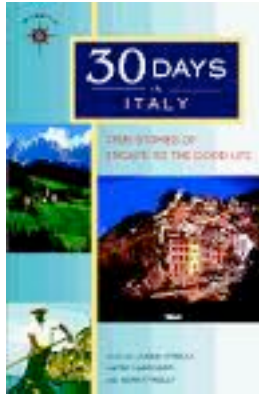


Kicked Into the Mediterranean (excerpt) From the collection: *30 Days in Italy*

by Anne Calcagno



“My sister and I left home in Italy to attend universities in the U.S., freed of our parents. We didn’t give them much more than cursory thought until, at our separate locations, we received the same bizarre packet of photos. At the center of each photo was a fissured gray storeroom barricaded by a splintered slab of wood. In front of this blight, came a picture of mom smiling, then the two of them smiling. The telltale caption read: “Our new home on the sea!” My sister and I were on the phone instantly, in clear agreement that their mental proclivities were in rapid decline, brought on by our cruel abandon.”

--from Calcagno's *"Kicked Into the Mediterranean"*