

### Chapter 1 : The miracles of Santo Fico ( edition) | Open Library

*A magical story of love and miracles After twenty years, Leo Pizzola has come back to the Tuscan village of Santo Fico, still single and still looking for a way to get rich.*

The second half definitely picks up the pace when the miracles finally come into the story, and I did grow to like the characters, in particular I thought the whole storyline with Father Elio was good. I like to read books set in countries such as Spain, Italy and Greece, if only for bookcrossing journal: I also felt that his characters did tend towards the unoriginal stereotypes - particularly national stereotypes which does make it a little shallow. As if we are all upper class country gents! People who know me, know that I can be a bit cynical, so this is never going to be my favourite book. I was actually a bit shocked by the stunt Leo pulled to teach Carmen to be a good girl - that was actually a really horrible thing to do to her, it could have so easily gone wrong. And then her knight arriving on the back of a rearing horse in a thunderstorm did he just steal that straight out of a cheap romance or has he not heard of cliches??? The woman who told me about it had also said that she thought the book is THAT good that she is telling ALL her friends and family that they have to read it. Every time I read this book I remember exactly why I love it so much. Sure I recommend it to friends and talk it up, but the way this book makes the reader feel is something indescribable. The feeling is somewhere between the cliches of sinking into a hot bath and going for an evening walk through the fields. It also makes me question my reviews of other books, This book is meant to be enjoyed sitting outside on a hot summer evening with a glass of wine and nothing important to do the next day. It also makes me question my reviews of other books, which I may have given too many "stars" when placed in comparison to this book. The message of the story is home and forgiveness and self-love, which is inspiring in its own right, but the beautiful way Smith describes the region, the people, and the dialogue is pure escapist entertainment. What the writer did differently is beyond me. Definitely my all-time favorite book. Barb I read this for our book group, and we all enjoyed it. It was a light story with interesting, memorable and likeable characters. The author has a great sense of humor and he knows when to use it. What do you think a miracle is? Is it some big, earth-shattering event? Or is it something personal that maybe only a few people know about. This made me think more about what a miracle really is.

### Chapter 2 : LitMed: Literature Arts Medicine Database

*The Miracles of Santo Fico is a combination fairy tale and fable that takes place in a small village in Tuscany. D.L. Smith weaves a story of miracles, both false and real, in this very poor, isolated village.*

Jul Summary Leo comes back to sell off the run-down family farm on the Italian coast of Tuscany, hoping for enough to finance his return to Chicago. He is plagued by memories. A tour bus is lured into Santo Fico--by ruse or by accident--and once the British visitors are safely ensconced in the hotel restaurant, Leo and his old friend Topo launch into the lucrative scam that they invented as boys: The "miracle" is the stump of an ancient fig tree that once sheltered St Francis; and the "mystery" a luminous fresco by an anonymous artist, possibly Giotto. Leo is encouraged by his dramatic success. But in the night, an earthquake severely damages the church. Yielding to temptation, Leo "saves" the fresco by stealing it in large chunks and hiding it under his bed. Surely now he will have enough money to escape. The old priest is grievously saddened and goes on a hunger strike to expiate his own sins, on which he blames the desecration. The priest is cared for by his niece, Marta. Marta already resents Leo for some transgression in their past; rightly guessing his crime, she demands that he "make a miracle" for the priest. Topo and Leo invent several, ambitious but preposterous scenarios, each of which flops spectacularly. The priest good-naturedly overlooks or fails to see their transparent ploys; yet he manages to perceive miracles everywhere else in the everyday atmosphere of his beloved village. Of course, Leo returns the fresco, of course he stays, and of course he finds love with Marta after all. The author is a playwright and professor of Theater Arts at Southern Oregon University; this is his first novel. The happy ending is not sugary, but warmly clever and satisfying. Affectionate portrayals of the homely folk, as they lust after love, sex, wealth, and freedom, emphasize both kindness and duplicity as twin aspects of human nature. The themes of blindness and sight weave throughout this visually rich novel; neither trait is wholly good nor bad, and both are vested with didactic power. Almost every character has been deceiving someone else--even if it is only herself--and often with the best of intentions. Similarly, the villagers are chronically given to spying on each other, and consequently leaping to erroneous conclusions despite generous attempts not to be judgmental. When they dare to communicate--to reveal and to see--across perceptual boundaries, miracles really do start to happen.

**Chapter 3 : Editions of The Miracles of Santo Fico by D.L. Smith**

*Story. The Miracles of Santo Fico is a dramedy that proves, like love, miracles have a mind of their own, often occurring when and where we least expect them. It is a.*

