

Review of Forty Years In A Day

Unread post by [Vivian Stones](#) » 29 May 2023, 20:20

[Following is an official [OnlineBookClub.org](#) review of "Forty Years In A Day" by Mona Rodriguez.]



5 out of 5 stars

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Mona Rodriguez displayed a high level of skill in this book, *Forty Years in a Day*. The book starts with the narrator's father telling her his life story. In his story, he bares the details of his life; he talks about the good and bad times, the hurdles, and most importantly, the blessing of family. He also includes details from the life of his mother. After his story, he shares more information with the narrator, his daughter, which will intrigue everyone who comes in contact with this book.

Coming across a good read is a blessing to every reader, and this book is undoubtedly one. It is not an easy feat to tell a historical story spanning decades without confusing potential readers.

However, Mona had me in her clutches, taking me through decades of the history of the Montanaros. I loved how Mona Rodriguez was able to connect the reader to the emotions of her characters; creating relatable characters is an essential skill in writing.

I very much appreciated the author's penmanship, beautiful writing, and use of words. I also loved how she infused historical and notable events of America into the book. Also, I loved the way Mona ended the book. When I thought the story was ending, she hit her readers with another shocking and thrilling revelation. Most of all, I loved how she depicted the importance of love for family and the feeling of completeness it brings. This deepened my belief that there is no greater relationship than that which you have with your family.

The only thing I did not appreciate in this book was that it was too tragic. So many tragedies befell the Montanaros, which made the book heart-wrenching at some point. Apart from this, the book was superb. Mona Rodriguez is a master in her field, and I look forward to other readers being able to read this book and share in its delight.

I rate this book **five out of five stars**, as it was an exhilarating, beautiful, and captivating read. The book was also professionally edited. The aspect of the book I disliked is insufficient reason to deduct a star. Hence, I cannot give this book a lower rating. I would recommend this book to all book lovers and enthusiasts, as I believe this book is suitable for all readers. I specifically recommend it to lovers of history.

Forty Years In A Day

<https://forums.onlinebookclub.org/viewtopic.php?f=63&t=319799>

CHAPTER OUTLINE

Confirmation of Private Blurb

This page is to allow you to confirm the private blurb the reviewer wrote about the ending. Please note, **this page does not contain the actual review**. This is just a short additional blurb that reviewer wrote privately to you about the ending, so that you can confirm the reviewer read the whole book.

NOTE: This page does NOT contain the review. The private blurb below is NOT from the review.

May 29, 2023, 9:21 pm - **The reviewer wrote:**

Prologue

The narrator talks about giving her father the perfect gift on his 90th birthday, seeing life through a new different lens and asking her father if he remembered it all. He takes her hand and tells her he does, like it was yesterday and starts to tell her from the beginning, from what he knows from his mum's journal, starting from the event that made her to flee Italy to America.

Chapter 1

Caivano Italy, 1906

In this chapter, Angelina tells Alfredo that she gave Victoria their savings to go to America with the children to be with her brother Dominick which enrages Alfredo for having lost his family and their savings too.

Chapter 2

Six years earlier, 1900

Victoria sees Salvatore for the first time and is curious to know more about him as the only thing she knows is that his mother took her life, as she goes home she inquired from her dad, Alfredo who tells her why he cut ties with Salvatore's father, Francis, his second cousin and also warns her to not go close to Salvatore, this spoils her mood and she manages to communicate this to Genevieve, her best friend and also her brother Dominic's wife. As she sleeps she thinks about Salvatore and seeing him again the next day.

Chapter 3

Victoria and her family go to church to celebrate the harvest of grapes, after mashing the grapes in the vat, Salvatore walks up to Victoria and tells her that he saw her watching him the other day, he tells her this in a flirtatious manner, after this there is a feast of so much to eat with lots of dancing, Victoria's father is called upon to tell one of his tales and he talks about when he worked for the King of Italy, when

he finishes and everybody is dancing, Salvatore comes to Victoria and tells her he wants to show her something, after slight hesitation she follows him to his family land where he shows her a pond filled with lilies, saying it's his favorite place. They plan on meeting in that same place next day.

Chapter 4

Victoria tells her mum about going to see Salvatore the next day and she is forbidden from seeing him. After nights of acting okay and like she's over it, she sneaks out and goes to meet him at the pond, with time their friendship turns to love and Victoria summons up courage to tell her brother, Dominic who tells her to tell her parents, after so much procrastination she finds out one day that she is pregnant and wonders about the shame she'll be bringing to her family.

