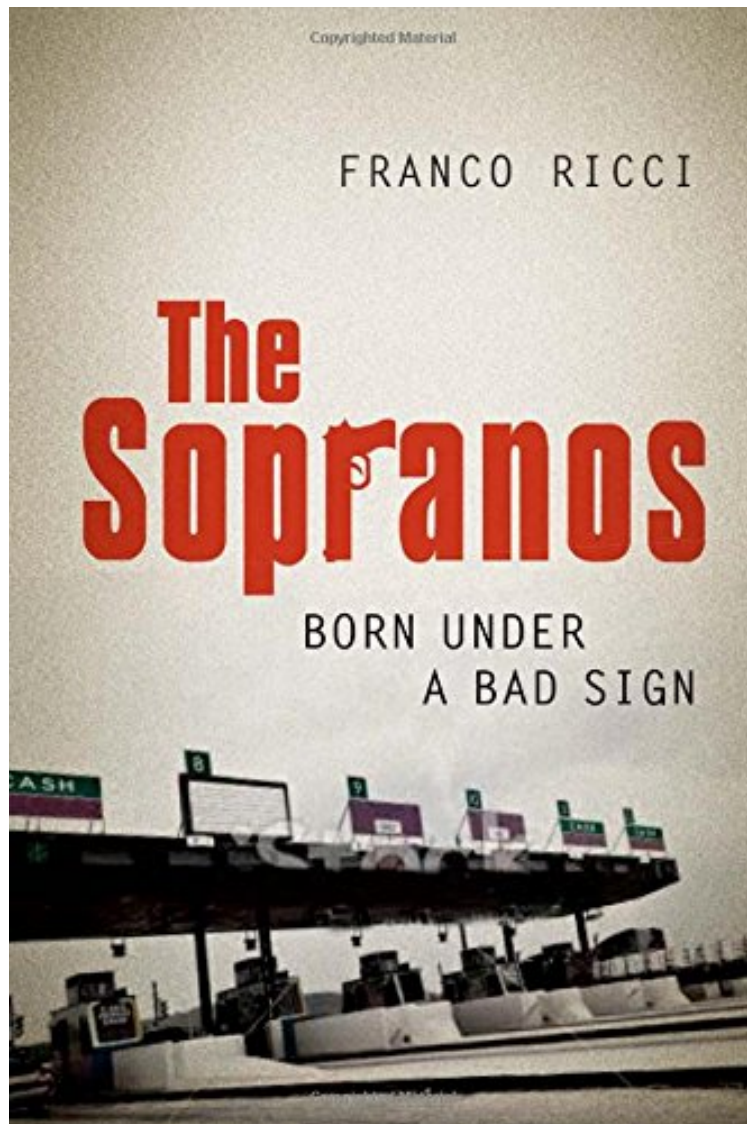


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The Sopranos: Born Under a Bad Sign

Franco Ricci

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Franco Ricci : The Sopranos: Born Under a Bad Sign before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Sopranos: Born Under a Bad Sign:

Often hailed as one of the greatest television series of all time, The Sopranos is a product of its time, firmly embedded in the problems of post-industrial, post-ethnic America. In The Sopranos: Born under a Bad Sign, Franco Ricci

examines the groundbreaking HBO series and its impact as a cultural phenomenon. Ricci demonstrates an encyclopedic knowledge of the series, the genre, and their social context in his analysis of the show's complex themes and characters. He explores *The Sopranos'* deep engagement with problems of race, class, gender, and identity, specifically in its portrayal of the Italian-American experience, consumer and media-driven society, and contemporary psychosocial issues. The series protagonist, Mafia boss and patriarch Tony Soprano, in many ways embodies the anxieties of our age. Focusing on Tony's internal struggles and interactions with his therapist, family, and associates, Ricci traces this archetypal character's existential conflicts and sheds light on his search for self, connection, and meaning. Comprehensive in scope and sophisticated in approach, *The Sopranos: Born under a Bad Sign* is richly rewarding reading for anyone with an interest in the popular television drama, both as entertainment and social commentary.

The Sopranos is a unique, extended meditation on Chase as auteur. This book should be of interest to students and scholars in film/television studies, media studies, Italian American studies and related fields. Ricci's analysis also stands as a useful and usefully extended, case study for those interested in semiotics, mass media, and aesthetics. (Michael R. Frontani *Italian American* winter 2015) Ricci's study is compelling, innovative, and even surprisingly moving. (Liz Roberts *Media Education Journal* vol 57:2015) Franco Ricci's *The Sopranos: Born under a Bad Sign* provides an interesting take on a controversial, but much-heralded, television series. It is an important read for those interested in psychoanalysis, social commentary, history, and American popular culture. (Nick Giorgio *H-Italy* December 2014) Ricci's book is a carefully considered and detailed study with an exhaustive and nuanced understanding of the show. (James McNamara *Australian Book*, January-February 2015) Franco Ricci's *The Sopranos: Born under a Bad Sign* marks the first major study in this decade of one of television's greatest dramas, and it was worth the wait. Ricci's knowledge of the series is profound and his insights ideological, aesthetic, cultural are multifarious and original. By the time I had reached the final page of this erudite, accessible, and well-written investigation into the small screen's finest contribution to the mob genre, I was ready to break out my *Sopranos* boxed set and start binge-watching the primary text again. (David Lavery, editor of '*Reading The Sopranos*' and '*The Essential Sopranos Reader*') *The Sopranos: Born under a Bad Sign* stands out among the books already devoted to the series. Ricci knows the show extremely well, and his readings of *The Sopranos* in light of contemporary debates about censorship, identity, and class are compelling. (Dana Renga, Department of French and Italian, The Ohio State University) About the Author: Franco Ricci is a professor of Italian Studies at the University of Ottawa.