

Allison's Book Corner June 2023

From Scratch – Netflix

Eight-episode TV mini-series based on the best-selling memoir by Tembi Locke



In 2020, when I read the memoir on which this series is based, I was deeply moved. There was something about this woman's life and story that stayed with me long after the last page. It inspired me to start writing book reviews for the library. As I said at the end of my book review, reading this memoir awakened a part of the imagination and heart that lingered within a reader. It took me at least a week before I could visit the author's website and see actual photos of her and her deceased husband, their beautiful daughter with her Sicilian Nonna.

I am at a loss for the right words to explain the deep and abiding joy I experienced in seeing this memoir come to life before my eyes. Readers, you have an awesome treat in store. The eight-episode Netflix series based on this book is a mini-masterpiece. It thrills the senses and leaves the viewer changed within at the end.

The *From Scratch* Netflix series has become a number one hit in the United States and internationally. The series has been translated into several languages. After watching the first episode, this news will be no surprise to you. Perfectly cast (in my opinion) with actress Zoe Saldña playing the author Tembi Locke and, of course, a handsome and authentic Italian actor playing Saro. Their names in the series are Amy and Lino.

Like any adaptation for screen, certain things had to be changed; you will not be watching an exact replica of the book. What you will be watching is the deep essence of the book, the life lessons, the marrying of two cultures, the mortal humans forced to deal with death. Superbly acted with a wonderful cast, Saldaña is the big name here, but if you are a movie watcher, you will recognize many of the actors in supporting roles.

The musical score to this series adds just the right flavor. Hearing one of my favorite opera singers (Andrea Bocelli) singing in the background during the wedding scene was awesome. To my own son's dismay, he has been forced to listen to opera in my car for several days after I saw the series. This is exactly what the series will do to you: it will become a part of you, just like a well-written book. The best part of reading this book for a second time was seeing how skillfully the screenplay was done.

If you are like me and cannot take an actual vacation this summer, watch this series and read the book. Your heart will crack open, and you will be refreshed and renewed. As a widow, the author Tembi Locke has lovingly memorialized her late husband's short life. Her treasured *amore* did not die in vain.