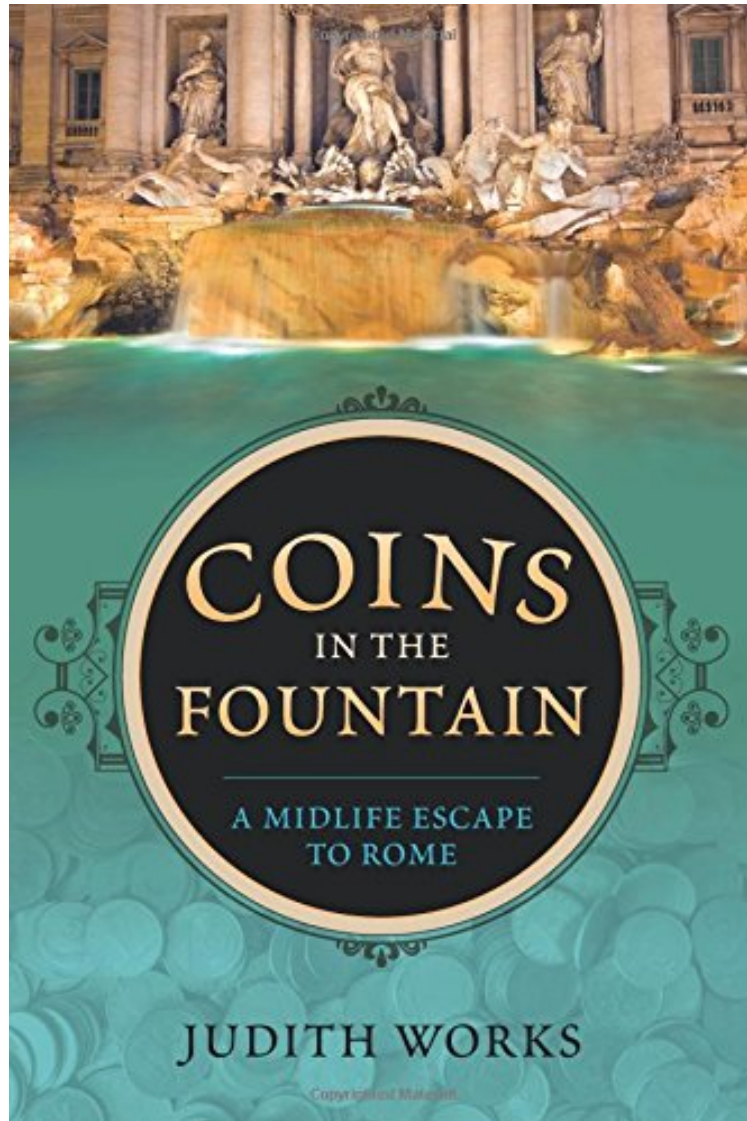


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Coins in the Fountain: A Midlife Escape to Rome

Judith Works

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Judith Works : Coins in the Fountain: A Midlife Escape to Rome before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Coins in the Fountain: A Midlife Escape to Rome:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Expat Romp in RomeBy Kay in SeattleThoroughly enjoyable read! The unusually fresh and sharp detail together with the fast-paced story and historical background to everyday sights and experiences is a complete delight. References to and quotations from poets and philosophers add an underlying spice to this story of middle-aged, first-time expats who have discoveries and disasters galore. The excitement of the

