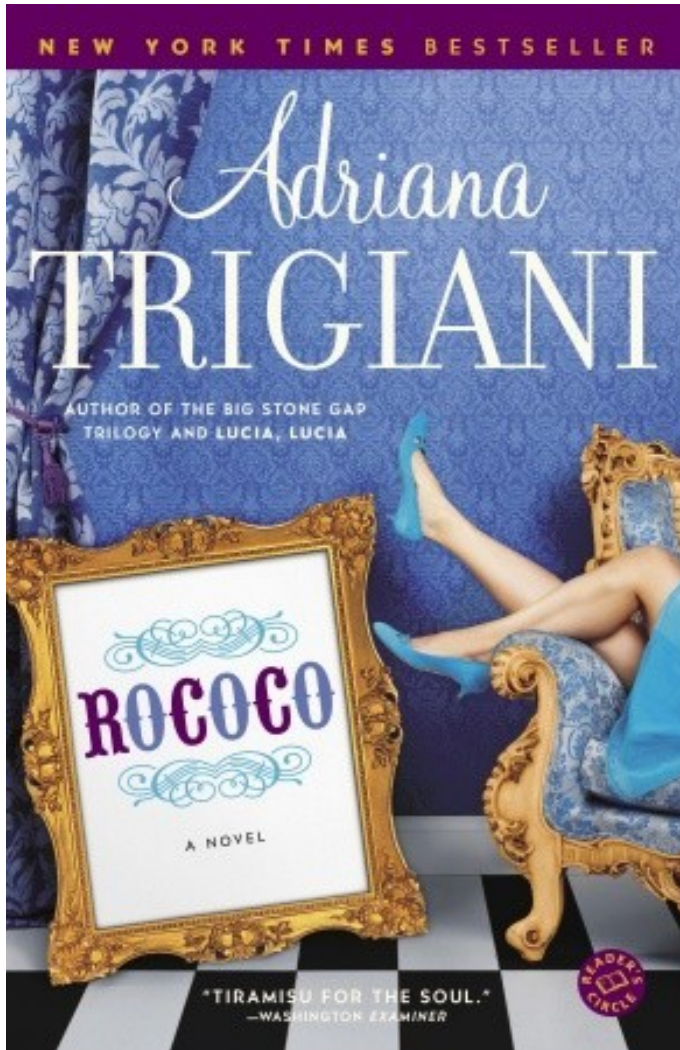

Adriana Trigiani

Rococo



Title: Rococo

Author: Adriana Trigiani

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Description

New York Times bestselling author Adriana Trigiani, beloved by millions of readers around the world for her humor, warmth, and captivating storytelling in the Big Stone Gap trilogy and *Lucia*, *Lucia*, takes on love, lust, tricky family dynamics, and home decorating in *Rococo*, the uproarious tale of a small Italian American town poised for a makeover it never expected.

Bartolomeo di Crespi is the acclaimed interior decorator of Our Lady of Fatima, New Jersey. To date, Bartolomeo has hand-selected every chandelier, sconce, and ottoman in OLOF, so when the renovation of the local church is scheduled, he assumes there is only one man for the job.

From the dazzling shores of New Jersey to the legendary fabric houses of New York City, from the prickly purveyors of fine art in London to luscious Santa Margherita on the Mediterranean coast of Italy, Bartolomeo is on a mission to bring talent, sophistication, and his aesthetic vision to his hometown.

Trigiani's glittering mosaic of small-town characters sparkles: Bartolomeo's hilarious sister, Toot, is in desperate need of a postdivorce transformation—thirteen years after the fact; "The Benefactor," Aurelia Mandelbaum, the richest woman in New Jersey, has a lust for French interiors and a long-held hope that Bartolomeo will marry her myopic daughter, Capri; Father Porporino, the pastor with a secret, does his best to keep a lid on a simmering scandal; and Eydie Von Gunne, the chic international designer, steps in and changes the course of Bartolomeo's creative life, while his confidante, cousin Christina Menecola, awaits rescue from an inconsolable grief.

Plaster of Paris, polished marble, and unbridled testosterone arrive in buckets when Bartolomeo recruits Rufus McSherry, a strapping, handsome artist, and Pedro Allercon, a stained-glass artisan, to work with him on the church's interior. Together, the three of them will do more than blow the dust off the old Fatima frescoes—they will turn the town upside down, challenge the faithful, and restore hope where there once was none.

Brilliantly funny and as fanciful as flocked wallpaper, filled with glamorous locales from New Jersey to Europe, from Sunday Mass to the American Society of Interior Designers soirée at the Plaza Hotel, **Rococo** is Trigiani's masterpiece, a classic comedy with a heart of gold leaf.

"A veritable crazy quilt of quirky Italian Americans ... Trigiani weaves all these subplots together with wonderful ease; every seam is perfectly straight, every pleat in place. Bartolomeo would expect no less. A-." -- Entertainment Weekly

"Clever ... Creating characters so lively they bounce off the page and possessing a wit so subtle that even the best jokes seem effortless, Trigiani is a master storyteller. Equal parts sass and silliness, *Rococo* is an artfully designed tale with enough brio to make Frank Gehry proud."-- People

From the Hardcover edition.

