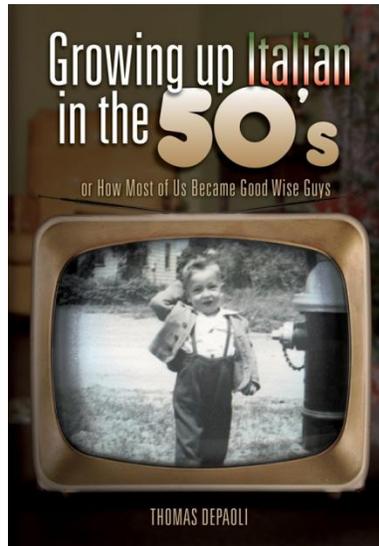


Sampling of Reviews

Growing Up Italian in the 50s or How Most of Us Became Good Wise Guys by Thomas DePaoli



5.0 out of 5 stars **Well worth Your Read!** June 19, 2012

[Shirley Priscilla Johnson " Author/Reviewer -...](#)

(USA) - **This review is from: Growing Up Italian in the 50's: or How Most of Us Became Good Wise Guys a Growing Up Memories Book (Volume 1) (Paperback)**

I believe most of us love our family and family memories are always something we treasure in our heart. Author, Thomas Depaoli, has gone one step forward and has written a delightful book to share the treasures of his heart. He has included precious pictures of himself and those important to him. These definitely helped to bring the memories alive, and give visual. Thomas grew up in the fifties, a time when America was about families, love, guidance, and doing what was right, just because it was right to do. A good time to live, a good time to grow.

Thomas takes us down Memory Lane as he shares the love and devotion of his parents, and grandparents, the unity of his aunts and uncles, the giggles of youth, and the honor of serving, God, and knowing that indeed it was an honor. Each memory is precious to him, and as you read, they will definitely strike a chord in your own life as you silently remember as well the days of your youth.

Sometimes it is good to stop, reflect on the past, and remember where you came from and perhaps change around just where you are going. This book will serve several things. You will enjoy sharing Mr. DePaoli's memories, but you will also stir up the precious memories of your own. You will think, perhaps laugh, perhaps cry, but your heart will be awakened, if just for a moment, and perhaps you can recapture a memory that will change your tomorrow. Very heart felt and well done.

5.0 out of 5 stars **Wonderful Writings**, June 19, 2012

[Jill](#) (CA)

This review is from: Growing Up Italian in the 50's: or How Most of Us Became Good Wise Guys a Growing Up Memories Book (Volume 1) (Paperback)

This heartwarming read will take you back to an era, when you weren't obsessed with electronics and used your imagination to entertain yourself. Several of the Author's stories and photos took me back to my Midwestern small town as a child and I can relate to many of his wonderful writings.

Grab a glass of Iced Tea and enjoy reading about the sense of community, family values, and how sports played an important role in many of the childhood memories during the 50's. I grew up in the 60's, but so much reminds me of my daily visits at my Grandparents home. I also enjoyed visiting the "neighbor's" with my Mom for tea frequently. I miss those days!

We all had parents who were strict but cared about us.

I cannot imagine how different I would be if it was not for all my loving relatives.

5.0 out of 5 stars **Fun Read**, June 16, 2012

[WWADF](#) –

This review is from: Growing Up Italian in the 50's: or How Most of Us Became Good Wise Guys a Growing Up Memories Book (Volume 1) (Paperback)

Tom DePaoli's book is very well written and reveals a time that is so different from our current era. It was an age with little distracting technology; when children had to use their own imagination to entertain themselves. It was an era when an extended family participated in helping children grow and mature. This book is worth buying and cherishing. It is easy for the reader to reminisce about their own childhood tales and memories. The 50's was a great era and there are many lessons to be learned from the authors well told episodes. It is very family orientated and possesses some very good humor. This is an outstanding and pleasant read. I highly recommend it.

5.0 out of 5 stars **Captivating Read from Beginning to End**, June 15, 2012

[Sharon](#) –

This review is from: Growing Up Italian in the 50's: or How Most of Us Became Good Wise Guys a Growing Up Memories Book (Volume 1) (Paperback)

Growing Up Italian in the 50s is a fun read. I could really connect to the stories. Many of the stories are so universal that they could be easily repeated in any decade. The author combines a sense of truthfulness and nostalgia that entertains the reader. I could not put it down once I started to read it. It had me reliving my own growing up and relating the stories to my own upbringing. For a good enjoyable quick read I highly recommend you buy and enjoy it. It whisked me back to the 50's. Kudos to the author.

5.0 out of 5 stars **The pleasure of this book is the joy of recapitulation**, June 15, 2012

[Charles Ashbacher](#) (Marion, Iowa United States) –

This review is from: Growing Up Italian in the 50's: or How Most of Us Became Good Wise Guys a Growing Up Memories Book (Volume 1) (Paperback)

The role that the extended family once had in the life of a child is the main theme permeating every short story in this book. DePaoli grew up in the small town of Royersford, Pennsylvania surrounded by the members of his large Italian family. In essence, his family was a village where all adults and older kids took responsibility for the children. He went to Catholic Schools where the nuns were strict and despite getting whacked with a ruler; DePaoli looks back at those times with fondness.

