



The Gypsy Tearoom

Nicky Pellegrino

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Raffaella Moretti, by far the most beautiful girl in the southern Italian town of Triento, is about to marry the only boy she has ever loved. It seems that nothing but happiness lies in store for her, so the last thing she expects is to find herself, one short year later, down on her hands and knees, scrubbing the layers of dirt from the floor of a strange house. As Raffaella struggles to recapture her own lost happiness, she starts looking for ways to help those around her do the same. There is Silvana the baker's wife, her passion barely hidden; Carlotta the gardener's daughter with her mysterious grief, and the kind and gentle owner of the Gypsy Tearoom who offers Raffaella friendship. As the lives of these villagers interweave, Raffaella is pulled into the center of a conflict that threatens not only to divide Triento but also to destroy all she holds dear. Filled with food, love and longing, this heartfelt novel invites you to take a seat in the piazza of Triento, somewhere between the bustle of the market stalls and Silvana's sweetly-scented bakery, and become a tiny part of the endless spectacle of life.

The Gypsy Tearoom Details

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Author : Nicky Pellegrino

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From Reader Review The Gypsy Tearoom for online ebook

Ana Luisa Henriques says

Este livro tem sabor a Itália e a beleza de uma pitoresca vila, com vários sentimentos à mistura.

É um livro um pouco mais pesado, em que se nota menos a vida familiar italiana e as suas barulhentas demonstrações e em que o final me soube a pouco pois queria continuar a acompanhar Raffaella. No entanto, é um livro que, apesar de não nos contar a história toda e de algumas personagens terem finais que não eram os cor-de-rosa que queríamos para elas, parecem completamente certos e encaixados no devido lugar.

Como sempre, sabe bem voltar a Nicky Pellegrino e à bela Itália!

Carol She's So Novel?? says

This is the final book I read while on holiday. I wrote reviews for the others, but have only incomplete notes for this one. Just got bored... & I left the book at my accommodation.

Set in the fictitious Italian village of Triento, (some time in the twentieth century) this is the story of the bland & beautiful Raffaella.

Pellegrino's bio says she spent her childhood summers in Italy, so it is surprising that she couldn't make her characters come alive. The only time when there seemed to be any life in this book was in the descriptions of food. The writing style is flat & amateurish.

The cover on my edition is very misleading as Raffaella is in funereal black for 95% of this novel.

Yuliya says

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Rachel says

Set in a small Italian village, a light story that follows the short marriage then widowhood of the beautiful Raffaella. It painted a picture of the village and its characters-some of them I wanted to slap-but the storyline itself felt slightly naive and wooden. The best part was the food descriptions-she would make a wonderful restaurant critic or food reviewer!!

Allison Winchester says

It took me a long time to read this book but am happy that I stuck it through. At first I just felt there was no hope for Raffaella, actually I felt that way until just after half way through the book. Even by the end of the book I am not sure I ever got a true picture of who she was but there were glimpses throughout.

After Half way through I couldn't put it down I just had to keep reading. I guess although it wasn't as I expected I was really happy with the outcome of the novel. I felt that she had finally made peace within herself and had found a bit of whom she wanted to be. I loved at the end that she held her head high as she walked through the piazza...that to me was significant. A good read but jut took me too long to start enjoying it!

Anne says

I enjoyed every page of this wonderful book. Food, romance and Italy - the perfect combination to pick you up on these chilly days.

Raffaella has always lived amongst the fisherman in Little Triento but when she marries into the Russo family she moves up the hill and up in the world. Until her new husband dies and she is left a widow. The small town is filled with gossips who instantly target Rafaella and she seeks refuge as a housekeeper at the Villa Rosa. Triento is divided by plans to build a grand statue on the cliff - using the town's money that was left by a wealthy man. The American man hired to design and build the statue is staying at the Villa Rosa and Rafaella soon builds up a friendship with him that again will set tongues wagging.

The settings in the novel are wonderful, the small-town life, the magnificent characters, including the Traffic Warden, who is very funny and so well drawn. The fabulous food descriptions are so mouth watering and form the backbone of the story. The pizzas in the Gypsy Tearoom to the wonderfully elaborate meals that Rafaella cooks at the Villa Rosa - all of them will make you so hungry and desperate to visit the region.

For anyone who enjoyed Anthony Capella's The Food Of Love - then here is another that you cant fail to love. I'd recommend this for a couple of days when you need some comfort reading.

Marta says

I don't think I have ever read a duller "novel" than this one. Apart from the cultural inaccuracies and misspelling of Italian words (more accurate research would have helped), what I found extremely irritating is the plethora of stereotypes about the Italian culture and the depiction of unlikely situation (e.g. Carlotta deciding to become a nun after she finds out that her long lost daughter is being brought up in the local convent and the nuns agreeing with her decision). A waste of time, I am glad I did not pay a penny for the book as I got it from a local book-crossing group. A pile of rubbish. I rated it one star because I could not rate it anything less than that.

Liba says

Rafaella marries Marcello Russo, the eldest son of the local rich family. But an year later her husband dies of cancer. Alba, his mother, blames Rafaella, speaks of poison. Rafaella has to leave her new home -to make place for the next Russo son and his wife (Stefano and Angelica), who will run the family shop instead of Marcello.

