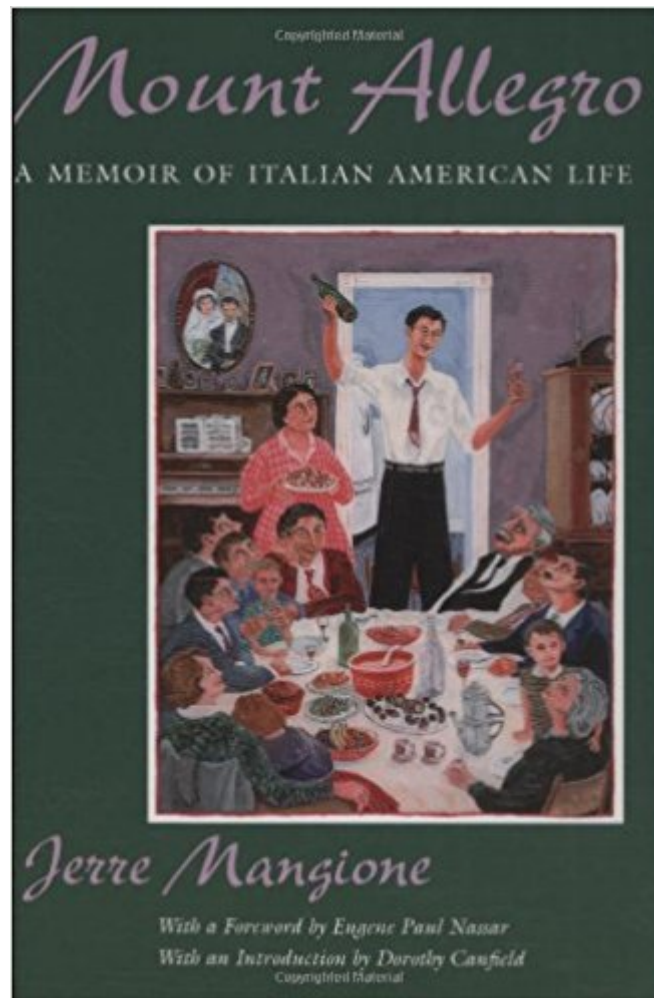




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Mount Allegro: A Memoir Of Italian American Life (New York Classics)



Synopsis

This memoir celebrates the Sicilian life in America, while providing a sociological portrait of the immigrant experience in the US. The author reminisces about his experience as a fledgeling writer trying to escape from the restrictive Italian American culture in which he grew up.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"One of the best books yet published in its field--a book in which you will learn more about the making of an American than in the most solemn or fictional volumes that purport to tell you all about the subject."--San Francisco Chronicle --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Jerre Mangione's writing is so vivid that reading it brought back my childhood years in the 20's and 30's. His Mt Allegro (NY) was my Silver Lake (NJ). His parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, neighbors were mine with similar names. His family gatherings were mine, too. In this land of immigrants, each era has its own stories of growing up in America. Mangione tells his with the greatest affection, bitter-sweet nostalgia, and tender humor. Recently, I gave a copy of Mt Allegro to my Aunt Angie for her 87th birthday. She plans to pass it along to her older sisters.

Jerre Mangione was born in Rochester, NY in 1909, about the same time my Italian family was coming to Rochester and the Bronx from Italy. His stories are all too familiar, from the entire family

living mere blocks apart, to the Sunday dinners, the fights with the neighbors and the neighborhood and all the different people that lived there. Its a warm, colorful look at an Italian family who spoke little English yet managed to get along. It reminded me of my grandfather who never learned to speak English because we lived in a totally Italian neighborhood in the Bronx and whose attitude was "if they want to talk to me let them learn Italian." Which we did...

I had to read this book for an English class I took. I REALLY enjoyed it. If you are into memoir's definitely give it a year, it was probably my favorite book that I read all semester.

A lovely, moving account of an Italian neighborhood in Rochester, NY in the early 20th century. Lest we forget, Italians were discriminated against almost as much as blacks and the Irish were. Rochester's major industry then, Eastman Kodak, did not hire Italians in the beginning . We've come a long way in multi cultural relations, thankfully.

Purchased this book, for my Mother, who loves reading books about Italian Family life, she just loved this read!!

Just started reading the book!

a sentimental view, but little of the struggle.

Sweet memoir of a time long past. Italian-Americans can really relate to it.

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