Chapter 5

In this chapter, Victoria is scared about her pregnancy and finally tells Salvatore about it, they match to her parent's house and Salvatore asks for her hand in marriage and breaks the news of her pregnancy to them, her father rejects him and calls Victoria a whore, after they leave, Angelina questions him for reacting that way and he falls and clutches his heart, he questions her for not watching Victoria, but Angelina tells him that they cannot be apportioning blames and that they must face the music to protect the face of their family.

Chapter 6

Victoria and Salvatore walk in the fields as he asks them to elope to America using the way her father just treated her as excuse enough to go but she refuses and goes back to her house. The next day early in the morning she runs to Dominic's house and tells him of her pregnancy, she also begs him to go and talk to their parents. Dominic succeeds in talking to her parents and a date for the wedding is set, they are wed and all the villagers attend not suspecting a thing. Victoria and Salvatore moves to a cottage that belonged to his grandmother at the edge of the village, he dots and takes care of her through out her pregnancy, even her father regained a little softness back for her, even though this is not what he wanted for her. Victoria gives birth to a healthy baby boy with auburn hair and big round hazel eyes that looked just like hers.

Chapter 7

Dominic who has always wanted to go to America finally finds the courage to tell his parents and despite their hearts breaking at him wanting to leave them, they give him and his wife their blessing, on the night before he goes there is a farewell party for him and the next morning some of the villagers escort him to the ship as he leaves.

Chapter 8

In this chapter, we see the decline of Victoria's marriage gradually with the birth of each of her four

children, Salvatore had turned out to be his father's son and did not care about his family and was drinking himself to stupor. One day Angelina is fed up as she sees the decline in her daughter and its effect on the children, she calls Victoria, hands her a bag of coins which is she and Alfredo's savings and tells her to leave with the children and go and meet Dominic before she loses it one day and takes her life like Salvatore's mother did, she refuses as she doesn't want to leave her family but Angelina gives her time to think about it. Victoria wonders about going to a new country and through the letters her brother had sent she envisions herself there.

Chapter 9

Victoria is finally brave enough and plans to leave for America, her first son Vincenzo is almost five when she tells him and his brother the story about going to America, a place for the best children and the next day, before dawn, she packs them up with some of their belongings and goes away, leaving Salvatore behind.

Chapter 10

Salvatore wakes up and notices the absence of his wife and children, he goes to his in-law's house to look for them and Angelina breaks the news to him and shuts him out of her house. He goes home, drinks to stupor, mounts his horse and comes back to his in-law's house to make trouble. As Alfredo hears his voice he marches outside in anger and shouts at him, this startles the house which flings Salvatore leaving him with a broken head and other injuries, Alfredo and Angelina grudgingly help him and then inform his family of his accident, when they arrive they inquire of Victoria and the news is given to them that she has left with her children, they apportion blames on her saying that what kind of woman will do that and she is the reason for Salvatore's accident. Angelina and Alfredo tell them that he was drunk and Salvatore also confesses that he is the reason for their departure which silences them. The next day Salvatore dies and Alfredo contemplates calling Victoria back, an idea his wife kicks against as she sees no reason in calling her daughter back to more sorrows. Alfredo sends Dominic a telegram just saying that his sister Victoria is coming.

Chapter 11

Victoria and her children arrive at the ship at Naples after a long walk and are checked for diseases before they pay for their ticket, they enter the ship and settle down. Vincenzo meets a new friend Antonio and together with their little brothers they spend their day exploring the ship. One night they wake up and go to the kitchen after seeing it during the day and are caught stealing milk, they are given the milk and warned not to come back ever again. The boys explore as Victoria finds solace in the friendship with other women, telling those that ask of her husband that he has already gone to America and is expecting them. With time they are all hit with sea sickness and just manage to survive before getting to America when they are asked to abandon ship due to it sinking and moved to a lifeboat with just their most valued possession. On the ship they are beaten with hunger and finally one they see a steam ship ahead which

carry the last survivors and eight torturous days later they arrive at America.