Insightful reviews

Mark: Not as riveting as the Big Stone Gap trilogy, but another fine effort by Ms Trigiani. Bartolomeo, known as B to family and friends, is a heterosexual interior decorator, living and working on the New Jersey Shore in 1970. The interaction with his extended family and many friends provide lots of laughs as B gets his fondest wish and then experiences creative brain freeze. The dialogue is hilarious at times and the evocation of myriad relatives almost makes it necessary to keep notes to keep them all straight. There are several recipes sprinkled throughout as food and drink also play a part in the telling. A fun, summer read.

Eva: I so enjoyed this book. Being of Italian descent I can easily relate to the behaviors, mannerisms, sayings and traditions covered in this book. This following excerpt from the book describes it so very accurately and beautifully: "We have a way of being as a family that is purely Italian, beginning with the food we eat and ending with the regalia of our funerals. The care we take with our recipes, the slow preparation of the food, the retelling of old stories with the same familiar punch lines, bring us joy. Of course, there's also the dark side-the arguments, the freeze-outs, the Evil Eye. But eventually forgiveness washes away bad memories like clean rain. To an outsider, this may seem hypocritical. So what? We are what we are. What makes us different is what helps us stick together. We're Italian first and foremost; we can be wily and consistent, and to the outside world we may appear temperamental, moody and clannish, separating ourselves from the greater culture with a cup of arrogance and a dose of superiority. But the truth is, we are bonded by all of it, the best and worst of ourselves, by what we are, how we walk in the world, and the way we hold one another close. We are the sum of all of it, the devotion, the blind faith, the disappointments, the slights, the hurts, the surprises, the insanity, and, yes, that passion that drives us to make love with careless abandon and hold a grudge with the same intensity. What would I be without them?"

To think that after her senior citizen exercise class my mother picked up this book for \$.25--what a steal considering all the enjoyment and memories received from reading this book.

Priyanka: Made me go back to one of my first loves: Cooking (particularly desserts). I have already made her Our Lady of Drown Your Sorrows cake with heavenly frosting twice... and it's as yummy as the book!

As for the decor theme, every black-on-white page is like splash of colours. Has made me keep changing the look of my cosy apartment.

Most certainly, one of my favourites.

Christie Stratos: to place it simply, I loved this book. It had moments of tension, humor, disappointment, and instantly up inside layout heaven. right here and there the layout descriptions have been a little bit too much, a bit boring, yet no longer sufficient to discourage

me from listening and never adequate to make me bypass forward. The characters have been splendidly diverse whereas nonetheless being in the stereotypical Italian personalities. The period of time (1970) was once effortless to spot even with out the writer pointing out it. there have been a few strange views that i actually liked and felt Trigiani did a very good task bringing out in ways in which enabled the reader to work out each side of the POV truly and comprehend them either even if in contract or disagreement. a few narrative monologues have been a piece too lengthy and there have been a few bits of repetition that I additionally did not imagine have been necessary. Again, this did not damage the joy of the e-book sufficient for me to take it down stars, simply one. I listened to the audio model of Rococo, and that i loved it no less than 3 times up to i might have simply examining it myself. The voice expertise was once Mario Cantone, who I hadn't heard on an audio e-book before. it's totally infrequent I hearken to a booklet and think as though i am gazing a film as the voice expertise is so fantastic, yet this was once a type of cases. the one different time that is ever occurred used to be with Wodehouse's Jeeves series. i will be able to say that i am hearing one other of Trigiani's books and i am now not having fun with it part as a lot simply because Cantone is not analyzing it. i am hoping I stumble upon him many extra occasions within the future! In short, i might suggest this actual e-book or audio booklet to an individual - seriously, anyone.

Dawn: Adriana Trigiani is my favourite author. even if this isn't my favourite publication via Adriana, it was once nonetheless a really stress-free read. might be it used to be a little tougher for me to get into simply because i'm used to her books having girls because the major character. nonetheless I loved the quirky characters and the entire references to Italian Americans. i've got met Adriana in individual and her shiny perspective and humor comes via in her books. i cannot wait till her subsequent publication comes out!

Maya: Listened as audiobook, narrator's voice was once extra precise (and i think memorable a number of months hence) than the tale - which used to be friendly adequate to hear in the course of regimen driving, yet now not suspenseful or surprising, and with out specific personality development for the in a different way completely likeable yet a little bland protagonist. Minor characters throughout him appeared to exhibit extra switch than he did, or even in his fundamental functionality as re-designer of the liked neighborhood church, it felt to me like i discovered out extra approximately ardour and paintings of the craftsman he hires for the task than what he himself contributed to the ultimate result. i did not comprehend why the tale used to be set within the fresh previous (can't take note even if 60's or 70's - in any case, it intended i did not seize any of the fame references, and it made for an absurdly comical second a la Austin Powers villain personality who thinks 1000000 money is a rare ransom, while the protag refers to \$350,000 as "more funds than (he) can ever wish to spend"). Nor did I comprehend the title. i assumed it may be concerning the artwork etc. of that old period, however the church he restores is again and again defined as gothic. The half that i feel i'll take into account so much approximately this e-book isn't really a narrative detail, yet how the narrator's accessory and enunciation of the protag's name, Bartolomeo (which is a lovely, melodic, and weird masculine name) regularly gave the impression of "Bottle of Mayo" to me.

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