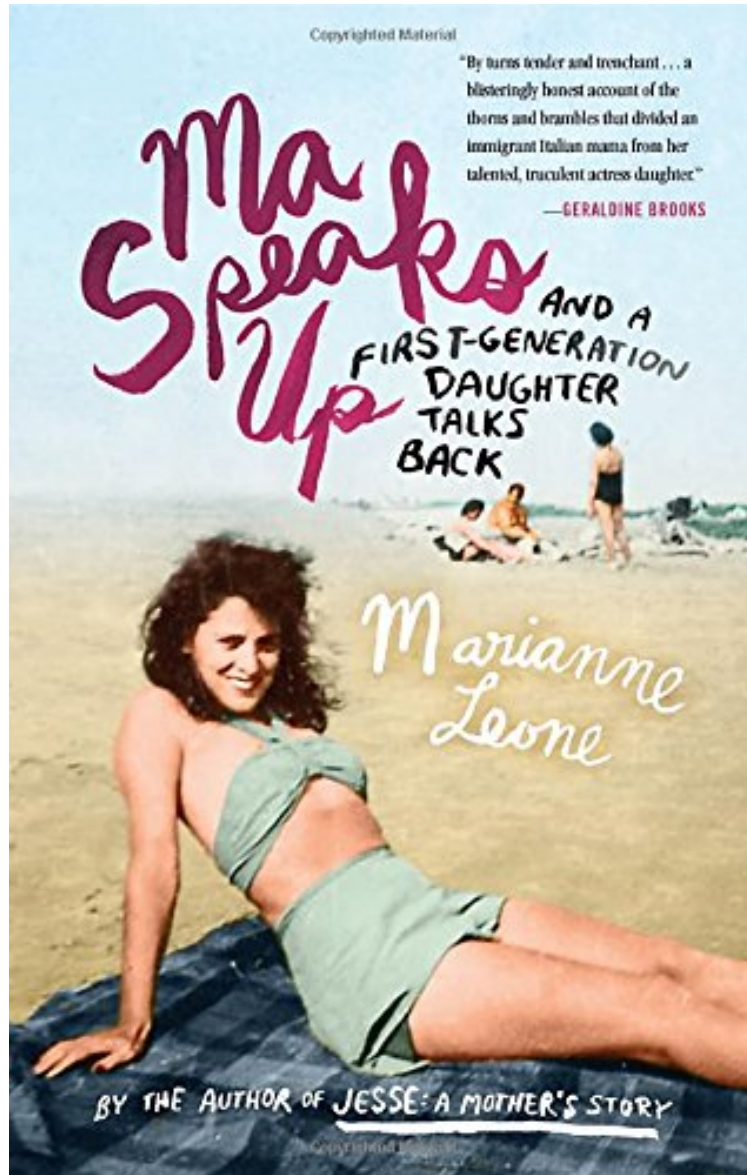


(Get free) Ma Speaks Up: And a First-Generation Daughter Talks Back

Ma Speaks Up: And a First-Generation Daughter Talks Back

Marianne Leone

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Marianne Leone : Ma Speaks Up: And a First-Generation Daughter Talks Back before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ma Speaks Up: And a First-Generation Daughter Talks Back:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Can't wait to read it again and share it...By M. Burns I looked forward to reading this book each night like I would a conversation with a cousin or a lifelong friend who I don't get to

talk with often enough. It makes you feel special, like you are being let behind a curtain and into this family in a way that makes you wish that you had taken such care to remember these kind of details about your own family, and for me it helped me remember some stories of my own Mum that I hadn't thought of in years. Marianne Leone also reminds us that grieving and longing for our Mom's can be as complex as our relationships are when they are with us, but that it is all part of that deep bond we share. It is rare to read a book and want to send a thank you card to its author - but this one falls into that category for me. I bought several as gifts for friends and can't wait to share it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Sooooo good!!!!By A MommyWanted a book just for end of summer reading. This is good - it's very funny and smartly written but so entertaining, too. Definitely goes to the top of my list of favorite things I've read. *(Every time I have to take a break to go do something, I miss it a little and can't wait to go back to it). It's engaging and there are a lot of laugh out loud passages in it. Made me want to meet Ma!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A fantastic read. HIghly recommendBy Voracious ReaderMarianne Leone shares the dark and the light of life in a manner that grips. This follow up to her first book, about her son, shows the before that absolutely informed the after. A fantastic read. HIghly recommend.