deep deliciousness of a European life is front stage, the characters met in the course of it are a full stage show; the reader is THERE all the way through this Italian adventure in lifestyle change. The suggestions of music and wine to accompany one's reading are whimsical but apt and set a sensuous tone for a story of profound shift where only superficial change had been the original goal. I learned a lot, and just enjoyed "being there." Rome and Italian life are one enveloping delight, but the characters and mores of the UN life are an unexpected fountain of gurgling oddity. The essence of the expat life is there, the life of the true expat rather than the enthralled visitor. Ahh, somebody gets it, I thought. Very easy to read in one sitting, but even if the vigor and fire call for a break, the eagerness to get back to reading stays strong. Just wish the Kindle app indicated page numbers!! Grammar was a perfect delight, even if a blue pencil would have helped elsewhere on occasion. But this is minor next to the enormous pleasure of reading the book. I want to stop writing a review and go back and read it again!! 10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Lovely and Evocative By Columbia This book is a charming, yet thought-provoking memoir of a couple's mid-life move to Rome. Unlike some other stories by foreigners about life in Italy, *Coins in the Fountain* doesn't shy away from the gritty and dismaying side of Italian life. There are plenty of lovely lunches under the grape vines, but also destroyed furniture, car accidents and a shocking near-death experience in the Rome subway. There are ancient ruins and quaint villas, but also Fascist architecture and a friend's escape out of an apartment balcony. *Coins in the Fountain* paints a vivid picture of expatriate Italian life; the fabulous food, fascinating history and eccentric characters. There are also several intriguing sections on the couple's travels in Europe and the wife's business trips to destinations such as Cambodia and Ethiopia and the challenges she faced reconciling the deprivation there with the abundance of life in Italy. Be careful about reading this book, as it will make you want to quit your job and board the next flight on Alitalia! 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. INTERESTING AND ENTERTAINING! By Babs Imagine embarking on an adventure that most of us only dream of? What intrepid courage does it take to pack up your comfortable life as you know it, travel halfway around the world and begin a ten-year odyssey in a foreign land? This story combines humour, poignancy, and adventure woven into the everyday challenges of adapting to a new culture, language and social order, in both a new home and workplace. The author describes travels throughout the Mediterranean so vividly that the reader feels you are there. There is a real sense of the juxtaposition of the beauty found in the seat of classical antiquity with today's pleasures found in good food, wine, fashion and art. Intertwined is the account of incredible experiences while working for UN organizations; we are treated to a glimpse into the demands that must be met to deliver basic survival assistance to address poverty in the world. *Coins in the Fountain* is both an informative and an entertaining book that piques your interest from the first page.

With middle age looming, Judith Works decided it was time for a change. But after graduating from law school at the age of forty-seven, she still faced the question "What now?" Casual conversations about far-off travels with husband Glenn became a reality with the offer of a dream job at the United Nations in Rome, Italy. *Coins in the Fountain* brings to life the challenges of acclimating to the beautiful and chaotic ancient city of Rome. Works shares her struggles of learning the arcane rules and folkways of the UN while Glenn begins his valiant effort to cook Italian-style, as they both endeavor to embrace *la dolce vita*. With an extraordinary count and countless for friends, dogs in the doctor's office, snakes and unexploded bombs on the golf course, along with a sinking sailboat, the unexpected was always just around the corner. Through wit, wry humor, and enticing descriptions of food and travel adventures, Works takes you on a journey into the heart of what it is truly like to live in the Eternal City. According to Roman lore, if you toss a coin over your shoulder into the famous Trevi Fountain, the gods will grant you a return trip. When it was time for them to leave, Works made that hopeful toss of a coin and her wish was granted.

"You don't need Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck to enjoy this delightful Rome holiday... Her sense of humor is nicely threaded throughout the book, as is her knack for telling observations, whether she's speaking of a cathedral, a Roman ruin, or local prostitutes... Overall, what the writer wishes to share is achingly simple: 'We ate, we traveled, we befriended, and we learned to manage the demands in another country.' Armchair-travel books are rarely as good as this one." -- Kirkus s "Her wonderment grows and with it the reader embarks with her on adventures, enthralled by her discoveries and simple pleasures - mainly food it has to be said (and what's not to like about that!), as she fills her book with a rich pot of interesting observations and facts, peppered with useful tips. She herself masters the art of sprezzatura (or as much as someone who is not born in Rome can) - the art of making the difficult look effortless." -- Trip Fiction From the Author Dear readers - I hope you enjoy this tale of adventures and misadventures of two innocents who look for and find *la dolce vita* in Italy. Come with me to savor what it is really like to live in Rome. About the Author Judith now lives with her family in the Pacific Northwest after ten years in Italy. In addition to her memoir, she is the author of a novel set in Rome which will be forthcoming later this year. She is working on a second novel and enjoys writing flash fiction. She always tosses a coin in the Trevi Fountain when in Rome to ensure another visit. Her website is www.judithworks.net.