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OUR ROOTS ARE DEEP *with* PASSION

Creative Nonfiction

COLLECTS NEW ESSAYS BY ITALIAN-AMERICAN WRITERS

EDITED BY LEE GUTKIND AND JOANNA CLAPPS HERMAN

“[*Our Roots Are Deep with Passion*] is filled with imagery and topics of not only food and wine but Catholicism, immigration and linguistics....This welcome collection challenges preconceived notions about Italian-Americans.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

In *OUR ROOTS ARE DEEP WITH PASSION: CREATIVE NONFICTION COLLECTS NEW ESSAYS BY ITALIAN-AMERICAN WRITERS*, Lee Gutkind—who is the founding editor of *Creative Nonfiction* and “the Godfather” of the genre according to *Vanity Fair*—and Joanna Clapps Herman have assembled 21 original essays on the ways Italian ancestry can accent the lives of Americans. Just in time for Columbus Day, the collection contains a foreword by Joe Mantegna, and the contributors include Louise DeSalvo, Mary Beth Caschetta, Edvige Giunta, and Sandra Gilbert. The essays address a range of topics—the enduring power of the evil eye, turbulent relationships between husbands and wives or parents and children, a lesbian wedding, and nostalgia for a father’s accordion, to name a few.

In this collection of engaging, true essays, Italian-Americans—already known for their food, romance and carefree nature—reveal the many other dimensions of their vibrant culture, and plant readers deeply into the rich history and riveting present of Italian-Americans. Told with humor, heartbreak, and every emotion in between, the stories in this collection will appeal to all readers—even if your only Italian connection is that you’ve eaten

a plate of pasta. While mouth-watering cuisine and flowing Italian language are woven into many of the pieces, topics also include terrorism, ancient spirituality, and gay marriage, not to mention the staples of Italian-American culture—wine, religion, romance, recipes and more. Containing an award-winning essay by Louise DeSalvo, *OUR ROOTS ARE DEEP WITH PASSION* is a long overdue collection of some of the most passionate and talented Italian-American voices of today.

Lee Gutkind is the founder and editor of the journal *Creative Nonfiction*. The author and editor of more than a dozen books, including the award-winning *Many Sleepless Nights: The World of Organ Transplantation*, and his memoir *Forever Fat*, he is a professor of English at the University of Pittsburgh and the director of the Mid-Atlantic Creative Nonfiction Writers’ Conference at Goucher College.

Joanna Clapps Herman’s essays have appeared in the collections *Don’t Tell Mama* and *The Milk of Almonds*, as well as in numerous periodicals. She teaches creative writing at Manhattanville College and City College of New York.

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