

POSTCARDS FROM VENICE

DEE ROMITO



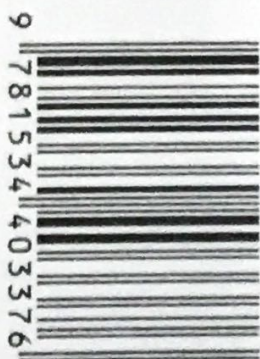
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REAL LIFE.
REAL YOU.

DEE ROMITO is a former elementary teacher, the author of *The BFF Bucket List* and *No Place Like Home*, and a coauthor of *Best. Night. Ever.* Always a traveler at heart, she's sent postcards of Big Ben from London, of snow-capped mountains from Switzerland, and of majestic castles from Ireland. And though she's only been to Italy once for a quick plate of pasta, sending a postcard from Venice just might be on her bucket list. You can visit her website at DeeRomito.com.



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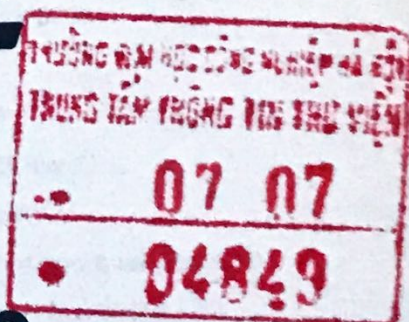
Also by Dee Romito

The BFF Bucket List

Best. Night. Ever.
with coauthors

No Place Like Home

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m!X

Aladdin M!X

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For my dad, who showed me the world.
And for my husband, Rob, who gave me the world.

ONE

I can't wait one more second to see the Floating City in real life.

Rushing past my mom, I push open the glass door of the train station.

The pavement and roof make a frame outside the terminal, surrounding a beautiful panoramic shot of Venice. It's like I've stepped right into a painting.

People are everywhere. They're sitting and standing and pulling suitcases. They're taking photos and selfies and talking on cell phones. They're speaking in a million different languages.

I run down the steps and don't stop until I reach the Grand Canal. Mom finally catches up.

We stand still, not saying a thing. I have no words for what's in front of me.

I'm here.

I'm really here.

There's a stone building with a big green dome taking over the scenery and a big bridge to my left that crosses over the canal. I wonder what's on the other side, behind all the buildings.

Boats of different sizes go by one after another, leaving small waves behind them.

I've spent six incredible days touring Italy with my mom before she starts her new job. And now for the rest of August, we'll be living across the lagoon from Venice while she works.

"We don't have a whole lot of time, Skyler," says Mom. "I do need to get to the office at some point today."

Mom wanted to stay at our new apartment on the mainland and then swing by the office, but not me. No way. I convinced her to take the quick train ride into Venice for some sightseeing first. I've been waiting my whole life to experience this place.

"Can't you start work tomorrow?" I ask. I don't mean it, of course. Six days is already *way* more than Mom has ever taken off work.

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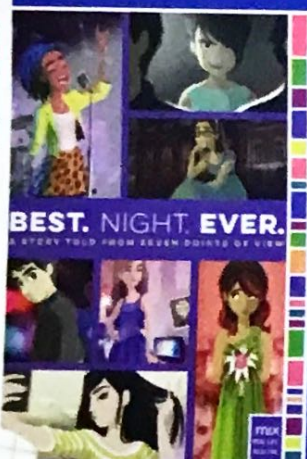
I'm here.

I'm really here.

FLIP OPEN TO
THE INSIDE
BACK COVER
FOR MORE OF
THE STORY.

Skyler is about to go on the biggest adventure of her life. Her mother has been relocated to Venice, Italy, with the possibility of a long-term move. While there, Skyler will be part of a mentorship program and will be blogging about the city—a position that could lead to even bigger things if all goes well.

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If you liked
*Postcards from
Venice*, then
you'll love *Best.
Night. Ever.*

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