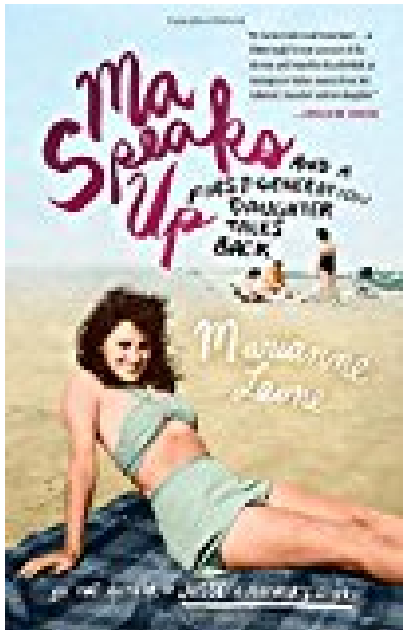


# Ma Speaks Up And a First-Generation Daughter Talks Back

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## BOOK DETAILS

- Author : Marianne Leone
- Pages : 198 Pages
- Publisher : Beacon Press
- Language : English
- ISBN : 0807060046

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## BOOK SYNOPSIS

The acclaimed actress and author of *Jesse: A Mother's Story* tells the story of her outspoken, frequently outrageous Italian immigrant mother. Marianne Leones Ma is in many senses a larger-than-life character, one who might be capable, even from the afterlife, of shattering expectations. Born on a farm in Italy, Linda finds her way to the United States under dark circumstances, having escaped a forced marriage to a much older man, and marries a good Italian boy. She never has full command of English, especially when questioned by authorities, and when she is suddenly widowed with three young children, she has few options. To her daughters horror and misery, she becomes the school lunch lady. *Ma Speaks Up* is a record of growing up on the wrong side of the tracks, with the wrong family, in the wrong religion. Though Mariannes girlhood is flooded with shame, its equally packed with adventure, love, great cooking, and, above all, humor. The extremely premature birth of Mariannes beloved son, Jesse, bonds mother and daughter in ways she couldnt have imagined. The stories she tells will speak to anyone who has struggled with outsider status in any form and, of course, to mothers and their blemished, cherished girls.

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