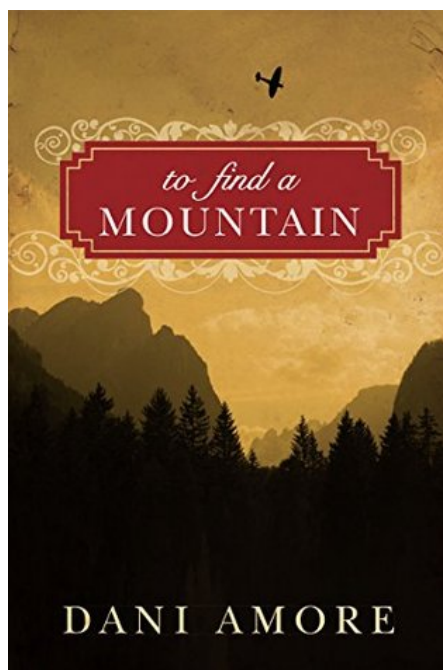




## To Find a Mountain

*Dani Amore , Dan Ames*

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# To Find a Mountain

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## **To Find a Mountain** Dani Amore , Dan Ames

Benedetta Carlesimo is no stranger to hardship. Ever since her mother died, the sixteen-year-old Italian girl has cared for her rambunctious younger siblings without complaint. Then World War II arrives on her doorstep, leaving her face-to-face with the most terrible evil she has ever witnessed.

With the Germans and Americans fighting furiously to control a strategic swath of Italy, Nazi forces seize Benedetta's village, turning her home into a command center--and forcing her beloved father to choose between fleeing or fighting on the front lines.

In the midst of great deprivation, Benedetta struggles to feed both her family and the Nazis, all the while keeping her father's whereabouts secret. Yet her blossoming love for a handsome young Italian man hiding in the mountains brings a sliver of joy to her life. But with the Americans advancing and the Germans growing increasingly desperate and cruel, Benedetta knows that one misstep could bring horrible repercussions...and only an extraordinary act of courage can save her family.

Revised edition: This edition of To Find a Mountain includes editorial revisions.

## **To Find a Mountain Details**

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## From Reader Review To Find a Mountain for online ebook

### Sonya says

A beautifully written story about war torn Italy in 1943. Nazi's have arrived in Benedetta's village and her home. She is a young but very mature 16 year old girl who takes care of her younger brother and sister since her mother's death. Since the arrival of the Nazi's she is not sure if her father is dead or hiding in the mountains from them. She meets and begins corresponding with a young man who is hiding in the mountains and they begin to have feelings for one another. This is a look into a desperate and very hard time for many in Europe who had to deal with Nazi's and their evil. But this is also a look into a young girls life and how she struggles not to give up and to try to make the best of each situation for herself and for her family. My only complaint is that the ending felt rushed. I wish it were a longer story! A great read!!!

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### Kathy says

The story is set in WWII Italy during the WWII in a small town on the slopes of Monte Casino. A young girl named Benedtta lives with her father and youngrr brother and sister. The Germans march into town, her father is sent to help at the front and Benedetta is forced to accept German officers into the home and cook and clean for them.

It's a story of endurance in the face of atrocities and I found it very interesting. However, it was written very simply, as if for children but I think it was intended for an adult audience. Wish someone could clarify.

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### Farnoosh Brock says

Gripping, easy-read and it burns somehow.

I read - oh scratch that - inhaled "To Find a Mountain" - in just two days during my trip in Japan. On trains, subway, cafes, hotel rooms, spa and at night, staying up late to finish this war story of remembrance by Dani Amore. At first, I believed that Benedetta, the female protagonist, was also the author based on some review that it was a true story but then I realized that the author is a male - Dan Ames and even tweeted with him. Okay back to the book: I Loved It.

I couldn't decide what book to pick up next and started several best-selling books recommended by friends, and I'd downloaded just a sample of this book and it pulled me in. I even started Star Dust by Neil Gaiman and still felt pulled to finish To Find a Mountain. I just love it when books PULL me in and when stories tug at your heart strings, and call you to pay attention. It is the sign of a brilliant writer.

This book is easy to read, and while I love my Tolstoy and Tokien and George RR Martins, I appreciate reading a book that is not filled with every word from the thesaurus, yet the descriptions are powerful and every scene paints a vivid picture in your mind. You miss nothing. Dan Ames is a quietly powerful writer.

