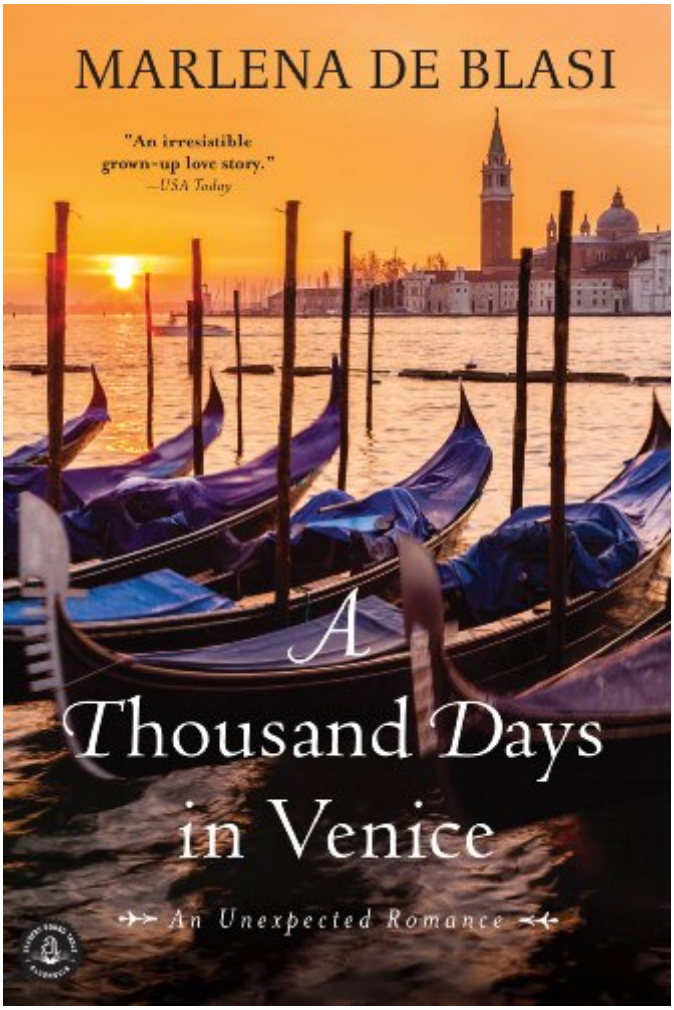
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A Thousand Days In Venice: An Unexpected Romance



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Synopsis

Fernando first sees Marlena across the Piazza San Marco and falls in love from afar. When he sees her again in a Venice cafÃƒÂ© a year later, he knows it is fate. He knows little English; she, a divorced American chef traveling through Italy, speaks only food-based Italian. Marlena thought she was done with romantic love, incapable of intimacy. Yet within months of their first meeting, she has quit her job, sold her house in St. Louis, kissed her two grown sons good-bye, and moved to Venice to marry Ã¢â ¬Å“the stranger,Ã¢â ¬Â• as she calls Fernando. This deliciously satisfying memoir is filled with the foods and flavors of Italy and peppered with culinary observations and recipes. But the main course here is an enchanting true story about a woman who falls in love with both a man and a city, and finally finds the home she didnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t even know she was missing.

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Customer Reviews

A quick, but delightful read. The author has a wonderfully romantic story to tell, of falling in love with a man AND a city, and she has a fresh and expressive way of telling it. She describes the give and take of a relationship saying, "ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â|there are seasons in the life of a couple that function,

I think, a little like a night watch. One stands guard, often for a long time, providing the serenity in which the other can work at something. Usually that something is sinewy and full of spines. One goes inside the dark place while the other one stays outside, holding up the moon." The book is filled with gems such as this. I am looking forward to reading her next book and now I am itching to return to Venice.

