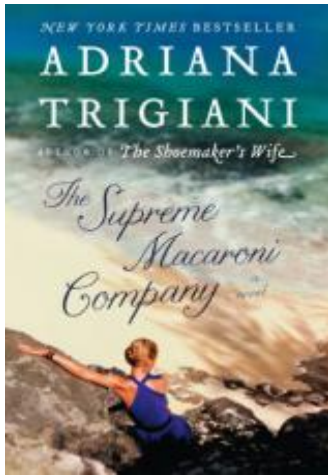


The Supreme Macaroni Company

by Adriana Trigiani



About the Book

For over a hundred years, the Angelini Shoe Company in Greenwich Village has relied on the leather produced by Vecchiarelli & Son in Tuscany. This historic business partnership provides the twist of fate for Valentine Roncalli, the school teacher turned shoemaker, to fall in love with Gianluca Vecchiarelli, a tanner with a complex past and a hidden secret.

A piece of surprising news is revealed at The Feast of the Seven Fishes when Valentine and Gianluca join her extended family on a fateful Christmas Eve. Now faced with life altering choices, Valentine remembers the wise words that inspired her in the early days of her beloved Angelini Shoe Company: "A person who can build a pair of shoes can do just about anything." The proud, passionate Valentine is going to fight for everything she wants and savor all she deserves --- the bitter and the sweetness of life itself.

Romantic and poignant, told with humor and warmth, and bursting with a cast of endearing characters, THE SUPREME MACARONI COMPANY is a sumptuous feast of delights: a portrait of a woman and the man she loves, her passion for craftsmanship, and the sacrifices it takes to build and sustain a family business while keeping love and laughter at the center of everything.

Discussion Guide

1. Describe Valentine and Gianluca's relationship. Is he the true love she has waited for?
2. What are the biggest obstacles to their happiness as a couple? What are their greatest strengths? What does Val expect from marriage? How does the reality compare? What makes for a good marriage? Is it realistic to want it all?
3. Think about the advice Val received from her family. If you are or have been married, what advice would you give

her? If you aren't married what do you think marriage might be like?

4. Is Gianluca a good husband? Is Valentine a good wife? How much can their differences be attribute to age? To gender? To culture? Do you think they found the right balance in their relationship?

5. Is having such a large and close family like the Roncalli clan a blessing? Are there any downsides? What is your family like? How do our families impact our romantic relationships?

6. Talk about Val's wedding. Do you like the idea of a big wedding? If you are married, what was your day like? If not, what kind of wedding would you like to have?

7. Keeping secrets partially define Val and Gianluca's relationship. What information do they keep from each other and how do they affect the course of their lives? What is the biggest secret they each keep from the other?

8. Gianluca wants them to live in Italy. Why doesn't Val want to? Is it possible for them to live part time in both NewYork and Italy while still building the business?

9. Val not only married an older man,she married one who was married before. How do both of these facts shape her marriage? What is it like for her to meet Gianluca's first wife? Why doesn't he like to talk about his first marriage with Val? Why does she need to know about his past?

10. What does building the business mean to Valentine? Is Gianluca right --- does she put her ambition ahead of her family? How do we juggle both? How does Val?

11. How does Alfie impact their relationship and Val's ambitions?

12. Were you surprised about the turn of events toward the end of the novel? How does Val handle this change? How does her family help her get through it? Should Gianluca have told her about the house? Didn't she have a right to weigh in with her opinion? Did he do the right thing?

13. What do you think the future holds for Val?

14. Discuss the books title. Do you think it is appropriate for the story? What did Val gain in this novel? What lessons did she learn?

15. What did you take away from reading THE SUPREME MACARONI COMPANY?

Author Bio

Adriana Trigiani is the *New York Times* bestselling author of 20 books of fiction and nonfiction, including THE SHOEMAKER'S WIFE. Her books have been published in 38 languages around the world. She is an award-winning playwright, television writer/producer and filmmaker. Among her screen credits, Trigiani wrote and directed the major

motion picture adaptation of her debut novel, *BIG STONE GAP*. Adriana grew up in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia, where she co-founded the Origin Project. Trigiani is proud to serve on the New York State Council on the Arts. She lives in New York City with her family.

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