Chapter 12

As they reach Hudson they wait their turn and are taken in for many check ups and examinations, Victoria sees how many people are asked to go back without their families due to one ailment or another. Finally they pass all the screening and have to wait for Dominic to pick them up as single women must be escorted by a man out. Dominic arrives and they embrace them with his heart filled with tears, he asks of Salvatore stating that their father didn't mention him in his letter and Victoria brushes off the topic, he introduces himself to the children, relieves Victoria of her two daughters and they enter a ferry bound for home.

Chapter 13

Dominic tells about the discrimination and mistrust in Hell's Kitchen, having gotten its name from the troubles it encompassed. They reach Dominic's small apartment and she and Genevieve embrace each other and weep, they eat to their satisfaction, Genevieve bathes the children and allows them to sleep soundly giving Victoria a reprieve. Later that night she tells Dominic about their journey and how she thought they were going to die, she also tells him of how Salvatore turned out to be like his father which angers him so much. He allows her to sleep and the next day as Genevieve sees him off to work, they wonder how they will feed five more mouths but are optimistic nonetheless, later in the morning, Genevieve explains to the children how they're cousins and takes them on a walk to view the city. Victoria wakes up later in the evening, joins them for dinner and listen to her two sons Salvatore and Gennaro talk about the train, carts with lots of stuff for sale and tall buildings they saw.

Chapter 14

Due to the more responsibility in the house Genevieve had to take up work from the factory which she and Victoria spent their days completing. One day Victoria told Genevieve that she wants to move out, rent a room with the money she has saved and find a border, she finds a room just across the building of her brother and moves in with her children, dropping a sign indicating that there is a room for rent in front. One day Lorenzo shows up and rents the room, he is found worthy by her brother and is good with the children and with time Victoria starts making efforts on her looks to impress Lorenzo which looks to turn out futile as Lorenzo has to move out as his work takes him anywhere. After Lorenzo leaves Victoria is angry at herself for letting herself fall for a him and decides to guard her heart. However one night Lorenzo shows up in the house, declaring that he could not bear to leave her

Chapter 15

Gennaro falls ill and Victoria watches as he depreciates everyday, praying and hoping that he gets well. Lorenzo finally goes to get a doctor who diagnoses him with tuberculosis and gives him some drugs, telling Victoria to keep the other children from him as it is contagious. The illness doesn't go away and

soon they have to take him away to a hospital, a charity spot that has been offered to him by Doctor Stern. Victoria spends her day in misery hoping and praying for a miracle for her son, she finds out she's pregnant and loses the baby without telling Lorenzo, she wonders if it is punishment for her sins of taking her children away from their father. One fateful day as she goes to church, Lorenzo receives the ashes of Gennaro as he has been cremated to prevent the spread of the disease, he wonders how to break this news to Victoria. As Victoria returns from church she sees Dominic, Genevieve and Lorenzo with their faces filled with sadness and she knows that her son is dead. She cries and asks for his body but they explain to her that there is no body and hand her the crevice where the ashes lay. She questions God and beats herself up, blaming it all on her immorality. Few days later, mass is held for Gennaro's burial and he's ashes take rest in Potter's Field, a final resting place for those who died alone and indigent, which was most of the populace of Hell's Kitchen.

Chapter 16

Vincenzo starts school and he is not happy about it, he meets Antonio on the first day of school and their names are changed to be more American; Vincent and Antony and with time they are given nicknames Vinny and Tony. Vinny and Tony skip classes on some days deciding school was no way to make money, they go from gambling to taking menial jobs to exploring the city for fun during school hours. One day Vinny is sent out of school by his stern teacher for smelling like garlic as his mother made him wear garlic on his neck to prevent him from illnesses. This made him to wear the garlic only when leaving the house as he continued with Tony with menial jobs.

Chapter 17

Victoria gets pregnant again and this time she tells Lorenzo who showers her with love through out. One night she goes into labour and with the help of Genevieve she gives birth to a bouncing baby boy which she names Santo after Lorenzo's father. Victoria felt blessed in this moment but was still hunted by the thought of Salvatore which is quenched when a letter arrives from her parents to Dominic finally telling her about the death of Salvatore, he relays this letter to her and she is not so happy about the fact that this was kept from her which and how the thought of a dead man has been keeping her on edge. She shows this letter to Lorenzo who sees it as an opportunity to propose to her which he does, this helped in relieving Victoria of the emotions she felt from Salvatore's death. As Santo grows he is diagnosed with a respiratory disease which quells his bouts as a child, but with the help of the children and Victoria, they try to help him manage it. However all these hurdles make Victoria miss the simplicity back home.

