

***Stars in an Italian Sky* by Jill Santopolo**

Stars in an Italian Sky is a stand-alone novel written by Jill Santopolo. The story is written with two different timelines, in two different countries, about two different couples.

Giovanna and Vincenzo met in 1946 in Genoa, Italy. Vincenzo lost his older brother in WWII and finds himself needing to fill in the family role as the manager Villa Della Rosa, a family owned vineyard. He is also the only surviving son of Conte D'Alba. Giovanna is the daughter of a tailor, an excellent seamstress who is working with her father and sister in a small family shop in Genoa. Giovanna and Vincenzo meet when he brings his brother's clothing into the shop to have it tailored to fit himself. Distinctly separated by their heritage and the current political unrest, the two are drawn to each other and fall in love.

The second timeline, labeled "now" is set in New York City. Cass and Luca are two urban Americans, in love and heavily involved in their careers. Cass is devoted to her work and the upward climb in the fashion industry. Luca is an artist, and recent interest in his work has brought him to the top. They are both of Italian heritage. Cass's family has been in America for two generations, and while she has traveled in Italy, her roots and family are in the United States. Luca's family is still heavily involved in the family vineyard in Italy.

When Luca and Cass visited Italy, Luca came up with his newest inspiration for a series of paintings that will be a contemporary view on the Roman gods and goddesses. Luca recruits Cass and several of his family members to pose for his vision, including his grandfather. Cass suggests her grandmother would provide the perfect age model to complement Luca's grandfather, and since she has recently moved in with Cass's parents, she is nearby and available. No one suspected the two had already met, many, many years before.

Santopolo's love for beautiful words and images shines in this love story. Slightly different from some of her earlier writing, *Stars in an Italian Sky* is an easy read with a predictable ending.