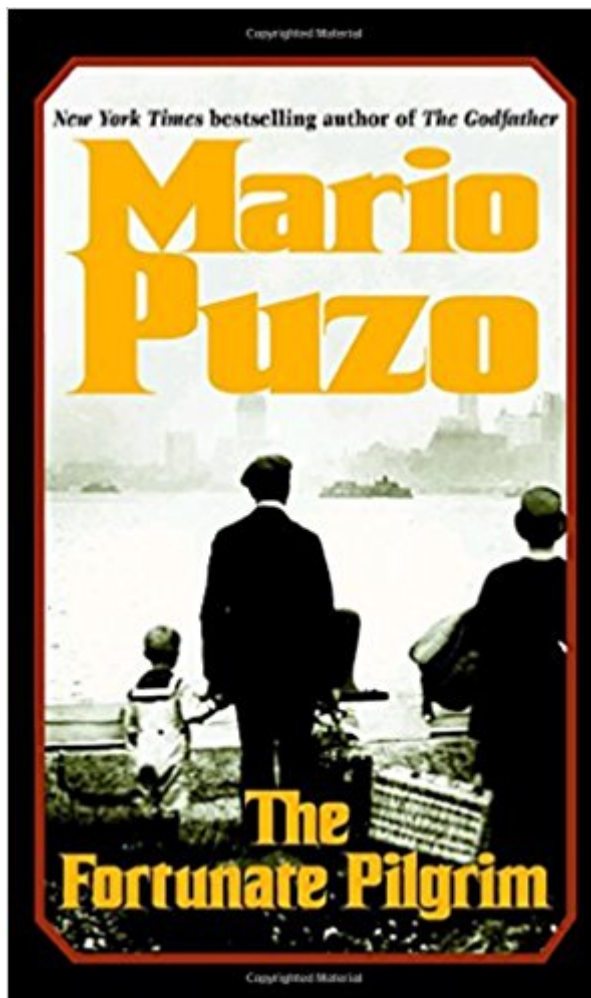


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# The Fortunate Pilgrim



## Synopsis

FROM BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF THE GODFATHER - "A 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 Book Review Described by the author as his "best and most literary book." 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, The Fortunate Pilgrim is Italian-American fiction at its very best. The book's hero, Lucia Santa, is an incredibly captivating character and based on Puzo's very own mother - he describes, "her wisdom, her ruthlessness, and her unconquerable love for her family and for life itself, qualities not valued in women at the time."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Puzo has called this 1965 pre-Godfather novel his personal favorite of his oeuvre. It recounts the life of Lucia Santa Angeluzzi-Corbo, a Southern Italian immigrant who settles in New York in the 1920s. This "very colorful and perceptive novel" remains "highly readable" for today's audience (LJ 3/15/65). Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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.

This was an entertaining story that kept me turning the pages to the very end. It was not predictable and that was what I appreciated most about it. This was written years ago before cussing was prominent in books and so if I can recall correctly there is little to no cursing in the story. The story is quite sad throughout and magnifies the tragic circumstances the immigrants faced with trying to make a way in the new land of America. Each character has their own struggles and different ways of handling their trials. The story spans the lifetime of the main character from her young adulthood to her old age. If you've ever watched a documentary about the living conditions of the immigrants from Italy, then this story gives another voice to go with those pictures. I would recommend this book for a book club or for older teens on up.

Mario Puzo often stated that he could not have written *The Godfather* without first having written *The Fortunate Pilgrim*. It definitely sets the groundwork for *The Godfather*. It explains, in real life experiences, why and how a Don could come into existence, and how a Don would fill an important niche in the process of serving and protecting his people from an America that would only fulfill their dreams if forced or coerced. A minority with a protector. It may have led to crime, but it is also a logical progression to crime. This novel is well worth the reading.

Poignant story of immigrants starting in a new land. Inspired my own writing. Puzo was born in a poor family of Neapolitan immigrants living in the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood of New York. Many of his books draw heavily on this heritage. *Given Away*, *A Sicilian Upbringing*

Being a huge fan of "The Godfather" I decided to read this book. From the second I started reading til the very last word I was taken back in time. I could see everything that Puzo described, sometimes even being able to smell the peppers and sausage as they cooked. I was so delighted with each character that I did not want the book to end. I just wanted to follow them through the entirety of their lives. If you are looking for a book about family strengths, challenges and ultimate sacrifices for each other than this is a very good read.

Loved this because it reflected honesty in Italian families. Love and family was reason enough to have faith and follow the unconditional love examples of Christ. He admitted he was proud he wrote this book. He regretted writing the Godfather Series. His family needed the money.

Couldn't finish it. Too depressing. Wonderful writing, gripping. Interesting characters, but not for me.

I've read everything Mario Puzo has written and this is in many ways as good as "The Godfather." I don't think I've ever read an immigrant story told from the perspective of a strong female character. Lucia Santa Angeluzzi-Corbo is believable without being the perfect mother or wife. Her outlook on life and how to keep her family together resonates with anyone who's been a single parent. Read it...it's a great story.

Mario Puzo considers this his best book but it's writing style is incredibly repetitive. He seemed to be afraid of using the word "she" for the mother. Instead he began every sentence about her with her full name. Tedious. It did do a good job of illustrating the problems faced by Italian immigrants in New York in the early 20th century and the tensions across generations.

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