The protagonist draws your attention from the very start, when she is an old woman flashing back to the time she was in Italy during the war. She beckons you to follow her back to World War II to a small Italian village of Casalvieri and to a house where the Germans invaded and occupied during the final phase of the war. And

as one who is not terribly drawn to war stories in general, I appreciated reading and learning about the impact of war - hunger, fear, desperation, confusion, anger, more fear, and more hunger - through this book. You learn the perspective of the Italians who are caught in the middle - there is a passage in the book where the German officer occupying their house says to Benedetta, "When your country is at war, everyone is a participant." There are no innocent people when there is a war, he implies, you have to take a side.

Extremely pleased to read and enjoy this book, and now wondering which of Dan Ames's books to pick up next. Have you read much by him? Hope this was useful to you and read a book a week if not more.

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### **Elizabeth says**

This is the story of a teenaged girl who must be both mother and father to her 2 younger siblings when her mother dies and her father disappears during WWII. It is set in a small mountain village in central Italy. Her family home has also been chosen by the Germans to serve as their headquarters in the town so she must cook and serve as their hostess. She is faced with decisions that even adults would have trouble making but she shows a wisdom beyond her years.

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### **Tara Chevestt says**

As I sit down and type this review, I struggle to find something to say, to make this a real review. I just want to scream, "I loved this book!" from the top of...well, a mountain--a mountain that I can reach the top of without using one of those horrid sky boxes and that has a real bathroom.

I loved it. I am so glad I finally picked up a "five-star" read. The writing is solid. The setting is realistic, the characters real and likable, as well as relatable. The romance is fast, but considering the situation, it felt perfect too. But this is not a romance book. It's the story of occupied Italy during the war and unlike most WWII occupied-type tales, it's not about rebels or anything like that. It's about plain ole' life. About a girl becoming a woman while her home is under German rule, about seeing the evils of war and becoming stronger for it.

While the Italian men run off to hide in the mountains, the women stay behind and face the Germans down. They cook for them, withstand abuse, possibly rape. They dream. They hide pigs. They keep their husbands' and fathers' whereabouts a secret, take care of their children and siblings, make sure the Germans' presence doesn't harm their children's health.

I loved this heroine. She's not OTT brave, but speaks her mind when it's necessary, stands up for those she loves, cares for others, and yet at the same time, learns to accept help. She finds love in the middle of madness, putting her "beau" in his place too. And the ending...OMG, the ending. LOVED it. That's all I'm going to say about that.

She faces so much, so very much--from the death of a friend to the possible loss of her father to feeding and hiding the pig. And everything that happens shows us a brave side of her, a strong side.

I think I forgot the 411. Benedetta is a motherless Italian girl living with her father when the Italians arrive during WWII, wanting to occupy the area for its height. From the mountains, the Germans can see all coming and going. Eventually, it's just Benedetta, her two siblings, and a helping woman taking care of the Germans staying (not by invitation) under her roof. There's fear, discomfort, secrets, and loss.

Full review and favorite quote: <http://www.bookbabe.blogspot.com/2014/...>

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### **Tracie says**

There needs to be a series; a continuation.

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### **Mary Young says**

#### **Great Drama**

Story of love and perseverance. Loved how a lot of the story takes place around the Italian kitchen. Sad and at times violent but in the end love survives.

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### **Tulay says**

#### **Incredible story.**

This is very personal story of author's Italian grandparents. Year 1944, teenage girl named Benedetta living under German occupied little town called Casalvieri. Her home occupied by the German soldiers, she is cooking and cleaning and taking care of her younger brother and sister. Conditions she is leaving, makes you understand little about the life during the war. Touching but also heart warming story. Thank you Dan Ames, sharing this personal story with your readers.

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### **Tim McWhorter says**

A good book for me is one that keeps my interest and compels me to continue turning the page when I should be out mowing the lawn. A great book, however, surpasses that to the point where I'm sneaking a chapter or two while trying to look busy at work. But, there is one more tier of books that does all of this, yet still raises the bar even further. These books are the ones that actually affect you. Stay with you long after you've put them up on the shelf alongside countless books you know you've read but can't even remember the plot. Sleepers by Lorenzo Carcaterra...Dark Places by Gillian Flynn...Night by Elie Wiesel. One more book I will be adding to that exclusive list is To Find A Mountain by Dani Amore.

Basically, at the threat of sounding cliché, TFAM has heart. A whole lot of it. And it sucked me in and made reading this book personal. I didn't just like Benedetta, with her charm, strength and spirit. I cared about her. Wanted to protect her. The German soldiers didn't just irritate or annoy me. I hated them. I wanted to kick their asses. The father, with his reserved strength and integrity, is someone I felt a kinship with as a father myself, understanding why he made certain decisions. Everyone in this book causes you to feel something, on some level.

