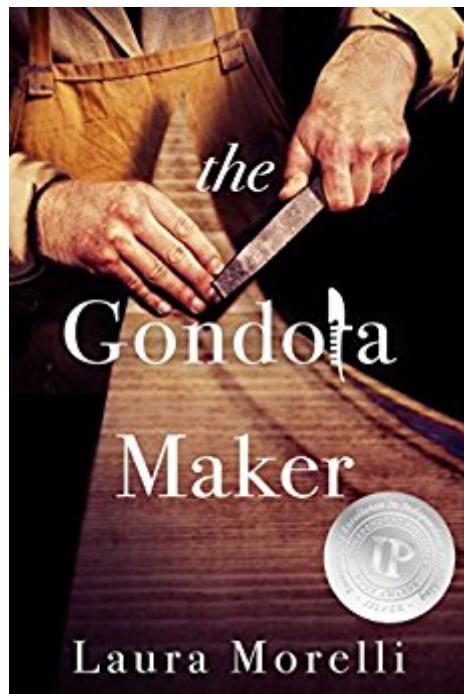


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The Gondola Maker: A Novel Of 16th-Century Venice



Synopsis

Award-winning historical fiction set in 16th-century Venice

Benjamin Franklin Digital Award

IPPY Award for Best Adult Fiction E-book

National Indie Excellence Award Finalist

Eric Hoffer Award Finalist

Shortlisted for the da Vinci Eye Prize

From the author of *Made in Italy* comes a tale of artisanal tradition and family bonds set in one of the world's most magnificent settings: Renaissance Venice. Venetian gondola-maker Luca Vianello considers his whole life arranged. His father charted a course for his eldest son from the day he was born, and Luca is positioned to inherit one of the city's most esteemed boatyards. But when Luca experiences an unexpected tragedy in the boatyard, he believes that his destiny lies elsewhere. Soon he finds himself drawn to restore an antique gondola with the dream of taking a girl for a ride. The Gondola Maker brings the centuries-old art of gondola-making to life in the tale of a young man's complicated relationship with his master-craftsman father. Lovers of historical fiction will appreciate the authentic details of gondola craftsmanship, along with an intimate first-person narrative set against the richly textured backdrop of 16th-century Venice.

A Venetian page-turner

"I'm a big fan of Venice, so I appreciate Laura Morelli's special knowledge of the city, the period, and the process of gondola-making. An especially compelling story."

--Frances Mayes, author of *Under the Tuscan Sun*

Laura Morelli has done her research, or perhaps she was an Italian carpenter in another life. One can literally smell and feel the grain of finely turned wood in her hands.

--Pamela Sheldon Johns, author of *Italian Food Artisans*

"Romance, intrigue, family loyalty, pride, and redemption set against the backdrop of Renaissance Italy."

--Library of Clean Reads

"Beautiful, powerful evocation of the characters, the place, and the time. An elegant and thoroughly engaging narrative voice."

--Mark Spencer, author of *Fiction Club: A Concise Guide to Writing Good Fiction*

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Customer Reviews

Synopsis From the author of *Made in Italy* comes a tale of artisanal tradition and family bonds set in one of the world's most magnificent settings: Renaissance Venice. When Luca Vianello, the heir to a renowned gondola-making enterprise, experiences an unexpected tragedy in the boatyard, he believes that his destiny lies elsewhere. Soon he finds himself drawn to restore an antique gondola with the dream of taking a girl for a ride. Lovers of historical fiction will appreciate the authentic details of gondola craftsmanship, along with an intimate first-person narrative set against the richly textured backdrop of 16th-century Venice. Review *The Gondola Maker* is a unique novel set in 16th century Venice. Luca Vianello is the eldest son of a gondola maker. Like his father and grandfather before him, Luca is expected to inherit and run the family business. His parents want him to marry a girl in order to form an alliance between their two families. A tragic accident causes Luca to flee, leaving his family and the business behind. As he creates a future for himself, his personal journey becomes compelling and the knowledge of his craft is never out of his mind. Author Laura Morelli has delved deeply into the Venetian Republic and the historic craft of gondola making, not only describing the process, but also its history, why gondolas are black, why they were burned, and the strict code of the gondoliers with their secret language used to maneuver the vessels through the numerous canals and waterways. The story flows beautifully, unimpeded by the details and historical research. It is all the lesser known details about Venice that truly makes this novel stand out among all others. Born with Venetian roots, I truly loved this story because of its compelling characters, vivid descriptions, and that it taught me much that I never knew before about this fascinating city.

I loved this book! The author is such a wonderful storyteller and I can't wait to read more of her books! The characters are very well written and will stay in my memory. The main character builds gondolas in Venice with his family. When his mother passes away he decides to make a career change and leave the family business behind. However, his journey leads him to restoring his

grandfathers gondola. As he is doing this, he learns a lot about his family and leads him to learn life lessons that surprised him. I don't want to tell too much about the story because it is a MUST read and anyone who purchases this book will not be disappointed! Loved it and it was a quick read!! received a free copy of the book in exchange for an honest review.

The author is coming to our area to unveil her latest book... So I purchased both her previous works for the book signing As a lover of historical fiction, I can hardly wait to wrap myself in the 16th century world of one of the most romantic cities on Earth.

For whatever reason the formatting of this book on my Kindle is horrendous. The book consists of one long paragraph sporadically interspersed with gibberish letters and numbers. It may be a wonderful book but it is, at least in Kindle format, unreadable. I requested a refund and had it deleted from my Kindle.

I enjoyed Ms. Morelli's novel very much. Not only was the story engrossing, but the historical details of Venice, 16th Century life, & gondola building impressed me. She obviously did a massive amount of careful research. I congratulate her on her efforts & recommend the book to anyone with an interest in a good read or learning about something little known today.

I loved it. I've been to Venice twice and it made me want to go back. It also gave me a whole different picture of the gondola drivers as well as the work, love and talent that goes into those boats by the makers.

I loved this book! I have ridden gondolas in Italy, but never fully appreciated the craft it takes to make one. The main character in this story is a young man who is the eldest son of his father, a famous Venetian gondola maker, as was his grandfather. This young man is destined to inherit his father's business. When his mother dies giving birth to a child, the son is overwrought. He is angered that his father impregnated his mother when she was too old. On the morning of his mother's funeral, the son was beyond furious to find his father in the shop, working on a gondola. The son lashes out at his father, takes his arm and brushes all of his father's papers off a table, causing a massive fire that destroys the gondola workshop. The son runs away, changes his name, and begins his life over in Venice. The reader learns about a famous painter in this story, and reads about the betrayal of Venice gondola sailors and local intrigue concerning patricians and the clergy.

This is well written. I read it in a day!

Author Laura Morelli has written a wonderful book, that's almost a 5 star book, and would have been if the ending of her book was written differently. To put it bluntly the novel's resolution or ending was a let-down. In fairness Morelli does create a novel that is well paced and well researched. Her writing will take you back to a time when Venice was filled with artists, nobility, wealthy and when gondoliers plied their trade. Her story is told by a young boy whose family built gondolas and he was destined to become the next head gondola maker. Instead his destiny is changed and the young boy becomes a gondolier and tells about what he sees in Venice. Eventually he is hired by an artist and he later meets a wealthy young woman thereby allowing the reader to see more of his world through his eyes. The end of the story is a bit of a let-down as I have written earlier. If the story was re-edited, this book would most certainly earn a 5 star rating as it is a very fine book indeed. For a first effort, and this is Morelli's first work of fiction, it is a fine book indeed. Recommend. The above review was written after receiving a review copy for review.

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