

ROSANNA CATALANO
HEARTS OF SICILY
THE SAGA OF THE CATALANO
FAMILY

CLIENT: J. RODERER LITERARY AGENCY

PUBLISHER: LIBRERIA PIENOGIORNO

MATERIAL: FULL MS. (336 PP)

PUB DATE (T): JULY 2021

RIGHTS SOLD:

RIGHTS HANDLED: FRENCH



Cuori di Sicilia (Hearts of Sicily) tells the extraordinary true story of Rosario Catalano, the author's grandfather, in 1920s America, of his family and of his quartet, which inspired North American dance music. From Sicily to New York and back - a story of love, ambition, wealth, jealousy and music...

Sicily in the early 1900s has nothing to give to those who have nothing, and Rosario knows well that guys like him have to work hard to earn their place in the world. He can't even afford love, because the girl he loves, Rosa, is destined for a good match, not for him. But Rosario is ambitious, and thirsty for redemption. On his side he has hunger, youth, and an unshakable confidence in himself - and the certainty that America is there to be conquered by him.

And so it happens. Although the streets of New York are not paved with gold as the agents of the shipping companies made him believe, and for Americans, Italians are "third-class slime", from the moment he sets foot on Ellis Island in 1908, Rosario doesn't waste a minute. Soon, with Rosa at his side, and the children brought to them by their passion, his dream will have no limits. He turns his hobby, music, into a business. His quartet, I Quattro Siciliani, makes its breakthrough first in Brooklyn, then throughout America.

Contracts with record companies start coming in, and for Rosario begins a time of recordings, concerts, a beautiful house, fame, wealth. The Catalano family finally obtains the position it feels it deserves. Rosario is a skilled entrepreneur, buying score sheets for a few dollars and earning thousands from them, and fearlessly stands up to the Black Hand, the Italian-American mafia which claims protection money from businessmen.

But in the end he is not able to erase Sicily from his heart, and so Rosario and Rosa make their return to Marsala when, hounded by threats and treacherous friends, they strive to go back to their roots. And it is from then on that Rosa, courageous and proud like the Sicilian women she is, will take over the reins of the Catalano family.

ROSANNA CATALANO was born and lives in Mazara del Vallo (Sicily). She teaches Italian and Latin, writes and promotes cultural activities. *Cuori di Sicilia* tells the story of her own paternal family.

deborah@agencedeborahdruba.com phone +33142544389 mobile +33622081500

www.agencedeborahdruba.com