I am not usually fond of flowery wording, but this was enjoyable to read because I have owned a home in Italy and it deserves to have all the flowers there are. I enjoyed reading even the difficult times they had during their time together and I understood it from the American standpoint as well as the Italian. Yes, I would recommend it to be read by both men and women, especially for those who want to or have visited Italy.

An account of the author’s days as a resident in Venice. She gives up her house, business, and life in the United States to marry a Venetian whom she hardly knows (She refers to him as "the stranger" throughout the book). She does not know but a few words and phrases in Italian, and her husband doesn’t know English. This and the cultural differences cause a few conflicts which they both have to iron out. The book was interesting and held my attention. The author does a very good job of describing the city and it’s islands, the many Venetians she comes to know and love, her impressions of Italian men, favorite restaurants and bars, food and drink, a little history and art, and she does it all with some humor thrown in. A must read before a sojourn in Venice. It is the first in a series. She has also written books on her experiences in Tuscany and Sicily.

By the time I finished the book, I felt as if I’d read a series of letters from a friend, reminding me of the Venice I loved on two visits. I recalled the flirting I did, and wondered "what if?". I had walked the entire length of the city from Piazza San Marco to the railway station, and the author reminded me of many of those spots. Along with the author, I heard the water lapping as she walked along the canal, and smelled the fish frying from the osterie, and browsed through the goods at the markets by the Rialto. She wrote in prose poems, a valentine to a city of dreams. And her recipes made me hungry! I’m glad I already bought more of her books.

Loved it. It made me want to move to Venice. I’ve visited 4 times and wish I had known more about the city so I could have enjoyed it like a local as did the author. If you love Italy, as I do (being half Sicilian), and you love and are interested in Italian food, you will very much enjoy this memoir. You

will actually feel you are there with the author. She was very brave leaving all she knew (and her children) in the U.S. to follow this little-known Venitian to another world in her mid-years. I'm now reading the follow-up, (A Thousand Days in Tuscany), and can see at this point, in her heart, she's become an Italian. At many points in the story, I laughed out loud. Her descriptions of the food made my mouth water (I actually copied several of the recipes, just from her descriptions). Thoroughly enjoyable.

Hmmmm where to begin with the review...I read the cover jacket and I had to read this novel, after all who doesn't want to hear the details of a genuine love story with the setting being Venice Italy - unless you lack a pulse you will want to know the details of the romance the jacket noted. Sadly, the book was more a travel/food writing than it was a love story. Don't get me wrong Ms. de Blasi did a wonderful job painting the picturesque city of Venice and its people and culture, Ms. de Blasi even included some scrumptious recipes. I felt the author failed to touch upon the romance, after all this is a memoir of a love story. The author spent more time and detail explaining Venice and food she skipped over the love of her life. The book felt emotionally void for me, I want more details of what she was feeling and how she fell in love. Ms. de Blasi is a food journalist and it is apparent in this novel by her continued description of Venice's culinary offerings. The style is terribly descriptive (food wise, not so much in the romantic department), almost too descriptive and it seems flowery at times but...she left a enough of the story where I am wondering if the follow up novel would provide more details into the actual love story. I will add, the differences between the couple was touched upon, after all they are strangers that don't know each other and they decide to merge their worlds - you know there is going to be some potholes in their world but again, the love aspect was flat and I was wanting more details.If you're looking for a book to read at the beach or on a plane this is for you. I had high expectations for this book and I was disappointed.

A marvelous tale that is laced with wonderful cooking recipes and romance. It is a tale one finds almost hard to believe: a lady leaving her established life in middle age moving to Venice and marrying a man she calls the stranger. It is a tale of the possible; where love and hardwork create a wonderful life and good marriage. Above all, the story takes place in the city of Venice! What better location to combine love, foodand dreams! At the conclusion the reader may wish to make this move him or herself! I must admit, moving to Venice with my wife seemed agreat idea!

very boring. Didn't finish. I've been to Venice and from the authors description I did not get a feel for

the city at all. Very disappointing

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