The only bad thing about all this, is that being sucked in so personally to a story like this, it's bound to leave one with unanswered questions and a strong desire to know more. But, that's what makes books like this one so good. They affect you. You remember them. And that gives them life. They will live in your memory

forever.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

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### **Lewis Weinstein says**

This is a splendidly written historical novel, written in form of a first person memoir from the point of view of a teenage girl. The setting is Italy in 1944-45, when Germany occupied Italy and the Americans came to throw them out. The action is set near Mont Cassino. The story never drags and kept my attention throughout, after which I re-read the prologue, which I found very moving.

An observation ... all references are to Germans, not Nazis. I am coming more to that view in writing my own novel on the period in Germany and Poland during the late 1920s and early 1930s. It is too easy, I think, for Germans to pass off the blame on a subgroup called Nazis when all Germans share that responsibility, except for the very few who actually tried to resist.

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### **Mama's says**

Although for the most part, I enjoyed this novel, it fell a little short for me and lacked true emotion. Having read and enjoyed many novels surrounding this time period in history, I must admit that the depth of this narrative is sparse (especially having recently read *Nightingale*, by Kristin Hannah, which was exceptional). However, I did appreciate the Italian POV regarding the German occupation. Sadly, I didn't connect with any of the characters, and had a hard time with the romance in this novel as it formed too quickly, and was, therefore, not very believable.

Personally, I felt that the story would have been more well-rounded had the author delved into Benedetta's adulthood after the war, since she begins the story as an older lady. The end of the novel felt a bit abrupt.

Also, there have been some readers that have touted this as a decent read for Junior High, and I respectfully disagree. The level of violence and instance of rape make it much more appropriate for older highschool level and beyond, in my humble opinion.

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### **Melora says**

I cannot understand why this book gets so many 5-star reviews. It was so cliched and trite, it could have been an animated Disney movie about an Italian heroine during WWII. All it was missing was the musical numbers. The romance between the two main characters was poorly developed and difficult to believe, as was the other romance thrown in at the end of the novel. It was a short book, thankfully, and I listened to the whole boring narration, counting down to the end of this predictable story. It's not a good sign when I find myself hoping the main characters hurry up and die so I can move on to a better book. I finished it in its entirety so that I could write my not-so-glowing review, in contrast to the ones that convinced me to start this snore fest.

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## Wanda says

The story begins in 2011 - Benedetta, an Italian, is now living in Florida. Through her life she has known great joy, but also great tragedy. Benedetta has just buried her husband of fifty one years. She begins to reminisce on her life many years earlier - 1943 - when the Second World War came to Casalveri, a small village in Italy. The Germans arrived one fall morning and took control of Casalveri without a single shot being fired. The Germans would be taking over small villages along an East and West line across Italy. And the story begins ---

Benedetta has become the head of the household when her father leaves them to find a hiding place in the mountains. Their home has become the headquarters for the Germans. She has two younger siblings to look after and she prepares meals for the Germans.

The Germans did not consider the Italian people human. In their eyes they were lower beings. They forced the Italian civilians into the hardest, most dangerous jobs on the front, carrying ammunition, gasoline, and retrieving the wounded. They saw the Italians as a good way to conserve their own forces. Better an Italian die on the front than a German. The Italians were told for every German soldier who dies, ten of them (Italians) would be executed.

There is a lot of intrigue in the storyline during the German occupation of Italy. But, it read like a YA novel - just a very easy, interesting read (although I wouldn't recommend it for a younger teen) and I stayed engaged throughout.

A couple negative comments - The characters had very little depth and I didn't connect with them. Also, the story ended very abruptly, almost like the writer ran out of steam. For that reason I rated this book 3.5 stars.

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## Bonnie says

I enjoyed the history in this novel, and came to care for the main character and her family. I felt these characters could have been developed more. The ending seemed rushed, though parts were good, while other plot lines seemed to come out of nowhere. My biggest disappointment with the ending: the story started in the present but didn't finish there letting you know how any of the characters relationships turned out.

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## Jan says

Wow, what a story and its based on true events! It had me in tears a couple of times. Dani does a wonderful job of pulling you in to the story and you don't want to put the book down once you get there. Its based on an old lady's story about WWII when the German's invaded her town in Italy when she was a teen growing up. Dani makes you feel the horror, terror, anger and yes even love when the German's move in and take over. This story will stay in your thoughts for a long time afterwards.

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