There are 7 churches and 7 priests in the village. They offer Rafaella a job as a cook at Villa Rosa, where an American architect will stay. The priests want Eduardo, the architect, to build them a statue of Christ, something like in Rio de Janeiro. Now the villagers are divided, as some want the statue, and some (like Rafaella's family) are against. So trouble starts in the local cafe- The Gypsy Tearoom, which burns down.

There are several stories in the book. Rafaella's friendship with Ciro, the owner of the Tearoom, is frowned upon. Then there is Silvana, the baker's wife (and later, his widow) and the mayor, Giorgio. There are Rafaella's parents, her younger sister and older brother, Sergio. There is Carlotta, the gardener's daughter, longing for her daughter and doing everything in her power to find her.

This story isn't set in a particular time, although to me it felt like taking place in mid-20th century. I couldn't put it down till I finished the book.

Ines Norton says

Há muito tempo que queria ler este como outros livros desta autora e fiquei alegremente surpreendida com a escrita da autora e só me aumentou a vontade de ler mais coisas desta autora. Só detestei uma coisa (quem me conhece vai perceber a "private joke" e compreender o porquê da minha frase), com tanto nome bonito italiano porque cargas de água ela foi escolher aquele nome detestável e que de italiano não tem nada para o irmão da Raffaella, é que me escapa...

Recomendo...

For a long time I want to know this author and this book only made me want to read other books of her, I was surprised by her writing and will soon read more of her work... I only hated one thing with so many beautiful Italian names why did she choose such a horrible name as Sergio (not in the least close to Italian) to the girl's brother (it's a "private joke" that can only be understood by those who know me...) I recommend it...

Zézinha Rosado says

Foi a minha estreia e fiquei agradavelmente surpreendida, o que me fez ficar com vontade de ler mais livros escritos por ela.

A história gira em torno de Raffaella, jovem filha de um pescador, que desde criança se apaixonou por um rapaz da terra, de famílias abastadas. Chega finalmente a altura em que casam e a vida que Raffaella pensou ser de sonho, rapidamente se transforma em pesadelo, com a morte precoce do jovem marido.

A partir daí, visto que é rejeitada pela família do marido, tem que se fazer à vida e arranja emprego.

Começa então a conhecer novas pessoas e novas realidades, nunca desfazendo os laços com o passado e sem esquecer a memória do falecido marido.

No meio de todo este enredo há a construção de uma estátua na vila onde vive, ideia acarinhada por uns e

odiada por outros, facto que também vai fazer com que Raffaella seja apanhada na teia dos acontecimentos. Livro recomendado a quem gosta de leitura fácil e relaxante.

Moon Love says

I loved how this book started off and the middle. The ending, however, left me wondering at what point did the book come off the tracks? All in all it's a very good book.

Helen says

Seemed to take me a long time to finish this book but nevertheless it was enjoyable from start to finish.

Vera Neves says

Esta é uma das minhas autoras de eleição. A sua escrita é agradável, descreve os pormenores que prendem o leitor e desenha uma história cativante que nos delicia até à última página.

A Cozinha Italiana está sempre presente nos livros de Nicky e este não é excepção, mas no caso, será um tipo de cozinha tradicional, em que a autora faz questão de recorrer á base dos produtos italianos e com coisas simples fazer deliciosos manjares.

Raffaella é a nossa protagonista. Apesar de vir duma classe de pescadores da vila de Triento, ela “apanhou” o coração do rapaz mais belo e o qual pertence a uma das famílias mais respeitadas e ricas da vila.

Depois do casamento de sonho, ela não esperava que a sua felicidade tivesse os dias contados. E uma tragédia deita por terra todos os seus sonhos.

Viúva e sem sítio para onde ir, aceita a proposta dos padres e vai trabalhar para a Villa Rosa como governanta. Será aí que ela estará a par das notícias a respeito da construção da Cruz, situação que divide a aldeia em termos de opinião e de classes, pois o arquitecto responsável ficará hospedado nesta linda Villa.

No entanto, o enredo vai trazer outras histórias: a bela história de Silvana, infeliz e perdida, a quem Raffaella e a mãe darão uma ajuda na Padaria e também no amor, aqui com o apoio do dono da pizzeria Casa de Chá Cigana, que nutre um grande amor pela nossa protagonista. A história de Carlotta, filha do jardineiro da Villa Rosa e que esconde um segredo, responsável pela sua infelicidade. A história dos pais de Raffaella, família de pescadores, humildes e que tudo farão para fazer valer a sua palavra. Mas irão eles longe de mais? Poderá Raffaelella salvá-los?

Lê-se de um trago e quando acaba, desejamos por mais. Recomendo.

Pauline says

Good read but not as good as The Italian Wedding.

Hilary Bishop says

An easy read.

Based on the west coast of Italy this story shows the lives of the villagers, the divisions, the expectations, all based around one young woman from the lower village who marries a man from the upper village, and when he dies soon after the marriage his family blame her and take revenge. While this is happening the upper village wants a statue of Christ built on the mountaintop above the village and this divides the village even more.
