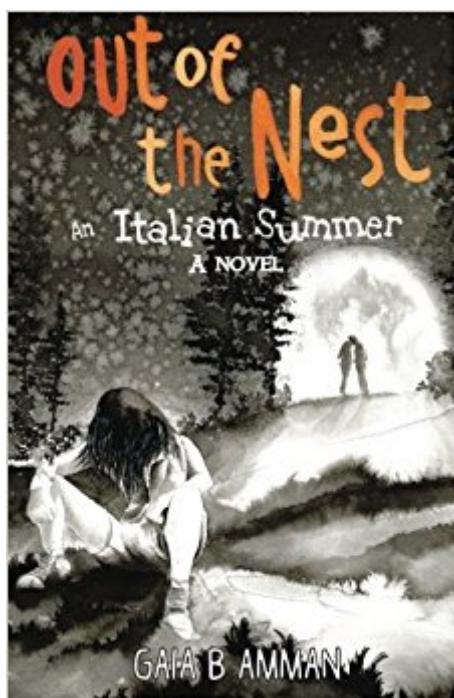


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# Out Of The Nest, An Italian Summer (The Italian Saga) (Volume 2)



## **Synopsis**

Crushes, friendship, and intrigue against the gorgeous backdrop of Northern Italy. ITALY, 1990. LEDA is a bookworm and a tomboy. As her world splits into girls and boys, she can't seem to fit anywhere. On the background of the 14th FIFA soccer world cup, Leda embarks on a new series of adventures dealing with hormones, periods, zesty boys and her own fears in what will be the best summer of her life. Set against the gorgeous backdrop of Sardinia, the Dolomites, and Tuscany, this humorous yet insightful journey through first love, friendship, and first kisses will leave you breathless, marveling at the customs of a country most people think they know.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I simply love everything in this book and think this is a story for everyone, and I mean everyone. For full grown ups and for the ones today are the same age as Leda. --Clarica --Very true to my experience of being a teenager in Italy. Reading about Leda's adventures brought me back to my childhood/adolescence and put a smile on my face. The story is sweet and captivating, highly addictive book!-- Marilena P --it was amazing!!! I have never laughed so hard in my life.--Zarsanga Jalalzai --Goodreads

Gaia B Amman was born and raised in Italy. She moved to the United States in her twenties to pursue her PhD in molecular biology. She's currently a Professor of biology at D'Youville College in Buffalo, New York, where she was voted "the professor of the month" by her students. Her research

and commentaries have been published in prestigious peer-reviewed international journals including *Nature*. A bookworm from birth, she wrote throughout her childhood and won two short story competitions in Italy in her teens. Gaia is an avid traveler and many of her adventures are an inspiration for her fiction. Mostly she is passionate about people and the struggles they face to embrace life. Her highest hope is to reach and help as many as she can through her writing as well as her teaching. She authored the *Italian Saga*, an irreverent series of humorous and insightful young adult novels taking place against the gorgeous backdrop of Northern Italy. The books, light-hearted and funny at first sight, deal with issues like sexuality, divorce, friendship, abuse, first love and self discovery.

*Out of the Nest* is a great book that is very engaging to read. The author really transports you into the life and psyche of the main character, Leda, as she journeys through her formative years. I don't typically read this genre of books but these books always hold my attention and I cannot wait to see where the adventures of Leda lead to.

Fun read

Set in the small town of Arese, in northern Italy, from 1989 to 1990, *Out of the Nest* continues the story of tomboy Leda, which began in *An Italian Adventure*. Leda is now eleven, her parents have separated, she's living with her mother, and her sister has gone off to college. Leda still has a massive crush of Nico but, as her little friendship group slowly breaks apart, she is thrust into new situations and finally makes friends with some girls. During a busy summer holiday, Lena spends time at the pool in her gated community, at summer camp in Tuscany, at the seaside with her father and his new family, and at Torreglia with her mother and her best friend. As the book's title implies, Leda is like a bird who has left the nest and has started exploring the world beyond her family. She experiences her first boyfriend, her first break-up, and her first kiss. But through it all, she never forgets Nico. The author evokes the sights, sounds, and smells of the many places Leda visits throughout the story. There are references to the music videos, television shows, and icons of the era, as well as to the FIFA World Cup, which was held in Italy in 1990. Religion again features strongly, with Leda still praying regularly to Jesus. As hormones surge, sex is also a major topic of interest among Leda's new group of friends. Still, while television shows depict sex nightly, the children live with the incongruity of the taboo of talking about it. Leda's story is written as a memoir, so she is wise beyond her years, with a vocabulary to match. Once again, the writing contains some

editing errors (mainly in speech patterns and word choice), but these allow us to hear the author's true (Italian) voice. The book ends on a cliffhanger, and I look forward to the reading the next book and another chapter in Leda's life. Discussion questions are included at the end of the book. I received this book in return for an honest review.

Let me start off by say this book was amazing! The author has a very unique writing style. She transports you back in time to when you were younger. She tells things like they are and isn't afraid to talk about certain subjects. This book is great for teens as it speaks with experience about what thoughts enter their heads, but also great for adults who may have forgotten what teens have to go through. This book takes place in Italy in the summer of the 90's. We follow a girl named Leta. This story was amazing! I couldn't put it down! I would recommend this book to people.

"Out of the Nest" is great for anyone who loves introspective descriptions and a read that leaves you wondering - "Did I also act that way?" and "have those feelings?". Even though the first person story is from the vantage point of a teen girl (Leda) the narrative looks at her inward emotions as well as the ones by the friends and family around her. I give the author a lot of credit for being able to tap into these feelings with such clarity. The book chapters never end dull. I'd say this is the perfect book for teens as it speaks with experience about what thoughts enter their heads, but also is great for adults who may have forgotten the nuances of being a teen. I think this series is a win win for parents with teens, and teens with parents! Super insightful and maybe more importantly, riddled with funny scenes you can't walk away from.

How to make the adventures of an Italian teenager in the 90s interesting and engaging? For Gaia B. Amman it is possible. And it is a wonderful journey for the reader who is able to live again the emotions of teenage. Read it and you will not be able to stop, you will wait impatiently for the next one! I personally love the way she puts Italian words between the text and I like her English style. I suggest to the Italian reader to read it in English and not wait for an Italian translation!

I loved the first book, and the second was even better. By better, I'm talking about the writing. I expected to become interested in Leda's (Lee's) life because life brings depth to your years; however, I did not expect the writing to step up to the challenge of conveying complexities as well as it did. There's a fire here, a real commitment to not leaving hardships and joys to the imagination. You will experience them, too.

A tender and sparkling adventure of a girl as she discovers the preadolescent and complicated self. The story details an enthusiastic summer in authentic Italian style. Jokes, friendship, love and fear are just a few of the dimensions of this novel, one you read sinking on the couch, while happily and nostalgically letting your mind wander back in time. Gaia's work begins as an absorbing novel and becomes a pleasant reminiscence. It's a book for everyone, I sure loved it.

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