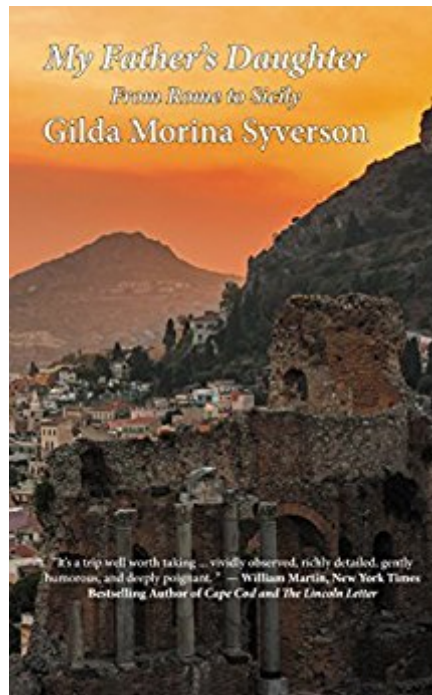


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# My Father's Daughter: From Rome To Sicily



## Synopsis

In *My Father's Daughter, From Rome to Sicily* by Gilda Morina Syverson - we are captivated by a trilogy travel adventure with ancient sites of Rome contrasting the landscape of a picturesque countryside, seaside villages of Sicily, and olive trees in the valley of Mount Etna. This Novello Literary Award Book Finalist exudes passion, eloquence, heartfelt language, and ancestral roots. Reader discussion questions are included for book clubs, reading groups and libraries. Praise for *My Father's Daughter* includes:

“Travel south from Rome with Gilda Morina Syverson. Let her show you her ancestral land through the eyes of her closest ancestors, her parents, who travel with her and her husband. It's a trip well worth taking... vividly observed, richly detailed, gently humorous, and deeply poignant. The only thing better would be a trip to Italy.” - William Martin, New York Times Bestselling Author of *Cape Cod* and *The Lincoln Letter*

“Syverson took her elderly parents back home to visit the 'old country' after decades of living in America : their journey offers a rich set of first-person insights and experiences cemented by warm family relationships and a sense of place. If it's a travelogue alone that is desired, move on; but if it's a wide-ranging discussion of the heart of both Italian and family connections, then the richness of *My Father's Daughter* is a pleasure not to be missed, recommended for readers who want both personal observations and experiences and fun cultural interactions under one cover.”

Diane Donovan, California Bookwatch

“*My Father's Daughter, From Rome to Sicily* is rumination on how worlds Syverson has inhabited relate her, not just to her | To read this book is to know that the places we've lived, the places we've known, the places and people we come from stick with us in ways we don't always understand. Her work is the stuff of houses and homes and the fixtures they contain, a mapping of experience and how we share it, a way of, as the Syverson herself has put it in her poetry, “seeking our own kind from wherever we happen to be.”

Bryce Emley, Raleigh Review

“*My Father's Daughter: From Rome to Sicily* is a travel book in every sense. Syverson is a savvy, funny, elegant tour guide who expertly escorts us through the gorgeous time-locked terrain of Italy, but also along the often precarious byways of the heart. This book risks everything: its humanity, its courage, its sheer unbridled candor, the moving sweep of its poetic language and its refusal to turn away from the breathtaking mystery of love and ancestry.”

-Joseph Bathanti, North Carolina Poet Laureate, 2012-2014

“Here's what's in store for you: A delightful journey into the heart of Italy, this family, and what it means to be human. *My Father's Daughter* is beautifully crafted, moving, entertaining memoir that will win you over from page one. If five stars is the highest rating, I give this book six.” -Judy Goldman, author of the memoir *Losing My*

Sister" Gilda Morina Syverson shares the journey of a lifetime, taking her elderly parents back home to visit Italy after decades in America. Gilda is a brave woman, an admirable daughter, and a very good writer -- she recounts the occasional bumps in the road with aplomb and the heartwarming, as well as, the frustrating moments with humor." -Sharri Whiting De Masi, writer Olive Oil IQ app; Italy correspondent, Luxury Travel Advisor

“Long after I finished reading this delicious memoir, I could still taste the flavors brought to mind by a story ripe with lush details, bracing wit, and bold pleasures. Embarking on Syverson’s journey is like traveling the world with a treasured friend. This is an experience to be savored.” ~ Amy Rogers, author of Hungry for Home: Stories of Food from Across the Carolinas; publisher

Gilda Morina Syverson is an award-winning poet, author and teacher of Memoir Writing who lives in North Carolina with her husband Stu. Connect at [www.gildasyverson.com](http://www.gildasyverson.com)

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

With her latest release, author Gilda Morina Syverson weaves an enthralling tale of both Italy, her family and how they are all and always will be forever intertwined. Part memoir, part travelogue, I was riveted by both sides of this story as the author took me on an intimate journey as she, her

(very calm and adaptable) husband, mother and father traveled back to the Old Country to both re-connect with family and their childhood beginnings. Colorful, fast paced, funny and touching, with scenes so wonderfully descriptive I could see the cobbled streets in Rome and Sicily as I read the pages. I felt like I was walking along beside the author. I could smell the food. I was sad when I reached the end. I was left with many questions I want to post to my own family. Sicily has been moved to the top of I need to visit list. I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Looking forward to reading more of this talented writer's work.

Gilda's book is not only a beautifully written memoir, it is also like having a private travel guide through Italy. Gilda shares her journey with the reader, and in doing so, opens some of the most intimate parts of her family and personal life to us. This left me with a comforting feeling about my own family and journey from the cornfields of Virginia to the streets of New York City, albeit not as far geographically, but no less challenging emotionally.

I am half way through this totally down to earth memoir / travelogue and I feel like I am walking with the author on her journey. Each separate scenario seems alive and I feel like I have met and know her mom and dad. Her private anecdotes make me smile and you can feel her love and frustration every step of the way, dealing with and caring about aging parents going home to Italy. Nothing was easy, but everything was wonderful. Best, most relaxing book I've read in years!!

This beautifully-written and moving book will feel oh-so-familiar to any first-generation American, regardless of nationality. And for those who would like to take a vacation to an Italy that most tourists will never experience, then tag along. You'll be glad you did. Besides, when was the last time you were even mildly interested in somebody's vacation stories?

I just finished this wonderful story and enjoyed every minute of it. It brought back memories of my own travels through Italy and my Italian heritage. I very much recommend this well written travel memoir to one and all. You will feel like you are there with Gilda and her family.

Gilda's ability to unravel the family tree and recount her parents' Italian adventure is a gift for their future generations to treasure. Anyone considering making such a family journey will be inspired after reading her story. I grew up across the street from Nick and Mary's clan in Syracuse and was BFF with her younger sister Francine. As Gilda

so eloquently describes her family, Nick ruled the roost while Mary was its gentle heart and soul.

Wonderful colorful writing that makes you feel you are traveling right along with this family back to their beginnings in Italy. Poignant and mixed with a delightful taste of Italy and Italian family dynamics.

This is a delightful travelogue of the families and small villages of Sicily as well as a warm, realistic glimpse into relationships with our parents as they and we age. It provokes us to view ourselves in a different light as we examine what family and our culture have taught us. As I read, I was also back in Sicily, in my mind, with my own cousins. It was a delightful read with giggles and thought-provoking moments!

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