The acclaimed actress and author of *Jesse: A Mothers Story* tells the story of her outspoken, frequently outrageous Italian immigrant mother. Marianne Leones Ma is in many senses a larger-than-life character, one who might be capable, even from the afterlife, of shattering expectations. Born on a farm in Italy, Linda finds her way to the United States under dark circumstances, having escaped a forced marriage to a much older man, and marries a good Italian boy. She never has full command of English, especially when questioned by authorities, and when she is suddenly widowed with three young children, she has few options. To her daughters horror and misery, she becomes the school lunch lady. *Ma Speaks Up* is a record of growing up on the wrong side of the tracks, with the wrong family, in the wrong religion. Though Mariannes girlhood is flooded with shame, its equally packed with adventure, love, great cooking, and, above all, humor. The extremely premature birth of Mariannes beloved son, Jesse, bonds mother and daughter in ways she couldnt have imagined. The stories she tells will speak to anyone who has struggled with outsider status in any form and, of course, to mothers and their blemished, cherished girls.

I can think of few writers, alive or dead, who can make us laugh out loud in one sentence only to wipe the tears off our cheeks in the next. Marianne Leone achieves this brilliantly in this enduring love song to her Italian mother, illuminating themes as wide ranging as social class, immigrant life, the Catholic Church, the agony of adolescence, marital and maternal and paternal love, and far more. And like all of the best memoirs, *Ma Speaks Up* carries us back to the fragmented and sometimes elusive beauty of our own lives. This is an exquisitely rendered book by an immensely gifted writer, and I cannot recommend it highly enough. Andre Dubus IIIIn this entertaining and moving memoir, Marianne Leone has crafted an indelible portrait of her immigrant mother. Like her daughter, Ma is a formidable personsalty, tough-minded, funny, and full of unexpected wisdom. Tom Perrotta, author of *The Leftovers*Equal parts funny, brash, poignant, insightful, sarcastic, joyful, hopeful, and tender, this book will make you laugh and cry. It will make you hungry for Mas lentil soup. It will make you want to hug your own mother and Marianne and Ma. Ann Hood, author of *The Knitting Circle*I read with enormous pleasure Marianne Leones book about her mother, Linda, envying the richness and mystery of the family history, at times frightening, infuriating, but also very funny. I finished it in one sitting. Thank you, Marianne Leone, for letting me live with you and your mother. I loved every moment, every word. Abigail Thomas, author of *A Three Dog Life*By turns tender and trenchant, this is an indispensable mother-daughter story, a blisteringly honest account of the thorns and brambles that divided an immigrant Italian mama from her talented, truculent actress daughter. Written with wit and verve, Marianne Leones memoir brings her Ma back to full, vivid life in what becomes, in the end, a belated love poem to this enraging, engaging, passionate spitfire of a woman. Geraldine BrooksAbout the Author Marianne Leone is an actress, screenwriter and essayist. Her essays have appeared in the *Boston Globe*, *Post Road*, *Bark Magazine*, *Coastal Living* and *WBURs Cognoscenti* blog. Her memoir, *Jesse: A Mothers Story of Grief, Grace, and Everyday Bliss*, was published by Simon Schuster in 2010. Leone had a recurring role on HBOs hit show, *The Sopranos* as Joanne Moltisanti, Christophers mother. She has also appeared in films by David O. Russell, Larry David, John Sayles, and Martin Scorsese. She is married to the award-winning actor Chris Cooper.