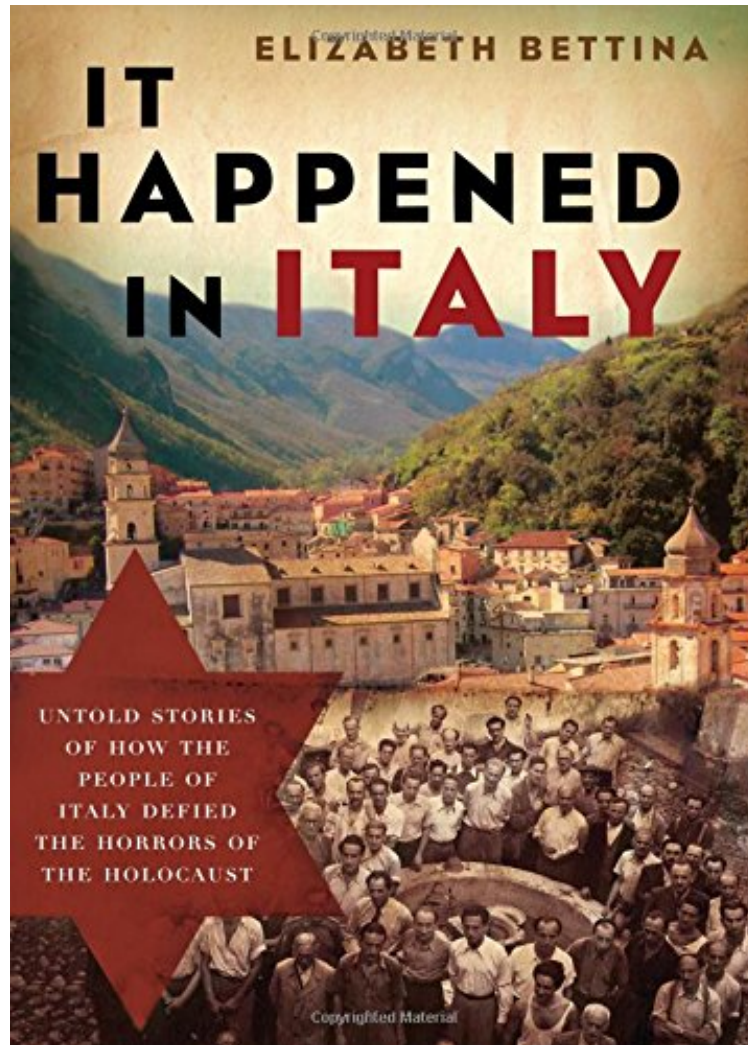


It Happened in Italy: Untold Stories of How the People of Italy Defied the Horrors of the Holocaust

Elizabeth Bettina

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Elizabeth Bettina : It Happened in Italy: Untold Stories of How the People of Italy Defied the Horrors of the Holocaust before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised It Happened in Italy: Untold Stories of How the People of Italy Defied the Horrors of the Holocaust:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A positive story with roots in the sorrow of the HolocaustBy Anthony BosnickWhen one reads about the Holocaust, it is generally stated that of all the European countries where the Nazis had access to the Jews, they did all they could to arrest them and deport them to extermination camps. And they were immensely successful across Europe. An exception to this (and there were several other exceptions as well)

is Italy where the Italian people did much to protect the Jews and save them from deportation. (It is now known that Pope Pius XII also protected the Jews by having convents, monasteries, and other church institutions/properties take in Jewish people to hide and protect them.)The hiding of Jews in a small village in southern Italy (Campagna, south east of Naples) provides the background for this book. A large part of it is the experience of the author in uncovering the story. That is a fascinating story in itself. We read this book in our Catholic parish book club and it received high ratings for telling a story most had not heard of before. There is so little good news in the Holocaust literature that finding even just a little something positive is encouraging. At the same time, such stories are important to preserve to help us understand the situation better and what made some people help others and what made others turn them in.If you have an interest in history, in Catholicism and Judaism, and in decent human nature, this is a good book to read.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Discover with the Author How Italy Saved 80% of its Jews!!!By Judy MartinI lead tours at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and feel fairly knowledgeable, but I did not know any of the information in Elizabeth Bettina's fascinating book! Instead of the expected short stories about events in Italy during the Holocaust, I was captured by the well-written experiences and discoveries of Elizabeth and other people she met. Italy's having accepted Jewish refugees with no visas after 1939, when other countries did not, was a surprise. Jews in Italy were treated graciously and were protected by the Italian people. Italians even hid Jews when necessary, simply because it was the right thing to do. The result was that 80% of the Jews in Italy survived the Holocaust!Besides learning so much, I was caught up in Elizabeth's quest for information and her never-ending search for more Jews who survived because of their treatment in Italy. The book read like an exciting adventure or thriller. The story was a mystery that I seemed to experience with Elizabeth! Although I loved the book on my Kindle, I later ordered a paperback copy of it from , to really see the plentiful maps and photographs. Now, I am looking forward to reading the book again!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Amazing to read of courage and humanity in a time when there was so littleBy RonThis is a story that needs to be told because so few really know what happened in Italy during World War II. Amazingly, Italy the ally of Hitler's Germany, defied the Nazi and their inhumane persecution of the Jews. Italy's Jews and those who were able to come to Italy were treated humanly and with compassion. While all other European countries closed their borders to Jews, Italy did the opposite. To get into Italy a visa was not even required.The Jews population was well protected. Even after Italy switched sides and became Germany's enemy and the Nazi's invaded, many of the Italians hid and protected the Jews and tried their best to thwart deportations to the death camps of Poland. Astoundingly while 80 percent of European Jewry perished in the Shoah, 80 % of Jews in Italy survived. This is an amazing story and needs to be read and told to all, young and old.

IMAGINE ELIZABETH BETTINAS SURPRISE when she discovered that her grandmothers village had a secret: over a half century ago, many of Campagnas residents defied the Nazis and risked their lives to shelter and save hundreds of Jews during the Holocaust. What followed her discovery became an adventure as she uncovered fascinating untold stories of Jews in Italy during World War II and the many Italians who risked everything to save them. Finally, somebody made known the courage and the empathy of the majority of the Italian people toward us Jews at a time of great danger. Nino Asocoli

About the AuthorElizabeth Bettina is a native New Yorkerwholived in Italy.Elizabeth graduated from Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. At present, she works in marketing in New York.