

# Birds of Passage, An Italian Immigrant Coming of Age Story

## BIRDS *of* PASSAGE

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"A rollicking, wholly entertaining take on the Italian immigrant story."

Ben Fountain, author of *Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk*.

JOE GIORDANO

<b>Author:</b>	Joe Giordano
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Harvard Square Editions announces the publication of *Birds of Passage, An Italian Immigrant Coming of Age Story*, a debut novel by Joe Giordano. What turns the gentle mean and the mean brutal? The thirst for wealth? The demand for respect? Vying for a woman? *Birds of Passage* recalls the Italian immigration experience at the turn of the twentieth-century when New York's streets were paved with violence and disappointment. Leonardo Robustelli leaves Naples in 1905 to seek his fortune. Carlo Mazzi committed murder and escaped. Azzura Medina is an American of Italian parents. She's ambitious but strictly controlled by her mother. Leonardo and Carlo vie for her affection. Azzura, Leonardo, and Carlo confront con men, Tammany Hall politicians, the longshoreman's union, Camorra clans, Black Hand extortion, and the Tombs prison. "With *Birds of Passage*, Joe Giordano delivers a rollicking, wholly entertaining take on the Italian immigrant story. His rich cast of characters arrives seeking the usual: Money, honor, love, respect, a decent shot at the pursuit of happiness. But things get complicated fast as they plunge into the rough-and-tumble world of rackets, scams, and politics of early 20th-century New York City. Giordano serves up a thick, satisfying slice of the entire era in all its raw and brutal glory." Ben Fountain, author of *Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk*, soon to

be a major motion picture directed by Ang Lee.