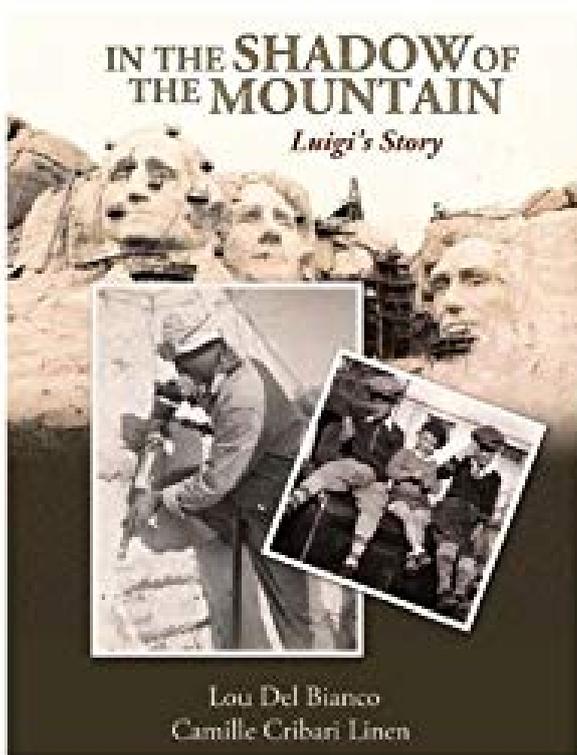


In the Shadow of the Mountain: Luigi's Story



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Didn't you love it when you discovered that King George VI, Queen Elizabeth's father, had to overcome his stutter in "The King's Speech"? "In the Shadow of the Mountain" is just that kind of untold story. The year is 1935. Italian immigrant Luigi Del Bianco, a classically trained artist, is the chief carver on Mount Rushmore. Luigi brings his wife Nicoletta and his three small sons out to South Dakota to live with him while he assists sculptor Gutzon Borglum do what has never been done before: carve a mountain. As "Bianco" climbs 500 feet in the air to bring "refinement of expression" to the faces, he is met with nothing but resistance and resentment from the powers that be on the project. His pay is withheld for weeks and in the words of Borglum, Luigi has had "chronic sabotage" directed against him by the office staff in Rapid City. When Luigi quits the work, all carving on the faces comes to a halt. Borglum persuades Luigi to stay because "he is worth more than any 3 men in America for this kind of work". Luigi's family fares no better. His sons are ridiculed for being "greaseballs" by the local bullies and Nicoletta finds herself a stranger in the far reaches of her own country. "In the Shadow of the Mountain" gives Luigi Del Bianco long overdue recognition for his invaluable contribution to our nation's most iconic memorial. Co-authors Lou Del Bianco (Luigi's grandson) and Camille Cribari-Linen tell a story about fulfilling a dream; dealing with intolerance; forming unlikely friendships and family connections. It's a story emerging from of the shadow of the mountain ...Luigi's story. This unique illustrated book is filled with authentic photos and historic documents that compliment the story and bring it to life with the turn of every page. It's a picture book for adults, one that they won't want to put down. Think, "Tuesdays with Morrie" and "Everything I Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten". "In the Shadow of the Mountain" is a story for everyone.