nancy Mitford. Critic Russell Lynes found the book to be "at once a sharp and charming evocation of an era and a cast, mostly delightful, surely famous, and usually talented, written with an elegant balance between tongue in cheek and sympathy."

This Modern Library edition includes Calvin Tomkins's new Introduction and a rewritten last chapter.

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