Chapter 18

The author talks about the Sunday ritual of the two families and how they all looked forward to spending Sundays together, especially the children. The author talks about how they attended St. Raphael's because of the sermon in Italian which reminded them of home and the large meals they ate after. In this chapter, Victoria tells Lorenzo that she is expecting another baby which makes her worried as the

apartment is too small to accommodate another child, Lorenzo tells her not to worry about it that they'll move a bigger house. After six months Victoria is shocked with twin girls which are named Rosa and Louisa, Victoria is overwhelmed with taking care of them and is assisted by her other daughters Gabriella and Catherina, as the twins grow they turn out to be different in both looks and character. Rosa having a passive nature and Louisa always being energetic.

Chapter 19

At the beginning of the chapter, Vinny and Tony mistakenly burn down a house as they roast potatoes. The author shows how they manage to outsmart bullies and other of their escapades. Vinny is finally caught by his mum that he doesn't attend school and manages to convince her that he can do without school. Vinny and Tony manage to get a job at a barber's shop shinning shoes, from there they land a job with Mr. Adams delivering hats, through this they land a job with a distribution company for publishers. Through this job they read a lot and it also provides Vinny's sister which just started school books to enhance their knowledge and also to while away time as they were not privileged to have toys. At fifteen Vinny changed his immigration papers to say he's sixteen and took a driving job. Soon, he got a lease on a land, got his own trucks and started a delivery business which prospered. They also assisted greatly during the World War One.

Chapter 20

Catherina starts working at a clothing factory and in busies her day with fighting for women's right. With time her boss picks interest in her and they go on occasional dinners. She even takes him for one of the women's right protest and introduces him to Mrs. Belmont. She invites him to dinner one day to meet her family and one month later he asks her to be his bride and she accepts despite him being fourteen years older than her.

Chapter 21

In this chapter, Victoria gets a letter from her mum telling them about the passing of her father and soon another letter from her aunt telling them about the death of their mother. Soon Victoria dies after not feeling well for a while, she is buried with her bible she brought from home. Lorenzo wonders why God took her at such a young age, he manages to go through his day with the help of his children.

Chapter 22

After her mother's death, Catherina is skeptical about her marriage to Philip but decides to proceed with it after a go ahead by her family. On a Monday before the wedding, Margaret, Catherina's colleague tells her some vile things Philip said about her at a bar, including ghetto family. She also tells her about a girl Philip mention called Jane. Catherina goes to confront Philip and in his defense he says he was drunk and tries to explain who Jane is her, she refuses to listen and breaks off the engagement with him.

Chapter 23

We see the simple life of Gabriella who has had to quit her job and focus on taking care of the children. Gabriella goes to get a cake as it is Rosa and Louisa's birthday and at the shop she picks up a crush on Vito, the salesman at the shop. Louisa and Rosa return from school and are feeling mischievous, they pick up their father's cigarette and mimic the way he smokes it, Louisa takes it too far by lighting it and actually smoking it, while she's choking on the smoke, Santo walks in and so they have to toss it and move out of the room, they lure Santo out of the room after which he notices smoke in the house and goes to check it out, Louisa falsely accuses Rosa as they watch the smoke increase. As Gabriella comes from buying the cake, she sees the smoke dumps all she's holding and runs to the house only to be told by the neighbors that fire service are on their way. She manages to go into the house to take their most treasured possession and some clothes. Later as their father arrives, they move houses and he blames Louisa's action on the fact that she is still a child, however they are punished by scrubbing the new house. Later that night Gabriella goes to sit outside as she cries and blames herself for what happened, as she is there Vito comes and consoles her and offers her some cake.

Chapter 24

In this chapter, we see the mischievousness of Santo that only escalated after the death of his mother, he finally gets himself expelled from school and is sent to work for his brother where he slowly turns into an alcoholic, an alcoholic before hitting puberty.

Chapter 25

We see the life of Louisa in this chapter, how she started flirting with boys, then hanging out with the wrong crowd, taking drugs, smoking and drinking until she is caught by her father who grounds her, she is calm for a short period as she is now under the watchful eyes of her family, she keeps her visit to Marco discreet buying time until she graduates from high school.

