

# Gabriella's Travels



**Jenny Ford**

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## **Acknowledgements**

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I would love to know your comments and thoughts about this book. You can leave your feedback via the retailer you purchased from or email me. Reviews can also be left on my website.

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## **Also by Jenny Ford**

A Collection of Inspirational Guided Prayers.

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## **About the author**



After a dramatic career change when diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, Jenny's life took a complete turnaround. Forced to give up her very successful business as a beauty therapist in her home town of Hertfordshire, in the UK, Jenny had no idea that she would end up becoming an author. Jenny says: 'No one was more surprised than me when I wrote my first book. I had no interest in writing at all, not even as a child. I literally just fell into it which has now become my passion. I guess you could say I was Divinely Guided!'

'Through the process of writing, I have been extremely blessed to have written several books and even adapted one of them into play. I am a strong believer that 'everything happens for a reason' and truly believe that without the knocks and challenges, I certainly wouldn't be where I am today! The main focus of my writing is positivity - I love writing things that make people smile. I am continually inspired and gain motivation by the different people that I meet every day, which drives me to be the best that I can.'

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# Chapter 1

The Rossini family live in a beautiful picturesque town called Positano, situated in the Campania region of Italy on the Amalfi coast where they own a small patisserie. There was mama Rosa and papa Joe and their four children, Anthony and Mario who were both married and Michael and their youngest and only daughter Gabriella. The Rossini patisserie was well known for its delicious pastries that had been passed down through generations of Rossini's using only the finest ingredients. The taste and textures of the pastries were divine. People would come from nearby towns to purchase them.

All four children helped in the patisserie, Anthony who was the eldest and Mario the second eldest helped papa make the pastries and Michael and Gabriella helped mama out front. Michael was heading off to Paris soon to finish his last year training to be a chef, his dream was to one day own his own restaurant and be one of the greatest chefs in Italy. He loved working at the patisserie and helped his parents out every time he came home. He had learnt a lot from his father but it's not where he wanted his career to be.

Gabriella was eighteen and just left school, she was quite a determined girl and knew what she wanted. Ever since she was a little girl she would say to her family “when I'm old enough I want to travel all around Europe and explore all the different cultures.” Her family would laugh.

“No Bella” papa would say. “You will work here in the family business; this will all be yours one day.”

I'll be an old lady by the time that happens she thought to herself. I will go to Europe; I will save every euro I get. And that is exactly what she did.

Gabriella's parents started to pay her for working in the patisserie when she was twelve years old. It was only a few euros but as she got older the money went up, and was paid even more in the high season when it got really busy. She also did extra work in the evenings helping students with their English language as Gabriella's English was excellent.

In her spare time Gabriella would study the map of Europe and mark off all the places she wanted to visit.

“Gabby you're not really going to do it?” her friends would say.

“Of course I am I want to travel before I get married so I can then tell my children about all the wonderful exciting places I have seen.”

“Your parents will go mad!” added Maria. Maria was Gabriella's best friend; they had known each other ever since kindergarten.

“I know” replied Gabriella “but by the time I'm twenty I would have saved enough money and then I'm off.”

Gabriella worked hard at the patisserie working all the hours that she could. She would fit in as many English classes just so she could earn extra money for her travels.

It was the weekend, and Maria came to see Gabriella.

“Hey let's go to the cinema? There is a really funny film on.”

“I don't feel like it,” sighed Gabriella.

“Come on, you need to have a bit of fun, you work all hours, you need to let your hair down.”

“I would prefer to just stay here and do something.”

“Gabby it's not going to make a huge difference to your bank balance!” Maria joked sarcastically.

“I know; I just don't feel like going to the cinema.”

“You really are serious about this travelling?” said Maria.

“You know I am.”

“Well we have to do something? Let's meet the others down at the lakes.”

“Okay.”

The lakes were beautiful, especially in the summer. This was the local gathering place where they could swim and it was free! All of Gabriella's friends knew of her travelling plans, some of them would tease her about it, only because they were envious, the others were very excited for her.

“I wish I had your confidence to travel alone” exclaimed Angelica. “Are you not scared?”

“Not at all I'm excited, just one more year.”

“Gabby! Angelica! Come on its lovely in here,” shouted Maria.

It was an extremely hot day so the water was very inviting and refreshing.

“What are you going to wear for your party tomorrow,” asked Maria?

“I'm not sure yet, something very glamorous!” laughed Gabriella.

And with that they enjoyed the rest of the day having fun at the lakes.

Next morning Gabriella woke up full of excitement, mama and papa were organising a party with family and friends for Gabriella's birthday. papa made a beautiful cake with lots of lovely different fruits, and mama made salads, pasta dishes and prepared different kinds of meat, and of course some yummy Rossini pastries. Gabriella loved family gatherings especially birthday ones!

"Morning Gabriella," smiled mama and papa. "Happy birthday Bella," they said, giving her a big hug. "Now, what would the birthday girl like for breakfast?"

"Ooh, pancakes and blueberries please with a glass of freshly squeezed orange."

So, what are you going to do today whilst we get prepared for your party?"

"I am going to meet my friends for a milkshake and just hang out."

"That sounds nice but please makes sure you are back in time to get ready for your party."

"I will," replied Gabriella as she went to get ready. "Thank you for the lovely breakfast." She kissed her mother goodbye.

Gabriella met her friends at café shake.

"Happy Birthday Gabby!" shouted her friends.

"Thanks everyone."

"So what did you get?" asked Marco.

"Don't be so rude," replied Angelica.

“What! I only asked what she got for her birthday, what's wrong with that?”

They all laughed.

“I don't know yet,” beamed Gabriella, “I get them tonight.”

“Well, we have all chipped in,” smiled Angelica, “it's not a lot but we thought it could go towards you're travelling funds.” She gave Gabriella 80 euro's.

“Guys, thank you so much, that will help a lot.”

“Just one year to go,” added Maria. “Have you planned where you want to go?”

“I have, I will tell you nearer the time. Let's enjoy today and look forward to tonight!”

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“Gabriella, are you nearly ready? Your guests will be here soon.”

“Yes I'm coming.”

Gabriella wore a lovely sky blue halter neck dress that just passed her knees, white flat shoes and accessories. She felt very glamorous.

“Gabriella you look beautiful,” beamed her proud parents.

“Thank you. I feel beautiful.”

The guests started to arrive, wishing Gabriella a happy birthday.

“Grazie,” she replied.

The Rossini's were a big family there were so many uncles, aunts, cousins. It took a while to greet everyone, and then all of Gabriella's friends started to arrive.

"You look great Gabby."

"Thank you, you all look great too."

"Wow there are so many people here," remarked Angelica.

"I know. My parents invite the whole family to everything!" she said smiling.

The evening was going really well. There was a lot to eat and drink, some of the uncles were entertaining everyone with music and songs, which got people up and dancing. Everyone was having a great time, especially Gabriella.

"Can I have your attention everyone," announced papa. "First, I would like to thank everyone for coming to celebrate our little bambino's birthday."

"Papa!" sighed an embarrassed Gabriella.

"Sorry, I mean our very grown up beautiful daughter." Everyone laughed. "And thank you all for your kind gifts. I would like you all to raise your glass to Gabriella."

"Now bring in the cake!"

It was a very big cake made with lots of lovely fresh fruit. It took two people to carry it. As the cake was being brought in Gabriella screamed. It was being carried by her brother Michael who had flown in especially from Paris. As he put the cake down Gabriella ran and threw her arms around him.

"What are you doing here?"