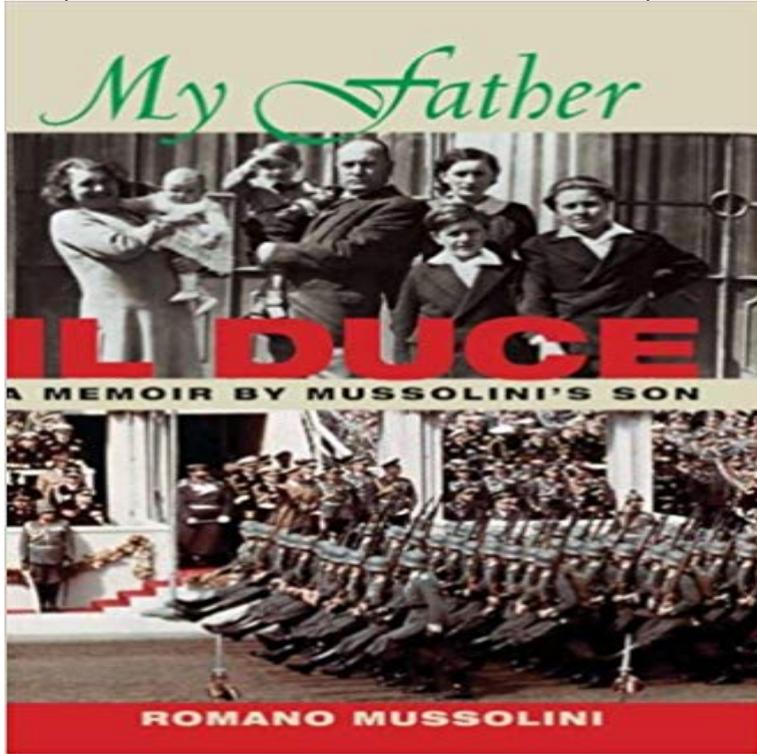


My Father II Duce: A Memoir by Mussolini's Son



Breaking a lifelong silence, the last surviving child of Benito Mussolini opens the floodgates about his father. In this historical, revisionist memoir, Romano Mussolini (September 26, 1927-February 3, 2006), the last surviving child of dictator Benito Mussolini, contributes his unique perspective to the growing body of work that portrays Il Duce's era. Through Romano's portrait of never before publicly shared memories and feelings, *My Father II Duce* brings alive the domestic scenes of his childhood particularly when they intersected with his father's public role. He also relates in detail the memories of his mother, Donna Rachele, who lived until 1979 and often spoke with Romano about his father. Romano's memories, sorted by chapter, but not presented chronologically, shift between his own recollections of time spent with his father to the years after Mussolini's death in 1945. The prose lingers and then artistically moves forward, melancholy to fierce to vulnerable, like the notes of the jazz music played by Romano during his acclaimed musical career. Mussolini is presented here as a man who was supremely convinced that he was the master of his life: Everything happening around me, my father used to say, leaves me indifferent. I consciously choose *Live dangerously* as my life's motto. As an old soldier, I say, *If I advance, follow me. If I retreat, kill me. If they kill me, vindicate me.* He saw his existence in scenes of high drama, envisioning in the end, Romano tells us, that he would be placed in front of thrones at New York City's Madison Square Garden and then executed in a macabre spectacle. In this memoir, Romano does not truly ponder the consequences of his father's alliances and dictatorship, though with at least one notable exception that he gave considerable thought to his personal anger toward Hitler for stabbing his father in the back at his darkest hour. Instead, he seeks to render