Chapter 26

With the changes that came after the war, Vinny and Tony live their best lives, partying, drinking, sleeping around etc. A job takes them to Long Island where they are privileged to meet and party with some rich girls, Sarah and Julia, Vinny and Sarah even share a kiss, they go their separate ways planning to meet in the afternoon, Vinny and Tony wait but they do not show up, they leave for New York City with Vinny's heart broken.

Chapter 27

Santo is a chronic gambler who will bet on anything, as he works in his brother's company, he takes money from his colleagues to place a bet for them and ends up being in debt, running to his brother for a loan. Santo loved to bet on race horses and later came to the conclusion that his life was in the stables,

from cleaning the stables, he learned to ride a horse which he was a pro at, always winning races, he met a girl but it didn't last due to his boorish attitude and addiction to alcohol. Soon he gets kicked out of the stables after causing one mischief or the other due to his intoxication. He goes back to work for his brother and returns to the family house filling them with excuses of how he was even tired of horse racing.

Chapter 28

After six years of the incident of losing their house to the fire Gabriella married Vito and they rented a room in the building where her family lived. They started as a happy couple with Vito still owning and managing the bakery and Gabriella working at a bar which later turned into a speakeasy. Meanwhile Vito is now a gambler spending all his nights wasting away his profits and capital at the bakery, up to the point of owing a loan shark. Gabriella finds out that she's pregnant and decides to announce it to Vito in a grand way, as she returns home to lit candles and a nice dinner and Gabriella announcing her pregnancy, he's enraged and tells Gabriella to remove the baby as he storms out of the house, he later comes back and apologizes. After the baby is born, a baby girl which Gabriella names Sophia, he starts abusing her physically and Gabriella is too scared to tell anyone in order to protect her marriage. One day her boss Charlie sees her massaging her shoulder where Vito bruised her and calls his gang friend to rough Vito a bit, however the abuse still continues, it graduates to emotional abuse after Gabriella's boss Charlie dies and the business is passed down to her. One day as he is beating Gabriella she screams and her brothers come down, Santo beats him up and Vinny tells him to go and never return.

Chapter 29

With business booming, Vinny and Tony have to move out of their old warehouse and despite the pessimism of Tony, they buy a bigger warehouse than what they actually needed, starting the New York Warehouse and Trucking Company. At the bank Tony recognizes Sarah's father as the bank president and he learns that they now live in New York, Vinny wonders that the girl he has always wanted is here in New York. With the uproar of gangs and mobs, they manage to be under the protection of McFadden which helped with the free flow of business as they stuck and played by the street rules.

Chapter 30

In this chapter, Catherina meets Blackie in Gabriella's bar and a bond forms between them. The author explains Blackie's past life and how he has been able to navigate through life. One night Blackie proposes to Catherina and despite her fear she says yes. They move into the building adjacent to Catherina's family and Blackie develops a close bond to Catherina's father as he didn't really have a good father figure in his life.

Chapter 31

Louisa and Rosa complete their high school and a feast is thrown for them, their father gifts them a gold

jewelry as they are the first to finish high school in the house. During the feast Louisa just wants to go and spend time with Marco. Rosa goes in search of a job the next day as she can no longer work part time at her sister's bar anymore because being a high school graduate makes her bigger than that. She lands a job in a law office as a typist. Louisa however had trouble finding a job and finally got a job as an operator at a phone company which she hated. Marco gets fired from his job one night as he, Louisa and their other friends are caught stealing drugs from the pharmacy where he works. He now spent his days looking for work to no avail and his nights in the solace of Louisa's arms. One night he goes home and sees his mother with a man, he gets into a fight with his mum because of this, blaming her for his father leaving them and storms out of the house, sleeping on the streets and embracing his queer self. He finally breaks things off with Louisa which leads to her getting fired from her job. As Rosa goes home during her lunch break to pick up some files she forgot, she is surprised to see Louisa crying at home and not at work. Louisa tells her that she had lost her job and Marco had broken up with her. Rosa opens up to her that she saw Marco hugging another man so she should put the puzzle together, Louisa is enraged and calls Rosa a liar, but Rosa assures her that she's not lying, going ahead to tell her that Marco threatened to kill her if she told a soul. Louisa still enraged runs to the park with a knife and stabs Marco, Rosa who was behind her begged her to get up from Marco's body so they could run away but she refused and soon the police arrived and arrested Louisa. Rosa called her boss who made provisions for Louisa to be sent to a psychiatric hospital as she was not responding to interrogations and Louisa was stuck there for months with no improvement. The doctor asked her family's permission for the electrocution measure to be carried out but still to no avail. This changed the family, especially Rosa who blamed herself for what happened. Soon Rosa went back to work and that is when her romance with her boss kicked off, she invited him for dinner one day and soon he proposed to her and she moved into his spacious apartment away from her family's house.