This is a book of DePaoli's memories of his childhood, the role his relatives had in his upbringing and some of the mischief that he was into but rarely got away with. One of the simplest yet telling points is how the grandchildren considered it a great honor to be the one that lit grandpa's pipe. Reading this book brought back many memories of my childhood, playing for hours with my two uncles in so many different games. That may be the most powerful feature of this book, how it helps the reader look back in fondness at the wonder and excitement of when they were a child.

5.0 out of 5 stars **Refreshing Look Back At A Simpler Life**, May 9, 2012

[BookLoverRome](#) –

This review is from: Growing Up Italian in the 50's: or How Most of Us Became Good Wise Guys a Growing Up Memories Book (Volume 1) (Paperback)

Thomas DePaoli's book, Growing Up Italian in the 50's: or How Most of Us Became Good Wise Guys a Growing Up Memories Book, is a refreshing look back at a simpler life center around family and friends. The reminds readers of a time when video games, cell phones and iPads didn't exist and yet people still survived. The book is enjoyable, short and very reflective. The 1950's were a time when family tradition was still intact and the author shares his stories and memories in this reflective memoir.

Highly Recommended!!

5.0 out of 5 stars **Delightful stories of family, hard work, and growing up in a different era**, April 12, 2012

[Roseanne T. Depaoli](#) –

This review is from: Growing Up Italian in the 50's: or How Most of Us Became Good Wise Guys a Growing Up Memories Book (Volume 1) (Paperback)

After reading all of the great reviews about this book, I knew I had to read it! As a young Italian American myself, I enjoyed learning about our culture through the eyes of Mr. DePaoli. The stories are short, clever, and easy to read. The pictures were a nice touch and made the book even more personable. By the end of it, you'll feel like you know the entire "army" of aunts and uncles in Mr. DePaoli's large family.

This is a fantastic collection of stories about family, hard work and growing up in a different era. I especially enjoyed the story about the baseball card fight and the church spaghetti supper!

Growing Up Italian in the 50s is a delightful read. I would highly recommend this to all readers as I think many (myself included!) could relate with some similar stories of their own.

5.0 out of 5 stars **Joys of Family Life**, April 8, 2012

[scribe](#) –

This review is from: Growing Up Italian in the 50's: or How Most of Us Became Good Wise Guys a Growing Up Memories Book (Volume 1) (Paperback)

This book brought back heartwarming memories of the joys of family life, especially of close extended family, where children learned so much from parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents, and cousins. What a healthy and happy way to grow up! DePaoli's stories are easy to read, and bring back happy memories common to so many who grew up during this time. I especially enjoyed the stories about the newspaper route and baseball. I highly recommend this book!

5.0 out of 5 stars **Great book about the 50's!**, April 7, 2012

[Thomas M DePaoli](#)

This review is from: Growing Up Italian in the 50's: or How Most of Us Became Good Wise Guys a Growing Up Memories Book (Volume 1) (Paperback)

I enjoyed reading this book about growing up Italian in the 50's. I especially liked the story about the "sad dark day I learned that homework might be forever". Gosh homework never ends! The story about the paper route ordeal was great, too. What a good lesson on standing up for what you believe is right, even in the face of adversity. Overall, I highly recommend this book for anyone to read. I would give it six stars if I could.

5.0 out of 5 stars **True love and respect of family and growing up in the 50's!**, April 2, 2012

[Maria](#) –

This review is from: Growing Up Italian in the 50's: or How Most of Us Became Good Wise Guys a Growing Up Memories Book (Volume 1) (Paperback)

I loved reading Thomas DePaoli's book. It's filled with delightful short stories of family and activities of a young boy's life growing up in the 50's. Taking place in a simpler time where families grew up in the same neighborhoods and where aunts and uncles along with grandparents played an important role in a child's life. It brought me back to my own upbringing. I thoroughly enjoyed each story!

5.0 out of 5 stars **Great read for the for latter generations. Warming trip down memory lane for those who shared the experiences.**, April 2, 2012

[ermy "ermy"](#) (Chicago, IL USA) –

This review is from: Growing Up Italian in the 50's: or How Most of Us Became Good Wise Guys a Growing Up Memories Book (Volume 1) (Paperback)

DePaoli's memoirs are warming, inspiring and revelatory for the reader who did not grow up in the era, but has interest in the segments and nuances of American History that don't make the standard history books. It's hard to imagine a time so different than today. And yet, so much can be learned from the previous generations in terms of their honor of family, work ethic and values.

For anyone who did grow up Italian in the 50s, I can only imagine this would be a quick and greatly rewarding trip down memory lane - perhaps even an inspiration to document one's own family history within the period.

Growing Up Italian in the 50s, is easily worth the time and investment. At a minimum, it is a great distraction from the current American way of life. At the maximum, it is reliving or learning valuable lessons from a great former generation.

I cannot recommend this book enough.

Thank you, DePaoli.