concrete the memories that he held silent over a lifetime before they were lost to history. The fascist order that Mussolini created and imposed upon Italy is one that Italians and students of history the world over are still interpreting. Indeed, his legacy was centerstage in the May 2006 Italian national elections, and one of the deputies in the Italian parliament today who represents his alliances is Alessandra Mussolini, Romano's daughter and defender of her infamous grandfather. As the trend of historical revisionism in Italy continues, in particular regarding the role of fascism, some of this kinder, gentler Mussolini is already widely accepted. Thus, *My Father Il Duce* (in Italian *Il Duce Mio Padre*) was published to great attention and controversy in Italy in 2004 and quickly became a bestseller. Romano often appeared on Italian national television and in newspaper interviews. In part, this illuminates that fascist supporters are alive and well, while also confirms even among non-supporters, the ongoing attraction to the cult of personality Mussolini masterminded. In Italy, this public discourse about Mussolini is common. However, for others it is important to establish a context for Romano's memoir. This is accomplished here through an accompanying masterful twenty-one page introductory essay by one of the world's foremost authorities on Italian political culture, Alexander Stille: writing the introductory essay to *My Father Il Duce* is a bit like writing the warning label on a powerful drug that has its uses but must be taken with care and knowledge of its possible side effects. Romano reached his goal of living to see the first publication of his memoir in Italian. As for this English-language edition, he earlier expressed approval of the front cover design. On January 1, 2006, he received the translated English language manuscript of his writing. During the last month of his life, he approved it. Romano Mussolini died on February 3, 2006, at age seventy-nine in a Rome hospital soon after heart surgery. Romano's death made

international news. The New York Times obituary reported: In the 1950s and 60s he was in the vanguard of Italian jazz with his group the Romano Mussolini All Stars, and he played with American greats like Dizzy Gillespie, Duke Ellington and Chet Baker. Mr. Mussolini gained even greater international fame with his first marriage, to Anna Maria Scicolone, the sister of the actress Sophia Loren....Despite his own scrupulous avoidance of politics, politicians from Italys right wing-parties widely lauded Mr. Mussolini and his family name in statements they released: Romano knew how to make us love him for his humanity, his art, but also for the dignity and coherence with which he defended his family from attacks and demonizations. Through Romanos worldwide celebrity and well-regarded nature, his words in defense of Il Duce, albeit ones he no doubt wrote as a son who loved his father, offer a rare insiders perspective that can help us better understand, and therefore more readily defeat tyranny. This memoirs account of history further reminds us of the continuing need for our vigilance in the pursuit of truth. 18 historical photographs

Romano Mussolini. *My Father, Il Duce: A Memoir by Mussolinis Son*. Introductory essay by Alexander Stille. Carlsbad: Kales Press, 2006. 163 pp. \$27.95 (cloth)Part of responsible participation in a civilized, democratic society entails the duty to learn objectivelyeven dispassionatelyfrom a wide array of sources. Though not the most neutral biographer, youngest son Romano offers a new view of the life *My Father Il Duce: A Memoir by Mussolinis Son*. Romano Mussolini. *My Father, Il Duce: A Memoir by Mussolinis Sono*. Carlsbad, CA: Kales Press, 2006. Pp. 163. This is neither a profound nor poignant bookBreaking a lifelong silence, the last surviving child of Benito Mussolini opens the In this historical, revisionist memoir, Romano Mussolini (September 26, before publicly shared memories and feelings, *My Father Il Duce* brings alive the The Hardcover of the *My Father Il Duce: A Memoir by Mussolinis Son* by Romano Mussolini at Barnes & Noble. FREE Shipping on \$25 or*My Father, Il Duce: A Memoir by Mussolinis Son* (review). Gregory Pell. *Italian Culture*, Volume 26, 2008, pp. 154-160 (Review). Published by Michigan StateFind great deals for *My Father - Il Duce : A Memoir by Mussolinis Son* by Romano Mussolini and Alexander Stille (2006, Hardcover). Shop with confidence onRomano Mussolini. *My Father, Il Duce: A Memoir by Mussolinis Son*. Introductory essay by Alexander Stille. Carlsbad: Kales Press, 2006. 163 pp. \$27.95 (cloth)*My Father Il Duce: A Memoir by Mussolinis Son* Romano Mussolini, Alexander Stille ISBN: 9780967007687 Kostenloser Versand fur alle Bucher mit VersandSAGE Video Streaming video collections SAGE Knowledge The ultimate social sciences library SAGE Research Methods The ultimate methods library. Franco could have saved him -- Behind the scenes of the arrest at Villa Savoia -- He had a plan for ending the war -- The mysteries of Gran *My Father Il Duce: A Memoir by Mussolinis Son*: by Romano Mussolini, translated by Ana Stojanovic: Kales Press, 163 pp. CLR RatingBuy *My Father Il Duce: A Memoir by Mussolinis Son* by Romano Mussolini, Alexander Stille (ISBN: 9780967007687) from Amazons

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