The Giuliana Legacy MostlyFiction. If you happen to click on one of links and make a purchase, we earn a commission and we always appreciate your support. Apparently when the tourists departed the restaurant, the curious villagers followed them and those who were mid-meal just brought their plates of food and glasses of wine with them. Unbeknownst to Father Elio, Leo and Franco or so it is assumed it was they took care of this problem by changing a few road signs and rerouting tourists on their way to such places as Riva Del Sole or Punta Ala into their little town of Santo Fico. So on this day, so many years later, when a stray sightseeing bus crawls its way up the long cliff road into Santo Fico and then slowly circles around the empty piazza -- and its marble fountain topped with a smiling cherub tipping a jug that long ago poured water into the now empty fountain -- and then stops in front of the Albergio Di Santo Fico, it is all that Topo needs to send him on a run to alert his old friend Marta of the impending guests. And then once he assesses the situation between the tour guide and the strangers while sipping a free glass of wine , he is off in search of his other childhood friend, Leo. Things change very little in Santo Fico, a place where residents do not concern themselves with the future when "they had better things to do -- like spending a cool evening at a verandah table with a friend, a glass of wine, and domino tiles, debating winds and cloud formations -- or like sitting at their open windows studying how distant lightening storms changed the blues of the Tyrrhenian Sea. Marta once a delightful young girl is now bitter and angry. Their father-- her husband--was Franco, her childhood friend. The truth of her marriage was revealed to her when Franco died from a motorcycle accident with a mistress on the back of his bike. For reasons that do not become clear until much later, Leo and Marta have been estranged ever since the night before her wedding when Leo went to her bedroom and Marta threw him off the balcony, never to speak to him again. Having lost his friendship with both Franco and Marta, Leo set off for America where he lived for the next twenty years. He returns now only to sell off the vineyard estate left to him by his parents. Topo, whose real name is Guido, but because he is small and mouse-like has always had the Spanish nickname for mouse, is the neutral party among the three remaining "friends. Mind you, the restaurant is not only filled with the busload of strangers, but with all the townspeople as well. It works and these English tourists offer a huge amount of money to see the church. One such is the greasy boy who delivers mail to Santo Fico twice a week. Marta fears for Carmen, but as her mother, seems powerless to stop her. It was then that they could gaze into the most beautiful blue eyes any of them had ever beheld. But it was only as her hand nimbly crept around the tray searching out the next straw basket that they realized for sure that those remarkable eyes were sightless. All villagers are interconnected in this story including Maria Gamboni and her missing husband, the man with a dog sitting at the fountain, and Angela Giancarlo a woman who once left Santo Fico to become an actress. There are numerous miracles, too. Though most are manmade, there is little doubt that there is a magical quality to this town and novel that lends one to believe that a higher power is at hand to help restore the town and its residents. This beautiful novel concludes on a pleasant note with the conflicts creatively resolved, often humorously. The after memories of this novel leave us with the happy sunny feeling just like this Tuscan town. If only all sins could be this unfettered in its absolution.

### Chapter 4 : The Miracles Of Santo Fico | Bookshare

*The Miracles of Santo Fico is one of those books that you can call "a little gem". It's the kind of story that you can breeze through and walk away from feeling good about the world. When we discussed it at the book club meeting, we each described our favorite character, and there were five favorites among eight readers.*

The town is as poor as it was when Leo left, yet some things have changed. His best friend is long dead. The woman he once adored refuses to talk to him. And, worst of all, the kindly old town priest seems to have lost his faith. Perhaps what Santo Fico needs is a miracle—even if Leo and Topo have to manufacture one themselves. Now, as one botched scheme after another unravels, something completely unexpected happens, and wonders indeed begin to transform this Italian town, including the greatest miracle of all. Published around the world, this debut novel sparkles with the Italian spirit and emotions that will dance off the page and into your heart. Review by Booklist Review Charismatic and enchanting characters, Italian scenery, and long-held village secrets make this first novel entertaining and delightful. The dusty town of Santo Fico does not have much to offer tourists, except a beautiful and mysterious fresco in the cathedral. Leo Pizzola, always the schemer, picks up a trick he started with his childhood friends and entertains a group of English tourists who arrive in Santo Fico by accident. But Leo needs to create miracles of his own. Father Elio becomes despondent, overcome by the sins of his youth, and the stubborn and beautiful Marta Fortino demands that Leo revive the old priest with man-made miracles. Uncovering these secrets generates a fast-paced and amusing novel. On the temporal plane, the novel revolves around the adventures of middle-aged Leo Pizzola, who returns to Santo Fico from Chicago. He tries to rekindle his unrequited romance with Marta Fortino, the town beauty, who makes her living by cooking for the incoming tourists. He also renews his friendship with several old comrades, but his troubled relationship with the local priest, Father Elio, surfaces when Leo steals a piece of the St. Thomas fresco during an earthquake that nearly destroys the work of art. Browsers will be drawn in by the cover art, which practically screams "Tuscany! All rights reserved Review by Library Journal Review Leo Pizzola returns to Santo Fico, the remote Italian village from which he ran away 20 years earlier, only to find ghosts from the past emerging from every corner. In his debut novel, Smith creates a fine balance of magical whimsy and earthy realism that ultimately imbues the residents of Santo Fico with renewed spirits and the ability to forgive one another and themselves. Not every secret is revealed, but the ones that are contribute to the overall cohesiveness of the story. Highly recommended for public libraries.

### Chapter 5 : Summary/Reviews: The miracles of Santo Fico /

*Miracles of Santo Fico July 3, July 3, / mxb0okx The Miracles of Santo Fico, by D.L. Smith is a book of revelations that begins with a busload of English tourists forced to make a pit stop in the off-track, po-dunk village of Santo Fico, where even the plaza fountain water supply has dried up.*

### Chapter 6 : The miracles of Santo Fico (Audiobook on Cassette, ) [blog.quintoapp.com]

*The Miracles of Santo Fico by D. L. Smith After twenty years, Leo Pizzola has come back to his native village of Santo Fico, still single and still looking for a way to get rich.*

### Chapter 7 : Miracles of Santo Fico | AmericansTurn

*The Miracles of Santo Fico. Sp S on S so S red S Â· October 22, Â· It seems to me the book is being made into a movie! I can't find any newspaper article or.*

### Chapter 8 : D. L. Smith : The Miracles of Santo Fico : Book Review

*Everyone who has read *The Miracles of Santo Fico* seems to have enjoyed it as much as I have. This book captures the essence of small town Italy and its residence. The reader is instantly drawn into the town of Santo Fico and its trials and tribulations.*

Chapter 9 : The miracles of Santo Fico (Large print book, ) [blog.quintoapp.com]

*A filmic yarn of home-coming and identity, reminiscent of Louis de BerniÃ"re's novel, *Corelli's Mandolin*, or the movie, "Il Postino," and ripe for a Fellini to pluck it for a film.*