



# The Year I Will Never Forget: Diary of My Italian Grandmother

Lucia Irene Riva

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When I was young my grandmother handed me 76 handwritten pages of script from her childhood in Italy. Orphaned at age seven, Lucia survived her impoverished childhood, as well as the Italian-German war of 1917-1918, living under one roof with enemy soldiers. Lucia shares her memories of the tragedies of war, as well as the fragile human bond that exists, even between enemies. She actually became friends with one of the soldiers and remained friends after the war.

The original copy of "The Year I Will Never Forget", was translated to English by her sister-in-law, Genevieve Riva, and submitted to True Story Magazine in 1939, and was sent a rejection letter. This final version is my attempt to complete my grandmother's dream of having her story published. I hope to have conveyed my grandmother's words as they were written, and more importantly, her beautiful Italian spirit.



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