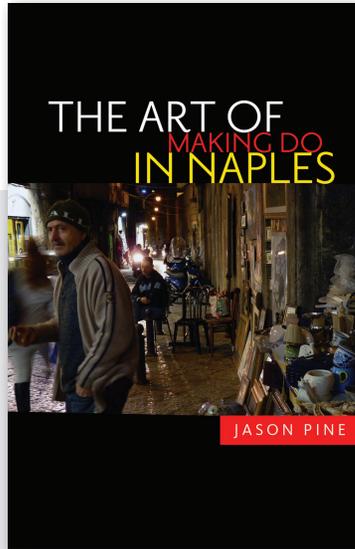


The Art of Making Do in Naples

Jason Pine



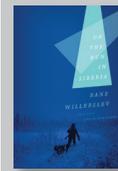
“In Naples, there are more singers than there are unemployed people.” These words echo through the neomelodica music scene, a vast undocumented economy animated by wedding singers, pirate TV, and tens of thousands of fans throughout southern Italy and beyond. In the process of making a living (or a fortune), they brush up against affiliates of the region’s violent organized crime networks, the camorra. In *The Art of Making Do in Naples*, Jason Pine explores the murky neomelodica music scene and finds himself on uncertain ground.

Making his way through Naples’s spectacular historic center and outer slums, on the trail of charmingly evasive neomelodici singers and unsettlingly elusive camorristi, Pine becomes a music video director and falls into the orbit of a shadowy music promoter who may or may not be a camorra affiliate. Pine’s trenchant observations and his own improvised attempts at “making do” provide a fascinating look into the lives of people in the gray zones where organized crime blends into ordinary life.

“With the eye of a cunning journalist and the descriptive skills of a fine novelist, Pine illuminates the murky world of the camorra . . . this is writing culture at its best.” —Fred Gardaphe, author of *From Wiseguys to Wise Men*

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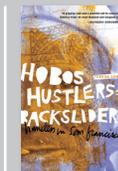
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