



SICILIAN PASSAGE



Photographs by Thomas Roma

PHOTOGRAPHY/TRAVEL

Hardcover, 9.5 x 7.75 inches, 84 pages, 52 duotone photographs

ISBN 1-57687-164-9

\$25.00

(Cnd \$39.00)

Thomas Roma, a two-time recipient of the Guggenheim Fellowship, has had solo exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art and the International Center of Photography, both in New York. He is the author of *SHOW & TELL* (powerHouse Books 2002), *ENDURING JUSTICE* (powerHouse Books 2001); *SANCTUARY, HIGHER GROUND*; *SUNSET PARK*; *FOUND IN BROOKLYN*; and *COME SUNDAY*. Director of Photography at Columbia University, Roma lives in Brooklyn with his wife and son Giancarlo.

Sandra S. Phillips, Senior Curator of Photography at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art since 1987, has a Ph.D. in Art History from The City University of New York. Her many exhibitions and publications include *CROSSING THE FRONTIER: PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE DEVELOPING WEST, 1849 TO THE PRESENT*; *DOROTHEA LANGE: AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHS*; *POLICE PICTURES*; *DAIDO MORIYAMA: STRAY DOG*; and *ANSEL ADAMS AT 100*.

Anna Roma has been married to Thomas Roma for fifteen years; she's got his number.

SICILIAN PASSAGE

Photographs by Thomas Roma

Introduction by Sandra Phillips

Afterword by Anna Roma

"SICILIAN PASSAGE is a timeless view into a landscape and its people. Thomas Roma's eloquent photographs of Sicily are like beautiful poems about a land that he loves."

—Mary Ellen Mark

Sicily: a land of mystery and myth. Inspired by stories told by his mother's family, famed documentary photographer Thomas Roma left his native Brooklyn for Sicily in search of his roots in 1977. Photographing abroad on a Guggenheim Fellowship, Roma spent months at a time over the next fourteen years traversing the island, challenging himself to connect with a culture and a lifestyle completely foreign to his experience as a New York City street photographer.

In *SICILIAN PASSAGE*, Roma taps into the timeless essence of Europe's agrarian past. His photographs of the familial homeland are untainted by stereotypical notions of Sicilian culture. Instead of old ladies in black veils gossiping on the stoop, Roma's images are lyrical odes to the country pastoral. Through his lens, we are transported to another land where nature and the climate have tamed its inhabitants into a slower rhythm: gnarly ancient trees grow haphazardly in the crop fields; marble ruins erupt from the hillsides; shirtless young shepherds tend to their flocks under a ruthless Mediterranean sun. *SICILIAN PASSAGE* is an ode to the mysteries of the timeless in "The Island in the Sea of Light."

"Tom told me that as a child he used to try to dream of Sicily as he drifted off to sleep. Lying in bed, he'd picture mountains that were higher than the Berkshires he had seen in upstate New York, and a sea that was bluer than it was at the beach at Coney Island. He'd imagine a place where the sun was brighter and where figs grew bigger and sweeter than they did in his grandparent's backyard in Brooklyn. *SICILIAN PASSAGE* is an attempt to reimagine that dream."

—Anna Roma