Chapter 32

Gabriella decides to officially and legally end her marriage to Vito by getting a divorce, she seeks legal advice from Brian who connects her with a lawyer in that speciality after getting permission from her family. After the long wait, on the day she goes to sign the divorce papers on their way back, they stop at a restaurant so her daughter Sophia can use the bathroom and just as they are crossing that road, a big truck comes barreling down, she manages to push Sophia to the other side of the road but is hit by the truck and meets the end of her life. The house is once again gloomy, Lorenzo blames himself for not being observant enough during her marriage. The family decided to keep Sophia in the family house and sell off the speakeasy to put the money in the bank for Sophia's future.

Chapter 33

In the months that followed, Catherina gave birth to Annabelle and was happy that Sophia now had a cousin to keep her company. One day while Blackie was out, the shop was robbed, in three months time the shop was robbed again and Blackie who had bought a gun in preparation of another incident like this

shot twice in the air which scared off the robbers. However his neighbor reported the gunshots and Blackie was arrested and convicted for possession of an unlicensed weapon and sentenced to a year in prison with six months probation. During Blackie's time in prison, Catherina managed to keep the children and store in order, selling soups and sandwiches to make ends meet. She also had help from her former boss at the clothing store and his wife with the children. Finally Blackie returned home after his sentence and although Catherina was happy to have him back, she noticed a slight change in his temperament. Soon they sold the grocery store and opened a restaurant where they had McFadden as a regular customer. Blackie enters an altercation with a man who accuses him of flirting with his wife which results in Blackie losing his leg from a shot the man fired at him. After this Blackie receives a letter from his wife Lillian threatening to sue him for bigamy except he divorces her fully and compensates her, with the help of McFadden and his lawyer, he goes to visit her with all she asked for and warns her to not contact him again.

Chapter 34

Lorenzo has been forced into retirement as he now has arthritis, an effect from him working years as a cobblestone layer. He thinks about his children and how they have done well for themselves. He thinks about Louisa and Gabriel which breaks his heart and soul, he spends his days in solitude doing nothing in the house. Vinny decides to lift him from this mood by employing him as a watchman in his company to keep track of goods, a job that lights up his mood. Soon Vinny and Tony both buy a Ford, which Vinny takes Lorenzo in for a ride, he shows Lorenzo his new apartment too. Later Vinny takes his family for a picnic where they all feast and bask in each other's company, first time of doing so after Gabriella's death. Vinny was fortunate of living the good life, but bad times were about to hit America as the 1920s were coming to an end.

Chapter 35

Santo has gone back to work at his brother's company and is now working closely with McFadden, however he still has his demons and alcoholism to fight which interferes with his work with McFadden. McFadden being fed up tells Blackie about what he has planned for his brother-in-law. Blackie tries to intercede for Santo but his pleas are to no avail. Santo goes missing and while his family think it's Santo and one of his normal ways, Blackie gets the information that McFadden had ordered his henchmen to inter Santo at the bottom of the East River. With time his family comes to the conclusion that something has happened to him, Vinny believing that he had gone on the wrong foot with wrong people.

Chapter 36

With the fall of stock prices and the fall of the economy, many businesses closed down including banks. Sarah's life took a turn as they had to move to a two bedroom apartment, a life so different from the life of luxury she came from. Her father after losing all one day committed suicide which Vinny read in the papers and attended. Sarah hating her new life decides to use Vinny as an escapee from her low life.

Vinny falls into her trap as he is taken with her. He spends on her and upgrades her life to the best he can afford. One day at the warehouse Tony trips and breaks his head and is diagnosed with temporary amnesia, he meets the love of his life in hospital and after he is discharged, they get married, as a wedding gift to her he buys a house in the suburbs of New Jersey where they welcomed their new child. Vinny in seeing this wanted same for himself. Vinny made Sarah special and spent money on her recklessly, she asked for a trip to Miami and he took her there, spending lavishly on gambling, however he left there a wiser man as he had seen the repercussions of not knowing when to stop in Hell's Kitchen. He finally asks Sarah to marry him and she tells him that she doesn't want children, nonetheless he agrees to marry her like that and she accepts.

