



# The Fortunate Pilgrim

*By Mario Puzo*

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Before The Godfather and The Last Don, there was Puzo's classic story about the loves, crimes and struggles confronted by one family of New York City immigrants living in Hell's Kitchen. Fresh from the farms in Italy, Lucia Santa struggles to hold her family together in a strange land. At turns poignant, comic and violent, and with a new preface by the author, The Fortunate Pilgrim is Italian-American fiction at its very best.

*From the Hardcover edition.*

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## **The Fortunate Pilgrim By Mario Puzo Bibliography**

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## **Editorial Review**

From Library Journal

A young girl comes to New York from Italy to marry a man she hardly knows, thus beginning the saga of Lucia Santa and her two marriages, her five children, and her struggle to raise her family in Hell's Kitchen in the early 1900s. Her strength sustains her through troubles, tragedies, and the onslaught of American culture pitted against traditional Italian life. Puzo portrays the family and their development with insight in an engrossing narrative. The conflicts of the Old World and the New as experienced by the children bring both tragedy and happiness, tempered always by Lucia Santa's iron will. John Kenneth reads with gentle strength, pronouncing with fluid grace Italian phrases and names. His characterizations are subtle but effective, and through his emotional coloring of the text, the listener becomes involved in this family's story.

Recommended for fiction collections. ?Melody A. Moxley, Rowan P.L., Salisbury, N.C.

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Review

"I began reading The Fortunate Pilgrim yesterday afternoon and didn't stop reading until I had finished it." -- Joseph Heller "Puzo has written a chronicle of Italian immigrant life which is a small classic- The novel is lifted into literature by its highly charged language, its penetrating insights and its mixture of tenderness and rage." New York Times

From the Inside Flap

Lucia Santa came to New York from the mountain farms of Italy because she knew there had to be a better life. But what she finds in the streets of Hell's Kitchen is a life to break a strong woman's heart. Two tragic marriages, six children to support by herself, a fiery-hearted daughter who insists on living and loving as an American, an oldest son who gets involved with the mafia. And through it all, Lucia Santa--wife, widow, mother, grandmother--endures as a woman of incomparable dignity, courage, and passion.

Filled with laughter and tears, fury and forgiveness, The Fortunate Pilgrim is a spellbinding portrait of a family determined to survive in America. It is a novel that only Mario Puzo could have written.

## **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Ernest Villa:**

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