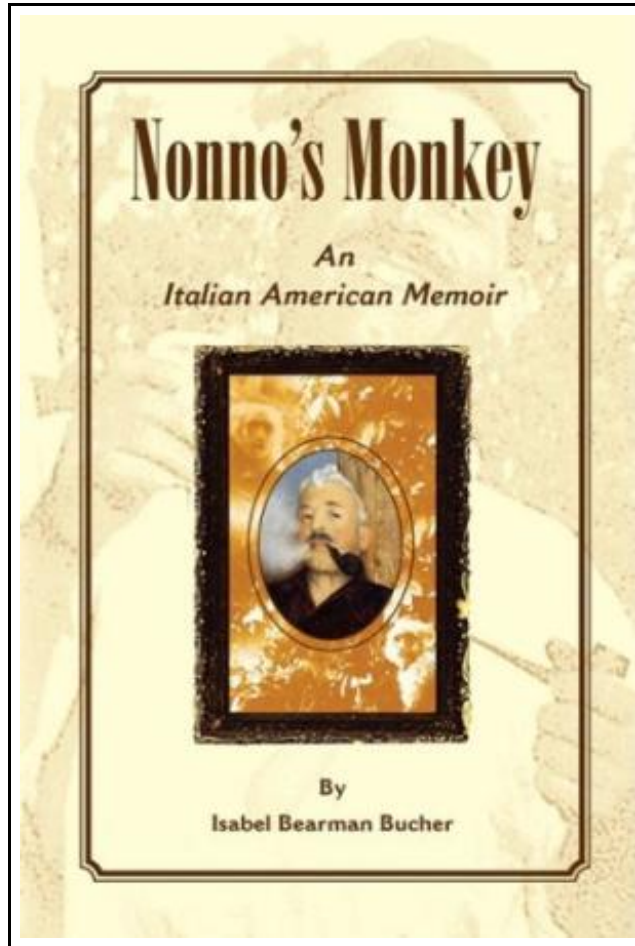


Nonno s Monkey, an Italian American Memoir



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Reviews

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Cantare Press, United States, 2008. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. New Mexico author, Isabel Bearman Bucher, is a first generation Italian American. Her first book, Nonno s Monkey, An Italian American Memoir, has taken a lifetime to complete. Part I begins in 1800, and the French Revolution, with fictionalized stories of la Famiglia Giani, told to her by her Nonna, Angela Irene Giani DeBernardi, enriched by the author s research. Part II begins on a warm late July day in 1942, when Nonno s monkey arrives in the back of a 37 Packard, amidst a tight tangle of cigar smoking, three-sheets-to-the-wind ubriaco family men. Grandfather, Enrico Santo DeBernardi, won him at the Connecticut State Fair by singing Ach Du Leiber Augustine, a German song, no less. Since he had a terrible voice, the family women were sure, when the monkey began his exquisite mischief, that his previous owners would have PAID anybody to take him. America was at war. Walter Winchell was saying hello to Mr. and Mrs. North and South America and all the ships at sea, who gathered nightly around their Philco radios. Milton Cross was announcing Saturday opera from the New York Met, which provided the stage for family crying game - IF it was Italian. For the next eight months, Chico ties all the family stories together with his monkey tale. In the company of a fatso Dachshund named Yaakie, an Irish Setter named Rusty, and a wicked black-as-night stray tom named Billy, the monkey conjures his dirty deeds with brilliant precision. The little scimmia whips town hysteria and family emotion to a fine froth. Then one day, after the forty-yard-dash to the henhouse for eggs, the last straw flutters down onto...

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