Chapter 37

It was on a Sunday and Catherina was preparing the children for mass, then their visit to Louisa and the cemetery. The children complain about going to visit an aunty that doesn't know them and going to spend the remainder of their day in the cemetery. Catherina who now had her father living with her goes to wake him up after allowing to sleep in for a while so he's doesn't miss mass goes into his room and sees his eyes wide open, a smile on his lips facing Victoria's picture. She bends down and weeps as Blackie comes and sees her, he decides to take the girls to mass so they don't start their day in gloom while she calls her siblings and the parish priest. As they all arrive they reminisce on how Lorenzo has always loved his family with his whole life. Catherina tells them about how he had been calling her Victoria recently and they reckoned that he has gone to meet his love.

Chapter 38

At his father's funeral, Vinny is bothered by the unfeelingness of Sarah as she sheds no tear or feels grieved in any way which makes him wonder about their marriage. At their second marriage anniversary, he goes to a jewelry store get her something but ends up getting himself a pocket watch, fulfilling a promise he made to himself. He later goes to a clothe store and sees a model modeling fur coats which he makes to try on different coats only to realize that he is more intrigued by the person wearing the coat than the coat itself. As he leaves the store he goes to a bar and loses track of time and on getting home he is met by an enraged Sarah who he lies to that a pipe burst at work and hand her the coat which makes him earn her forgiveness. His days are filled with thoughts of Ava, the model so he visits her in hopes of getting her out of his memory, despite her reservations about him having a wife, she follows him for a drink. This marks the beginning of their meetings, from once in a week lunches to three times in a week to spending time in hotels and weekend getaways. Ava finds out that she's pregnant one day and goes to abort it but lives the place in fear, instead she goes to break things off with Vinny telling him that he can't offer her marriage so she has said yes to her boyfriend. As her sister arrives for her college break she tells her sister everything and the next day her sister marches into Vinny's office and tells him about the baby which elates Vinny. He goes to the clothe store Ava works in and tells her he wants to buy a coat and tells her to try on her favorite saying he wants to give it to the one who is carrying his child that

makes him happy, this enrages Ava and she couldn't wait for him to leave, as he pays for the coat, he hands it over to her telling her that it is for her, that her sister told him everything. He promises to buy a house for her and her parents and does just that. Vinny balances his two lives very well, spending the weekdays with Sarah and the weekends with Ava which made Ava jealous as she was sharing her prince. Vinny gets tired of this life as his baby girl, Clare arrives and he wants her to be part of his family. He summons courage and tells his sister about it and she advises him to choose his baby girl. Vinny tells Sarah that he'll be living her and moving in with Ava but she can keep the house which breaks her heart, she thinks about how her plan of using Vinny to satisfy her needs turned against her and how she now has a soft spot for him. Later on when she dies, it is not just of cancer but of the heart ache that came with Vinny leaving her too. Vinny marries Ava following Sarah's death and by then they were proud parents of two children, two years later, Ava gave birth to a boy and Vinny hoped his son will make better choices than he did.

Epilogue

New York 1991

As the sun set, Clare listened to her father as he took her on the journey of his life. She was about to leave when he told to sit down that he had one more thing to tell her. He tells her about how McFadden's lawyer made the confession to him that the former's son Patrick McFadden was actually Gennaro Montanaro and explained how Gennaro and McFadden's wife suffered tuberculosis together and she made her husband promise her that she will have Gennaro by her side if she gets well and of course with money and influence he was able to adopt Gennaro and do everything in secret. Vinny explains to his daughter how McFadden influenced their fortunes in the shadows and made sure that their businesses prospered but however could not keep a reign on Santo so he had to extinguish him. He explains to her that that now that McFadden and his family had all died in the fire that gutted their house, his will read that if his son was no longer alive, all his proceeds was to go to the Montanaros and since it as blood money he didn't want to have anything to do with it, he told Clare to use the money to build a children's hospital in memory of Gennaro. Clare reflects on all that has been dumped on her by her father and she gets up to help him so they can go, she sees that his spirit had left him but left her with his stories.

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